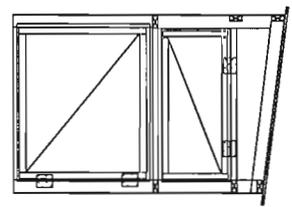
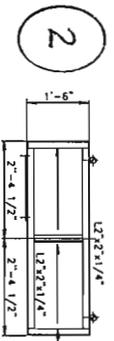


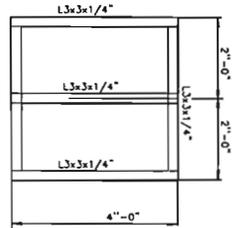
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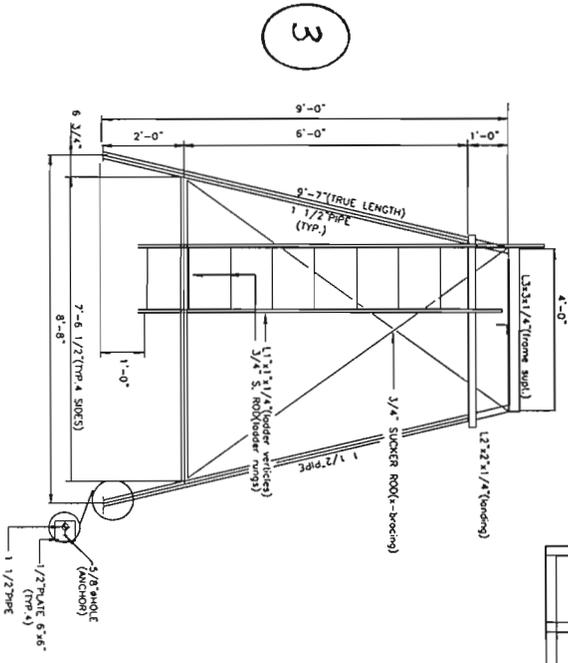
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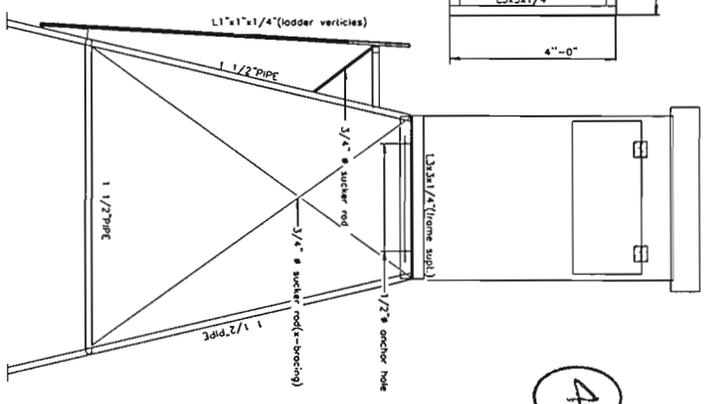
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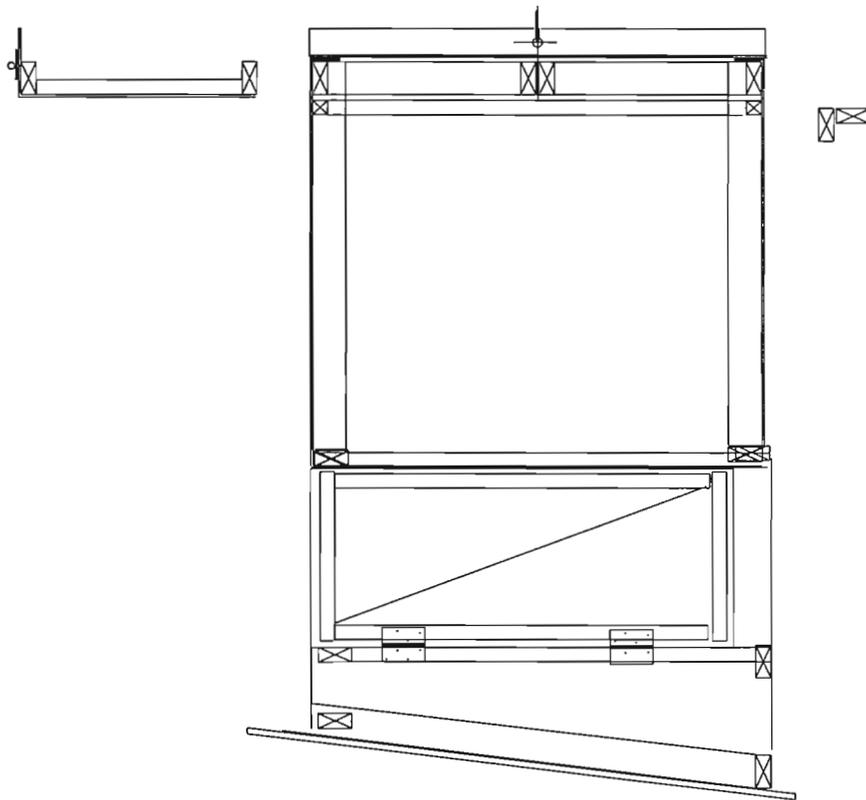


