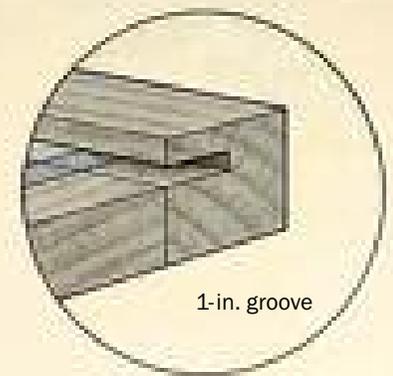
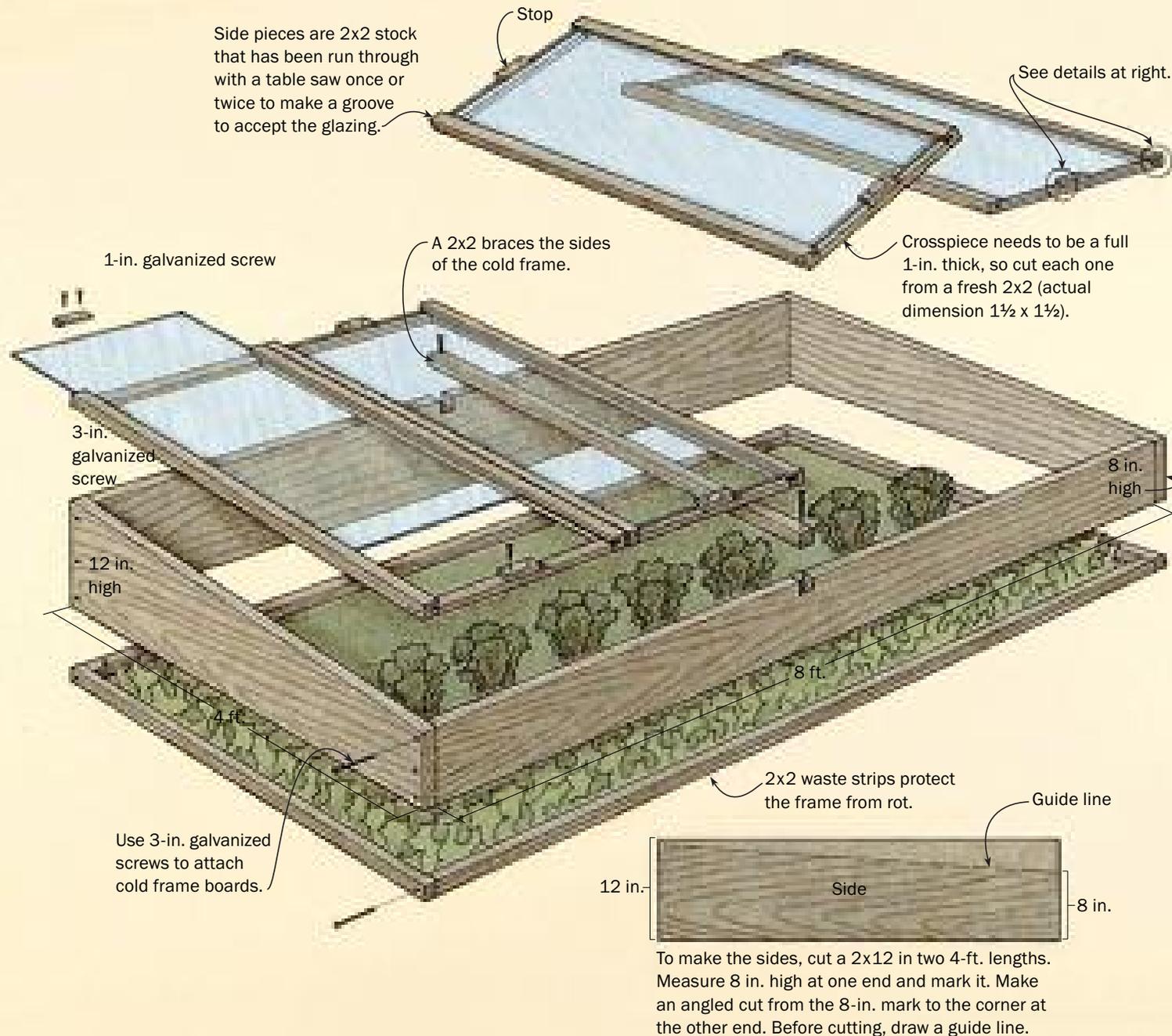


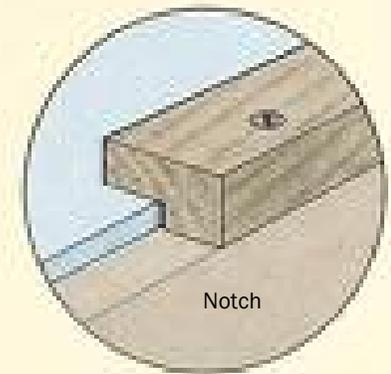
## How to make a simple cold frame

The author's cold frame, consisting of a bottomless box and glass frames, called lights, is illustrated below. It is simple to build and designed to last for years. Use rot-resistant wood such as cedar, cypress, or redwood. The waste strips along the bottom keep the frame off the soil. When the waste strips decay, you replace the strips instead of the entire frame. The lights have small wood stops at both ends. The stops keep the glass from sliding and enable water to run off freely, preventing ice build-up and rot.

To make a light, you'll need a table saw for cutting grooves and ripping stock lengthwise. Glazed with glass, each light will weigh around 35 lb., heavy enough to stay in place by itself, but too heavy to be raised by an automatic venting arm. Glazed with a lightweight, insulated glass substitute like Polygal or Lexan, each light can be lifted with a venting arm, but will also need to be secured with hinges to keep it from blowing off in a wind.



1-in. deep groove cut on a table saw holds the glass in the frame.



Stops are made by cutting a notch in a scrap of 2x2. The notch should be as deep as the thickness of the glass.

### Materials List

Each 8-ft. x 4-ft. frame requires:

- 2 8-ft. x 12-in. boards
- 1 8-ft. x 8-in. board
- 1 4-ft. 2x2 for the brace
- 3 8-ft. 2x2s for the waste strips around the bottom
- 3-in. galvanized drywall screws
- 2½-in. drywall screws or 8d nails for attaching the waste strips
- 4 2-ft. x 4-ft. lights

Each light requires:

- 2 4-ft. 2x2s for sides
- 2 21¾-in. 2x2s to rip for crosspieces
- 2 scraps for making the stops
- 3-in. galvanized screws
- 1-in. galvanized screws
- 1 46½-in. x 22¾-in. sheet of glazing material (double-strength plate glass or polycarbonate glazing material such as Lexan or Polygal)

Illustration: Vince Babak