

**Figure 1 (Bottom view)**

**Worried about *SORE HOCKS* on your show winning rabbit?**

A little time, and some pieces of wood, can make a perfect resting board for the hutch. The dimensions shown in Figure 1 are just right for the Rex and MiniRex breeds. You can adjust the size to suit your (or your rabbit's) taste.

Materials:

2ea. 13" 2x2 pine sticks.

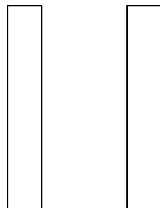
7ea. 9" 1x2 pine sticks

4 or 6d – 1 ½ inch nails (finishing nails)

All of these materials can be purchased for under \$10.00 at your local lumber yard or home center in common lengths of 8 feet. One piece of 2x2 and one piece of 1x2 will make several resting boards of the size shown above.

What you will be making is similar to a very small, horizontal, ladder or deck.

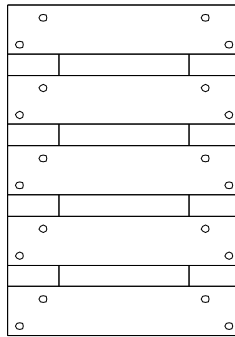
Cut the wood to the correct sizes then lay the 2x2's on your workbench parallel to each other as shown below in Figure 2.



**Figure 2. Laying out main braces.**

Where possible, place these two parts against a fixed straight edge to keep them aligned. A simple piece of straight 2x4 secured to the workspace with "C" clamps should work (I clamped a piece of 2x2 aluminum angle to the side of my worktable and had a perfect match). Now lay the 1x2 sticks across these two 2x2's and fasten with two nails on each side as shown in Figure 3.

(Note: small pre-drilled pilot holes in the 2x2's will help to prevent the smaller sticks from splitting as the nails are driven through them.)



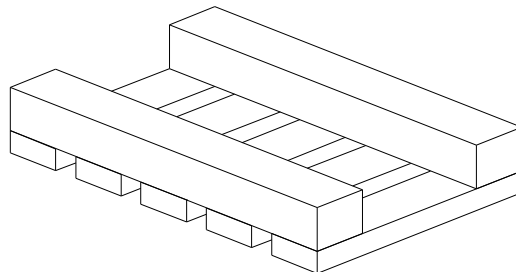
**Figure 3. Nailing cross sticks to braces**

You may find things easier to manage if you attach the top two sticks and then the bottom stick first. These will help to hold the resting board in position as you attach the remaining sticks.

The cross-sticks form the bottom (or floor) of the resting board and should be spaced about 7/8 inch apart. You can measure their locations and mark out the sticks *or* you can use one of the cross-sticks as a spacer. As you attach each new stick, use one of the cross-sticks to determine the spacing between each row. Leave a little extra space between each stick to allow you to easily remove the spacer.

Congratulations! You have just completed your rabbit's very first resting board. All that remains is to place it into the bunny's hutch.

Note: Your rabbits will love you forever if you place it so that the two main braces (2x2's) are pointing up. That way they can "cuddle" in between them and snack on the wood, which is just fine. It can not hurt them and will actually help them with their dental hygiene. Just watch out for the nails poking through the wood, and cut off any exposed nails using wire cutters. Do this as often as needed. Replace the 2x2's when they are basically completely chewed away.



**Figure 4 This side UP!**