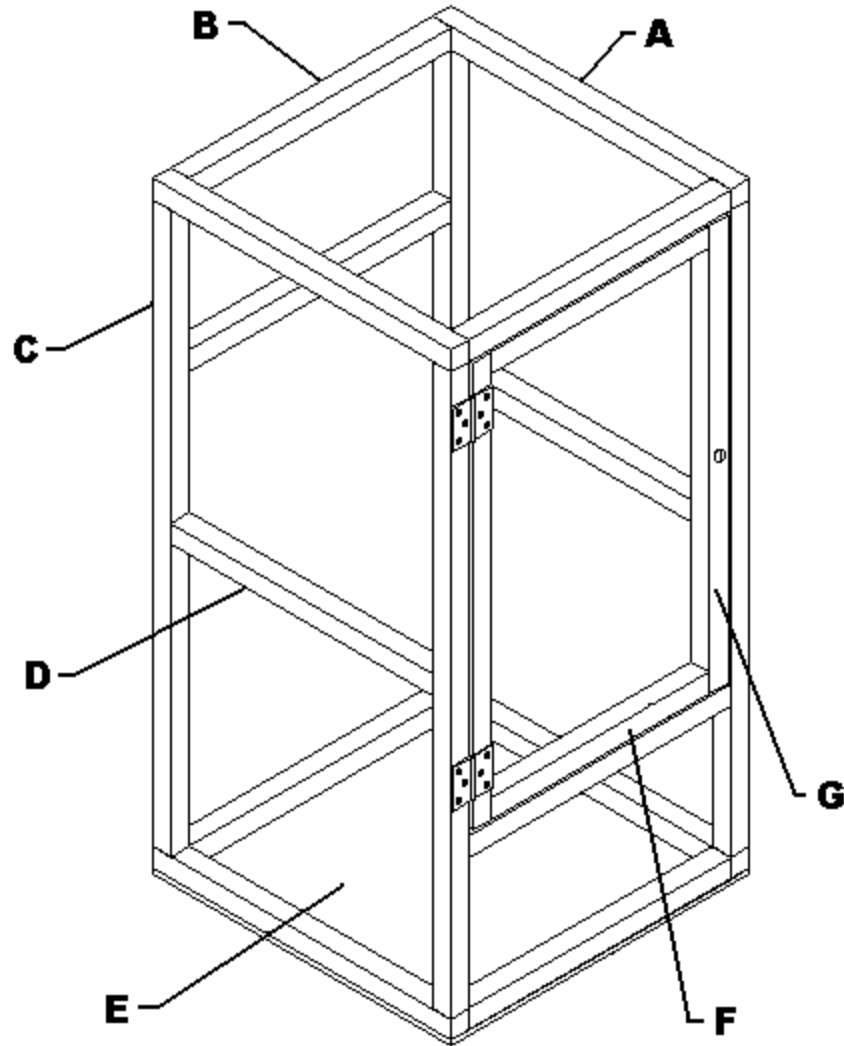


## ***Large Chameleon Cage Plan (36" Wide x 36" Deep x 72" High)***



### **Materials list and sizes:**

**A**=2x2x36" lg. (4 pcs.)  
**B**=2x2x33" lg. (6 pcs.)  
**C**=2x2x69" lg. (4 pcs.)  
**D**=2x2x33" lg. (2 pcs.)  
**E**=36"x36"x3/8" plywood (1 pc.)  
**F**=2x2x29-1/2" lg. (2 pcs.)  
**G**=2x2x56-1/2" lg. (2 pcs.)

### **Misc. materials needed:**

1 pair of hinges and screws  
1 door closer and screws  
27'x36" wide 1/8" wire cloth  
(80) 2-1/4" drywall screws  
(24) 1-1/2" drywall screws  
Box of staples for wire mesh

Cut all the pieces; assemble the frame, then cut and staple wire cloth to all sides, the doors and the top. Screw 3/8" plywood to bottom using 1-1/2" screws. Chameleons need to climb! You can add some wood dowels near the top of the cage; add a nice tall edible plant, etc. to allow them to climb.

### **Tools needed:**

Circular Saw, Drill and Phillips screw tip, 1/8" bit, staple gun & wire-cutters

When making a cage, I always cut my wood ahead of time and then lay the pieces out on the floor as if putting together a jigsaw puzzle. I do this before making any permanent connections. I pre-drill the screw holes to aid in the assembly process and to make certain that the ends of the wood pieces do not split on me. 2x2's, being fastened near the ends, will easily split or crack if you don't pre-drill.

