The 2X4 Screened Bottom Board

Use standard 2X4s for all 4 pieces.

The front landing board is a 2X4 laid flat. A groove is cut 3/8” down the two sides providing a joint for the entrance board. Cut the groove the thickness of a 2X4 with a Daddo blade. The two sides are 2X4s on end. The rear is a 2X4 on end that has had 1” cut off the bottom to create a more stable joint and an opening to insert a “sticky board.”

#8 hardware screen is cut slightly larger than the hole. It overlaps slightly on the landing board and is stapled here. The other 3 sides are folded down to make an edge to staple. Thin strips of wood can be used here if desired to help make a smooth/level screened surface.

The sticky board will sit on your hive stand or on the ground if the bottom board is on the ground. There does not need to be any special groove for the sticky board to slide into, other than the groove created from the bottom board resting on the surface, landscaping timbers, or cinderblocks, etc. I find a light colored piece of wall paneling works well for stickyboards as the surface is fairly smooth. To close the bottom off completely, you simply stuff a wedge between the sticky board and whatever is below it. I find pinecombs or sticks work well. This presses the sticky board against the underside of the landing board and rear side of the screened bottom board. Cut the sticky board the full length of the bottom board to be able to do this.

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