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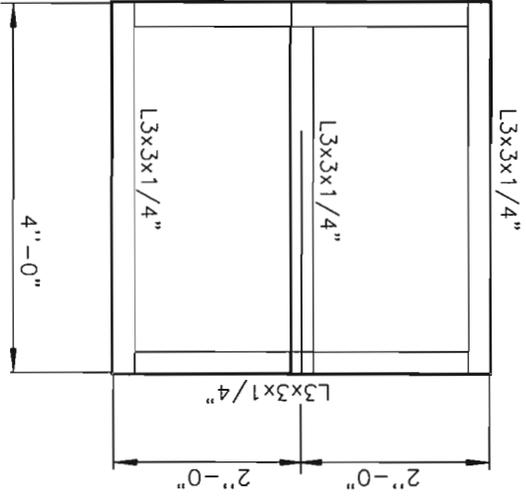
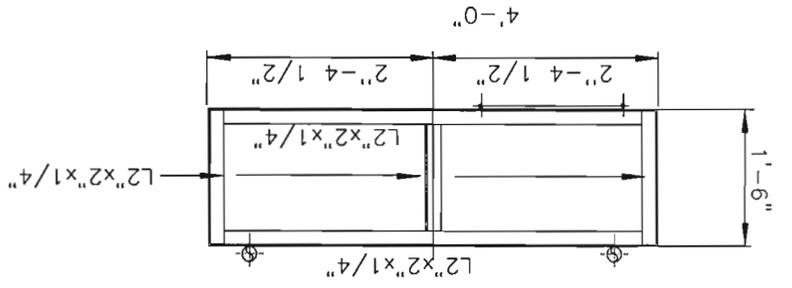


