



DIRECTIONS FOR BUILDING THE PERFECT PLATFORM PODIUM

By Stacy Jovick

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Stacy was the Chair of the 2010 Big Sky Handbell Festival.

Step 1: Base Frame- Begin by building the platform base frame. Create a square using (7) 2x4 x8's rim joists. Use (2) 2x4x8' s and cut (5) 2x4x8' supports to 93" inches and place inside the box with each being 2 feet on center. Cut (2) 2x4 pieces for the outside blockings at 21 3/4" and (2) at 22 1/2" for inside blockings and screw each in place in between the long 2x4's. See Figure 2. Screw on the two pieces of plywood.

Step 2: Determine Height- The easiest way to determine the actual height of the platform floor is to take your 2x4x8' and place the 1 3/4" side on the highest bleacher step you think will work for platform floor. This will be the rear support point of the platform. Extend the 2x4x8' straight out toward the gym floor keeping it parallel and level to the gym floor. Measure down to the gym floor from the bottom of the 2'x4' and this will give you your front platform floor height.

The front legs either will sit on the gym floor or, if necessary, can also sit in the bleacher area, on the bleacher steps. Note that if the entire set-up sits completely within the bleacher area, it could be adjusted height-wise by simply shifting it up or down the steps, making it adaptable for future needs as well. The optimum total height from gym floor to the platform flooring is around 48 to 60 inches from the gym floor. The platform railing is 3' from the top of the platform. See Figure 3.

The floor layout at the Big Sky Festival in Livingston was composed of 3 sections of ringers, each 10 rows deep, completely filling the available gym floor space. For ten to fifteen rows of ringers, a minimum podium floor height to begin with is 3 1/2 feet above the gym floor. Four to five feet would have been even better. The Livingston podium was 3 1/2 feet high. How far into the audience seating area the podium reaches will also depend on the layout of the bleachers as well as the target height and depth of the podium platform.

Step 3: Legs- The front legs and railing are one piece. Using the formula: Distance from bottom of platform to floor plus 40" (to top of railing), cut (3) **front platform legs**. With the 3 1/2" side against the platform frame, screw into frame. See Figure 3. The Big Sky Festival platform legs were 76" long.

Find the measurements for the **side legs**. These are also one piece for legs and railing. (Height from bottom of platform to bleacher floor + 40"). Screw in place 4' from the front edge. Measure for the **back legs**: from the floor of the platform to the floor of the bleacher it sits on. Place the back small legs according to where they will fit in the bleacher. This will likely be 6-8 inches from the rear edge. (See Figure 3)

Upper handrail side railing support: Using 2x4's cut (2) boards approximately 24" and cut a 45 degree angle at one end. Attach the straight end of the board flush with the bottom of the platform frame 2' from the rear of the platform. This is the support for the handrail. (See Figure 1).

Step 4: Blocking- Cut and screw the corresponding length of 2x4's behind the three front platform legs and the mid-side legs for added strength.

Step 5: Mid rail - Attach (1) 1x4 x8' by laying it flat against the 3 1/2" side of the legs, halfway between the top and the top of the platform floor. Repeat for each side with two 1x4x4' sections.

Step 6: Top rail: Use (1) 2x4x8' and screw onto the front legs. Cut (2) 2x4's 46.25". These will be the side top rails and the railing will fit into the shortened space.

Step 6: Top-plate- To create a top plate overhang cut the 1x4x10' to 98 1/2". Place over the front 2x4 top rail leaving 1/2" on either side and 1/2" over the front. Attach. Cut the two side top plates 48" and center on side top rails. Attach.

Step 7: Angle railing- Cut two 1x4's to match the 45 degree angle of the **upper back side railing support**. Trim the other end of the 1x4' to fit the opening of the top rail support and top plate. (See Figure 3). This creates a railing for people to use when getting on and off of the podium.

Step 8: Finishing - Sand any rough edges and move into position. Enjoy your platform podium and concert!



The platform podium before it is installed.



Kath Wissinger and the youngest bell ringer at the opening of the 2010 Big Sky Handbell Festival with Stacy Jovick.