When working on the door, keep in mind that there will be a ¼" gap all around the door. This is important when fastening the bottom ledge 2x2 found just under the doors. The door opening size should be kept at ½" over the actual size (height) of the door. It would be wise to assemble the doors in the first few stages of the assembly, this way you can make the height of the opening work around the finished door height. In case you're off a little on the height of the doors when you make them, you can adjust this lower piece to make sure the door fits the opening.

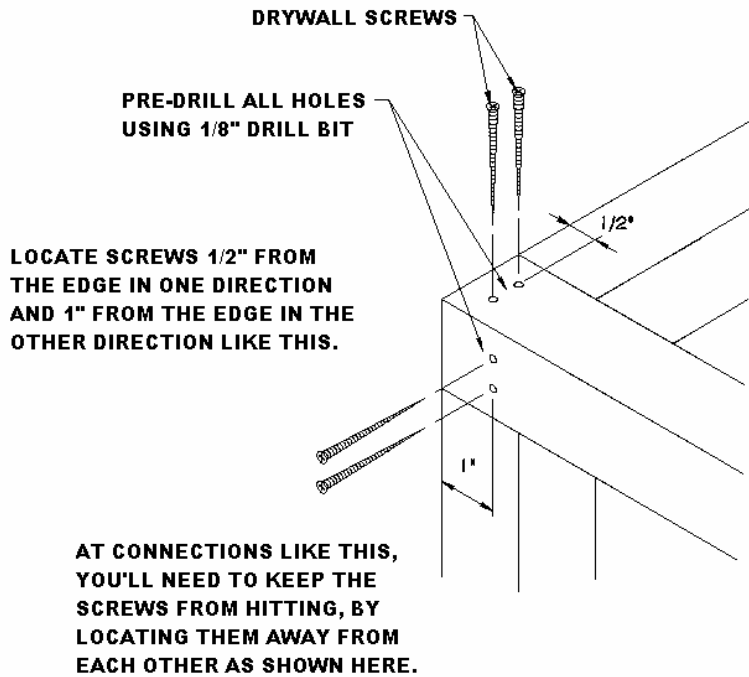
I put the cage frame together in sections, and then attach each section together... The cages shown here are basic and are meant to be used or kept in a reptile room. Looks are not as important here as functionality... If you plan on displaying your cages in a room like the living room, family room or den, etc., you can purchase additional trim molding to cover up the ends of the wire mesh screen where the staples will show. I do not cover these up, due to the added cost of the trim wood and the simple fact that my cages are in a reptile room. I use my cages to house my animals; I am not showing off my cages and animals throughout my house. If I were, then these cages would not be my choice for that project. I would use a much better quality lumber and make the cages like I was making fine furniture or kitchen cabinets. Personally, I would rather spend \$50 on a reptile cage, not \$250

There are many different door catches and locks you could use to close the cage doors. I have even used hook and eyes and hasps so I can use a small pad lock. What ever works, and at times, what ever I have in my tool box... The key is to save money and time making the cages, yet make safe, escape proof enclosures for you pets. Making the cages safe for your pets is most important! Do not leave screw tips sticking out of the wood where the animal may cut or puncture itself.

Don't use harsh chemicals, stains or paints that could harm your reptiles. Don't use paneling or particle boards that contain harmful chemicals that could hurt or kill your reptiles. Don't use pressure treated lumber for your cages either. Be smart, be safe and more importantly... Have Fun, and enjoy making your pets' new home!

If you have any problems, a question or need any advice at all, please email me at: [sales@snakeemporium.com](mailto:sales@snakeemporium.com) - My name is Matthew and I will be happy to assist you in any way that I can with your cage... Check out my site to see what's available or what's coming soon! <http://www.snakeemporium.com> - More cages are on there!

This diagram below here, just gives you a better understanding of how the pieces must be fastened and how some planning must be taken when drilling and screwing frame pieces at the corners and other multi-connection points to avoid collisions...



Notice how at one connection, you'll keep the screws to one side of center... Where the other cross piece will be drilled and screwed an inch over from the first to keep the screws from hitting or interfering with each other. I have even used finish nails to pre-fasten the frame pieces and then drill out the screw holes and finish the fastening with the screws. It's entirely up to you as to your methods of assembly. These are my techniques that work for me. Trimming out the entire cage is something many people would rather do too... I try to keep the costs down and I'm not trying to impress anyone. You can add to these plans, modify the way you assemble the cage, etc...

Here is a picture of a cage with trim. Notice the hinges are also recessed...