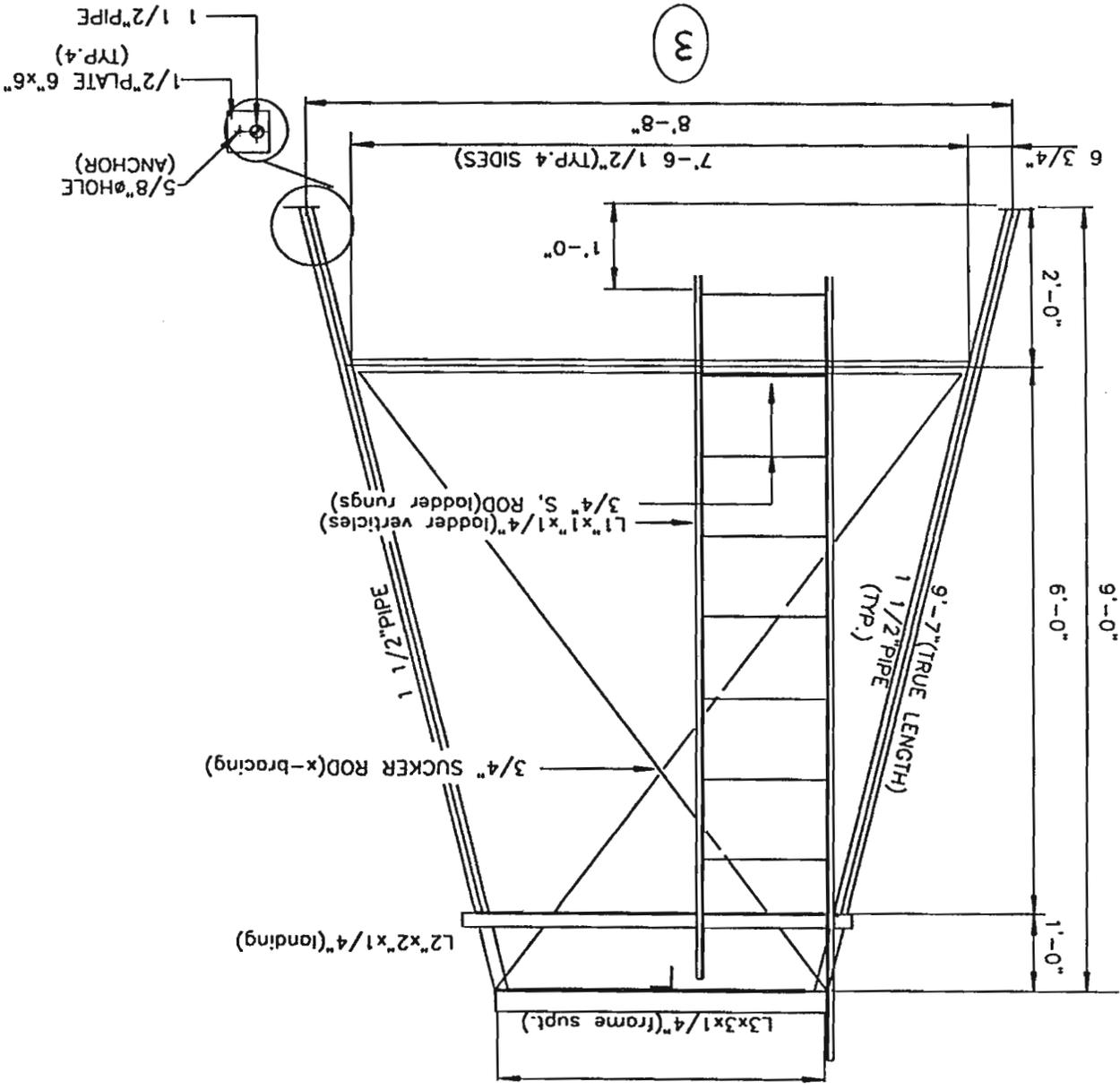
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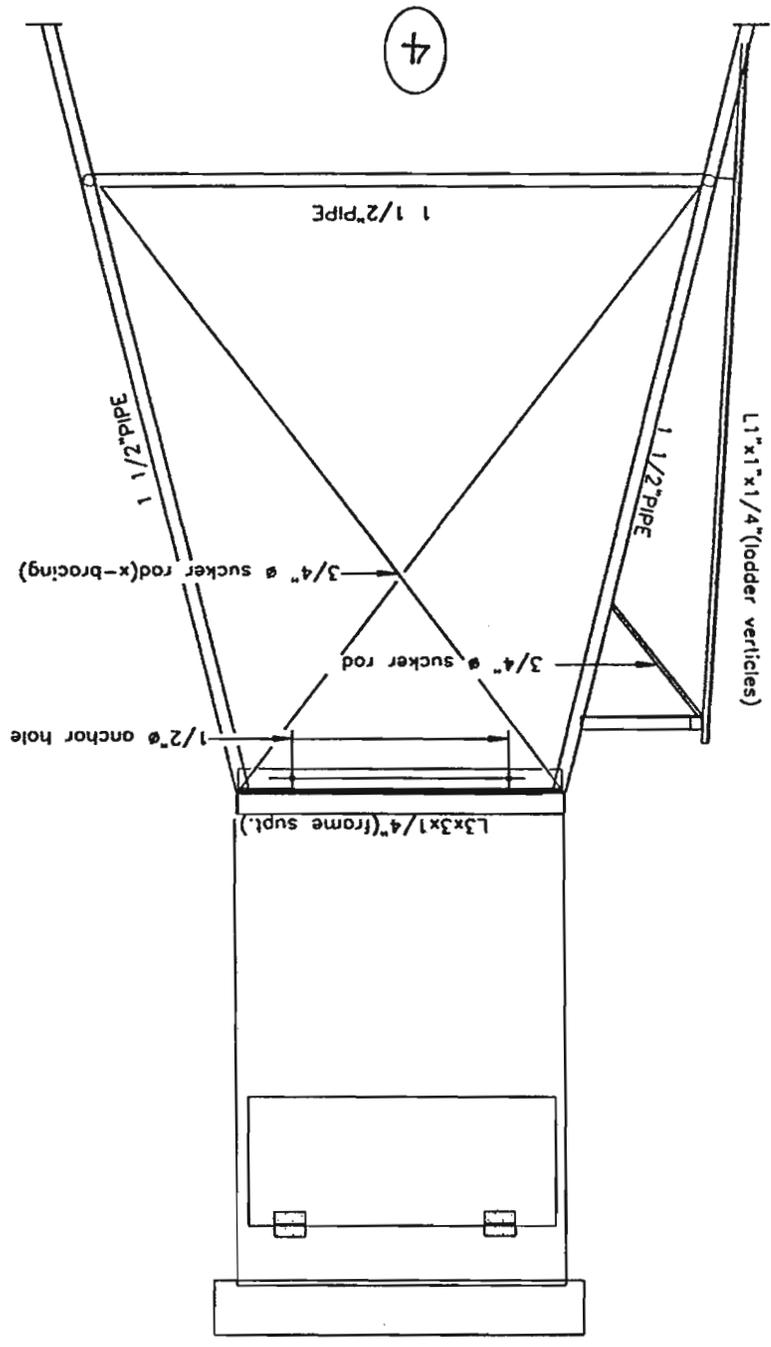