BIG SKY HANDBELL FESTIVAL
 PLATFORM PODIUM PLANS
 © Stacy Jovick, 2010

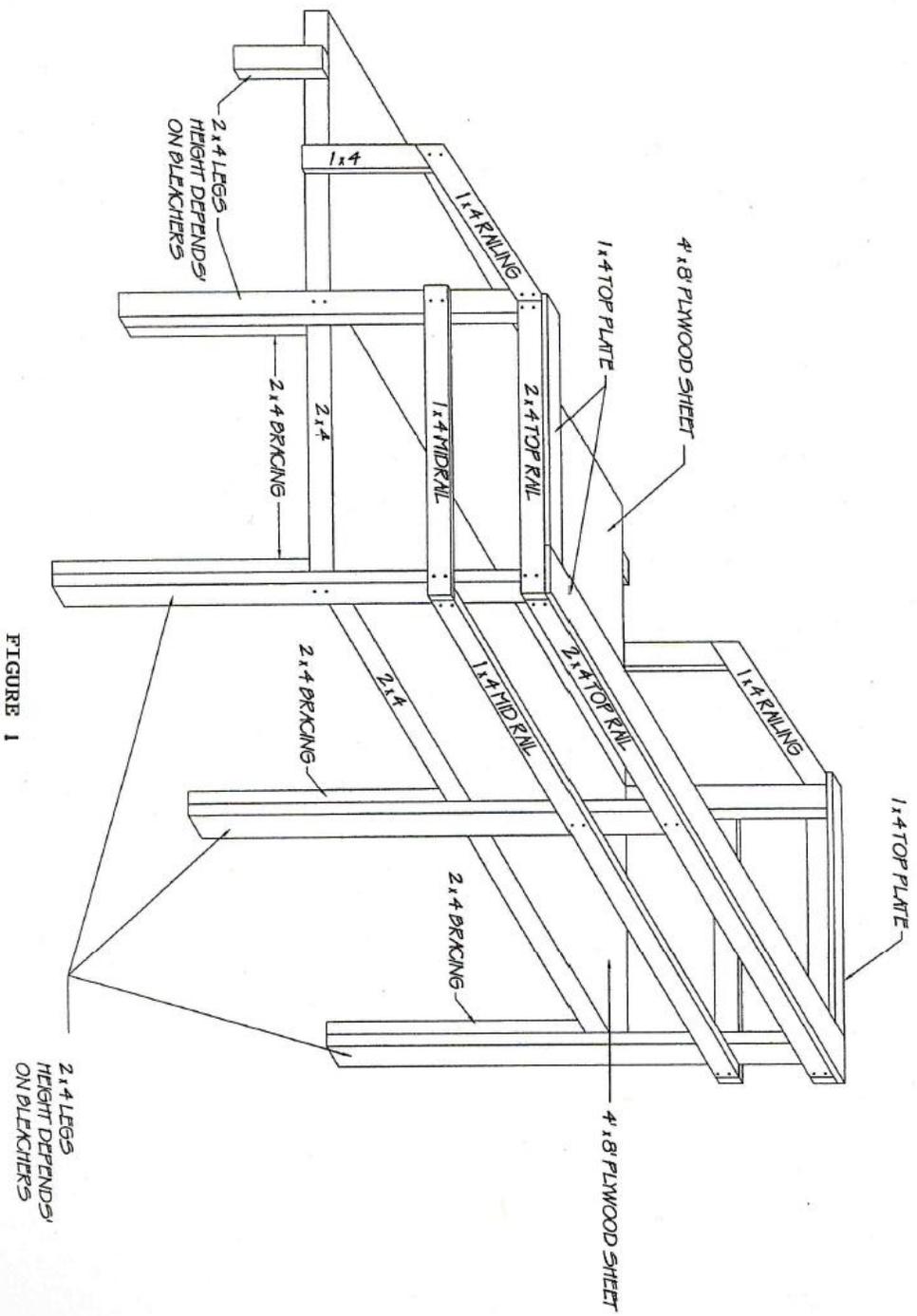


FIGURE 1



BIG SKY HANDBELL, FESTIVAL
 PLATFORM PODIUM PLANS
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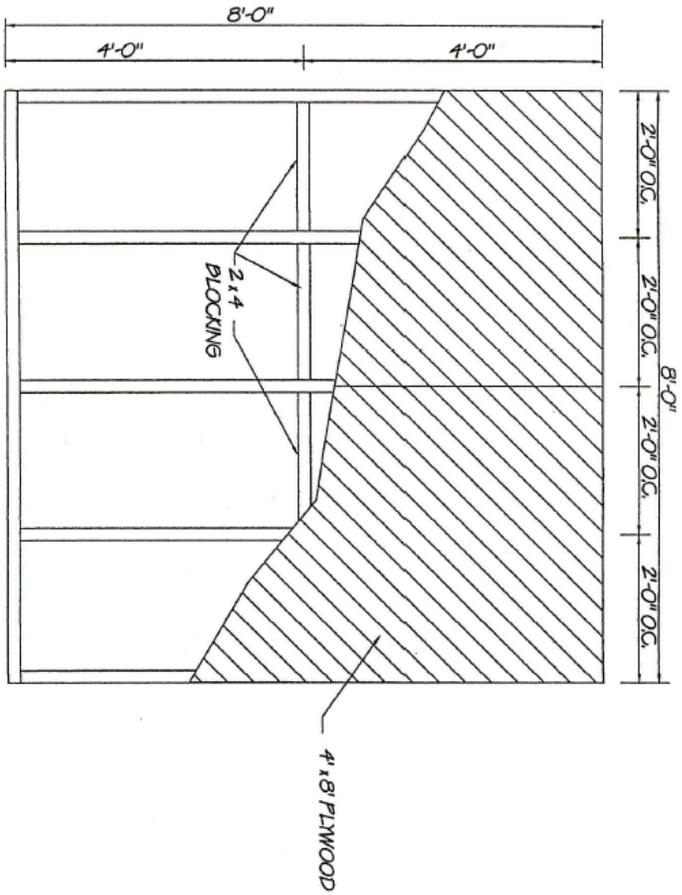