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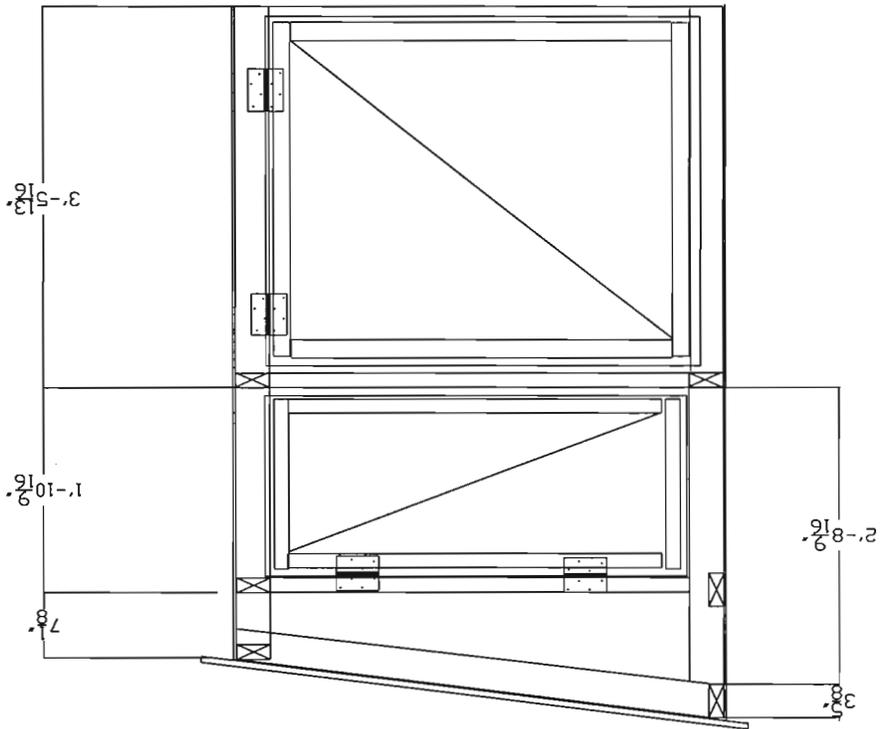
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9



Tower Deer Stand and Box Blind

First of all the hunter should plan on using used steel where possible, much cheaper. The plans describe a permanent metal tower with legs made from 1 1/2" diameter used steel pipe, the legs were sized to be made from a single 10' length. I suggest that the pipe diameter be strictly adhered to however they could be made a few feet longer longer if a taller than 9'-0" height be desired.

The drawing shows diagonal cross members from 3/4" sucker rod (used in oilfields and very available in our area used), any steel shape pipe, rod, angle or etc. can be substituted. Even steel cable with turnbuckles could be substituted for stiffeners. The top frame supporting the box blind is drawn as 3" X 3" X 1/4" steel angle, a lighter 2" angle could be substituted especially if the box blind floor is supported by 2" X 6" or 4" x 4" lumber bolted to the frame.

A fabricated steel ladder is indicated as welded in place on the drawing to access the box blind. It may be better, depending on your situation and location, to use a portable aluminum ladder which can be removed so access can be denied to all but authorized people. A hasp and lock will do the same thing.

The "box blind" is best constructed from treated lumber. **CAUTION when laying out the building**, if the top frame was fabricated with the angle flanges "up", be sure to measure the actual distance inside inside of the angle legs and also compensate for the thickness of the chosen siding so it will sit inside. To avoid this problem and maybe rust in the future fabricate the top frame with the angle outside flange down leaving a smooth flat surface. Then set the floor frame in place and match drill the floor and steel frame and bolt the frame on top. Cut 4 strips of asphalt roll roofing material and place between the wood and steel frame, in fact it might be a good idea to cover the entire bottom of the floor with asphalt paper.

Use 1" thick treated plywood or 2' X 6", cut to fit in the landing frame and bolt down.

Cut the shooting windows covers slightly larger (about 1"), than the holes left in the walls. The drawing shows a 2" X 2" frame around the window this would not be necessary if 3/4" treated plywood is used. also the drawing shows the hinges on the outside, this was a problem because, up in the air, it was hard to keep the doors open. By hinging them on the inside, a hook and strap can be rigged inside and they will be much easier to keep open. By applying vinyl foam insulation strip at the edge of the doors they can be made water resistant when closed. A hasp and hook or locks can be installed on doors to keep them from being opened from the outside.

IMPORTANT Notch the plywood or whatever other siding to fit the rafters and frame as closely as possible and calk all joints or apply insulating foam to joints, not only will this keep the box weather tight it will keep wasps or hornets out. After changing the door swing this was the second revision after

getting stung by a hornet the second trip to the ranch, this was also the reason for applying 3M self sticking foam strip around all door edges.

It will be best to assemble the box blind on the ground using screws. Disassemble the blind into parts too bulky to haul up the ladder.

Now the hard part erecting the frame. If possible try to position the frame near a tree. A tall tree limb will give a fulcrum to throw a rope over and pull the frame up by pulling the rope with a truck from the other side. The way the original was erected was to lay the frame in place and dig two six foot long trenches, wider than the feet, tapering from ground level at the feet to about three feet deep at the end. Then attaching a heavy 1" rope at the top corners of the frame and tying the other ends to truck pull hooks. When pulled the feet caught the back edge of the holes and the frame lifted up. After it was upright - two legs in holes - two borrowed shimmed up floor jacks were set up under the lower 1 1/2" pipe stringer to lift the feet up above the ground. The holes under the feet were filled with dirt/sand mixed with a bag of cement and allowed to set overnight. The next afternoon a two ft square concrete foundation slab was set under each of the four feet. They were level for the season but a year later the two feet on bare dirt had to be shimmed up about three inches using pavers.

Doing it over again the frame would have been assembled with bolts and erected onsite also. Of course if a front end loader had been available it would have not taken two weekends to put put the stand up. I wish we had taken pictures during the erection process but did not think of it.

One last piece of advice do not paint or stain the treated lumber until it has dried completely otherwise it will peel.