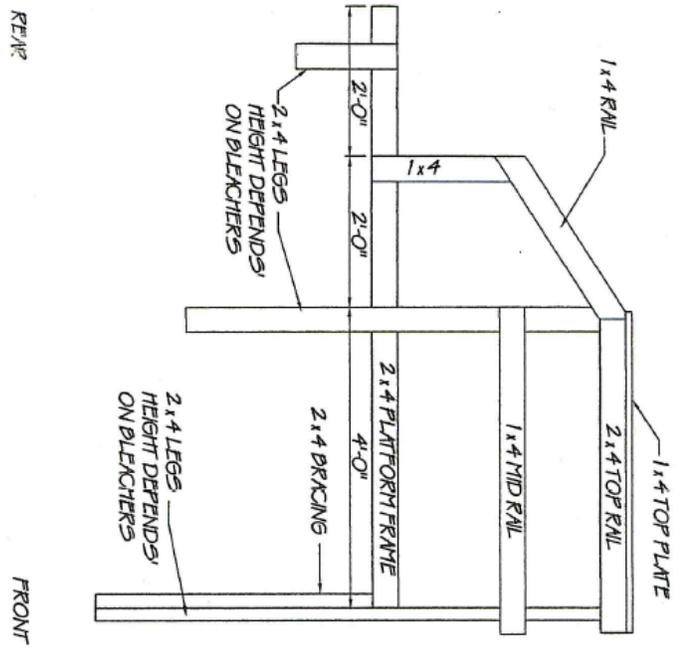
FIGURE 2

PLATFORM FRAMING PLAN
 SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"

MATERIALS LIST

- (2) 4" x 8" 1 3/4" PLYWOOD
- (8) 2" x 4" x 8" PLATFORM FRAME
- (3) 2" x 4" x 8" FRONT LEGS
- (3) 2" x 4" x 8" LEG BRACING
- (2) 2" x 4" x 8" TOP RAIL
- (2) 1" x 4" x 8" MID RAIL
- (1) 1" x 4" x 8" TOP PLATE
- (1) 1" x 4" x 8" SLANTED RAIL
- SCREENS

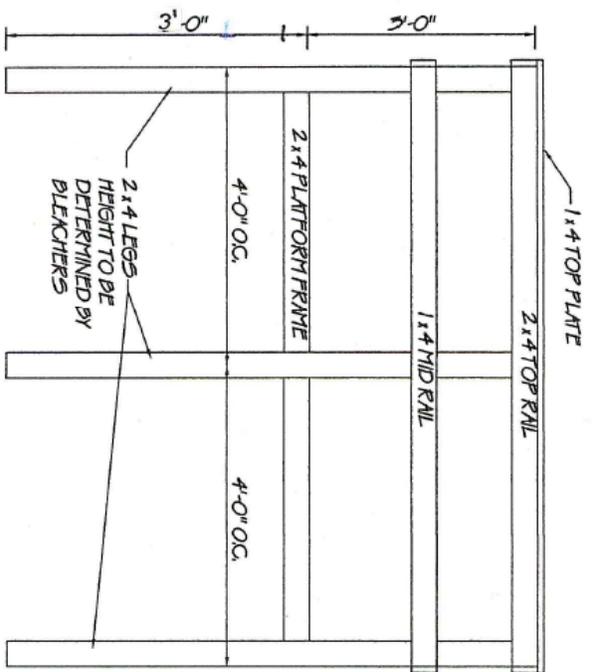
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 PLATFORM PODIUM PLANS
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FRONT

REAR

SIDE VIEW
SCALE 1/2" = 1'-0"



FRONT VIEW
SCALE 1/2" = 1'-0"

FRONT VIEW
SCALE 1/2" = 1'-0"

FIGURE 3