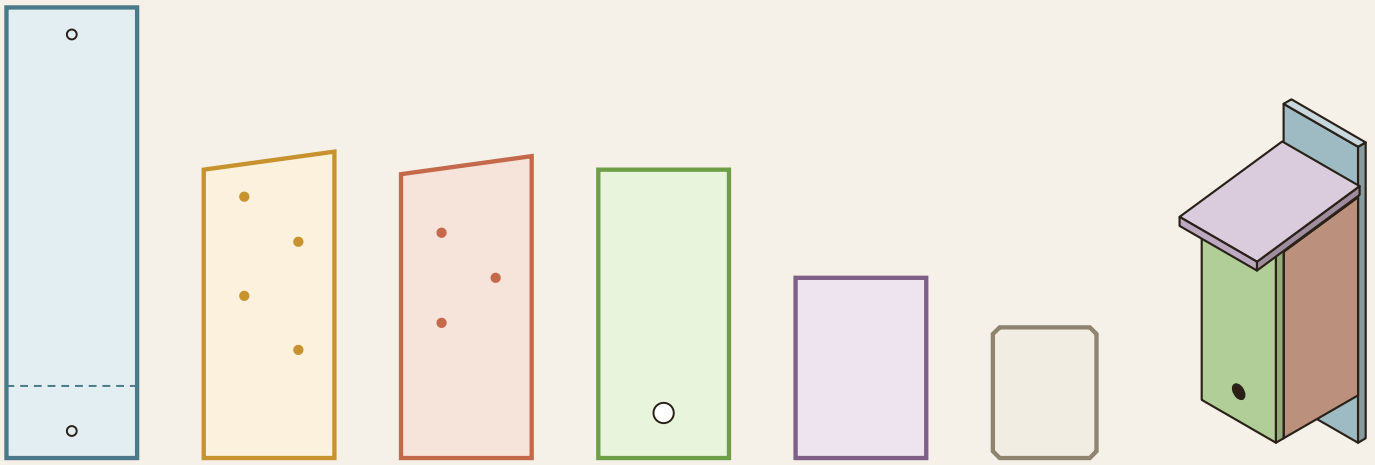
Little Builders: The Real Roost Box

Wood, screws and a little glue. Grown-ups and kids build it together for the chickadees.

MEET THE PIECES · inside face shown · each has its own color, just like the paper box



Back	Side A	Side B	Front	Roof	Floor	The finished box
7-1/4 x 25"	17" / 16"	16-3/4" / 15-3/4"	7-1/4 x 16"	7-1/4 x 10"	5-3/4 x 7-1/4"	

ONE 8-FOOT 1x8 BOARD MAKES THE WHOLE BOX



You Need

· One 8-ft 1x8 pine or cedar board (not pressure-treated)
· One 3/8" dowel, 3 ft long (7 perches)
· About 20 exterior screws, 1-1/4"
· Outdoor wood glue, sandpaper, pencil, tape
· Saw, drill, 1-1/8" bit, 3/8" bit
· Safety glasses for everyone

Who Does What

LITTLE BUILDER trace, sand, glue, paint

TOGETHER hold pieces, turn screws

GROWN-UP saw, drill, hang it up

Look for the badge on every step.

Using the Patterns

Print the pattern pages at **Actual Size (100%)**. Check: the box at the top of each pattern page should measure 1 inch. Tape pages together on the red **TAPE LINES**, cut out, trace onto the board, and poke through the green dots with a nail to mark the perch holes.

My Builder Checklist · check a box when each step is done!

☐ 1. Trace	☐ 2. Cut	☐ 3. Sand	☐ 4. Drill
☐ 5. Perches	☐ 6. Side A	☐ 7. Floor	☐ 8. Front
☐ 9. Side B	☐ 10. Roof	☐ 11. Paint	☐ 12. Hang it up

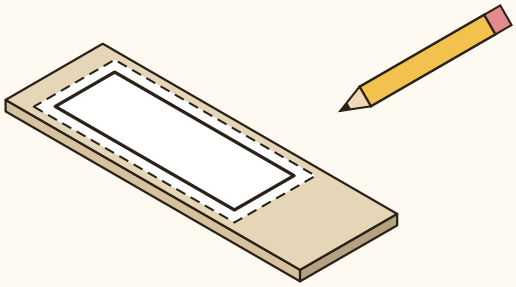
Builder's name: _____ Date: _____ First chickadee seen: _____

Build It Step by Step

Picture steps · Cutting and getting ready

1 Trace the patterns

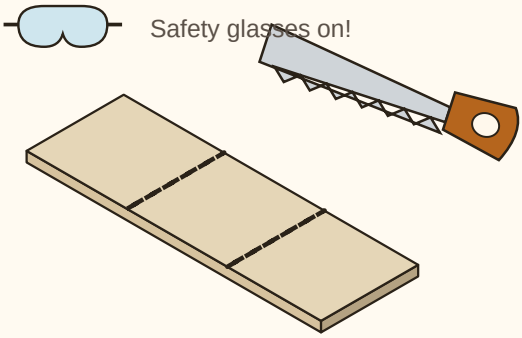
LITTLE BUILDER



Tape each paper pattern onto the board and trace around it with a pencil.

2 Cut the pieces

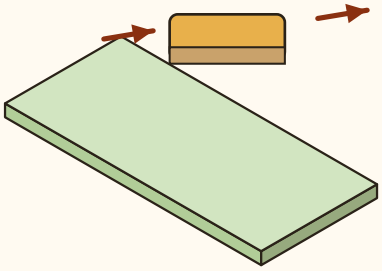
GROWN-UP



A grown-up saws on the pencil lines. Little builders watch from a safe spot.

3 Sand every edge

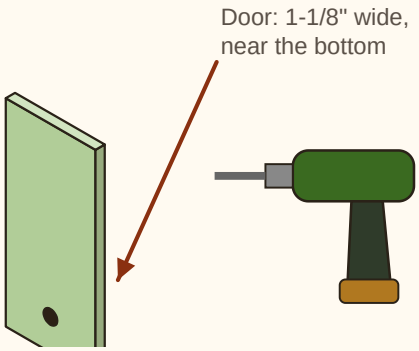
LITTLE BUILDER



Sand each piece back and forth until no edge feels scratchy.

4 Drill the door and perch holes

GROWN-UP

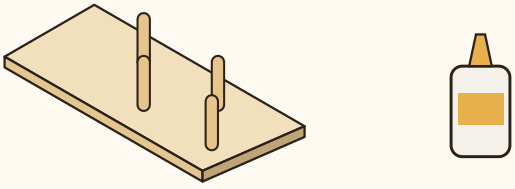


A grown-up drills the round door low on the front, then the perch holes at the dots.

5 Glue in the perches

LITTLE BUILDER

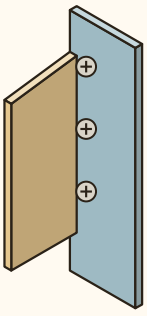
Dab glue in each hole.
Push in a perch.



Put a dab of glue in each hole and push in a dowel perch. 4 on Side A, 3 on Side B.

6 Screw Side A to the back

TOGETHER



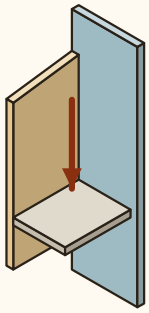
Hold Side A on the line while a grown-up starts the screws. Then help turn them.

Build It Step by Step

Picture steps · Putting it together

7 Slide in the floor

TOGETHER

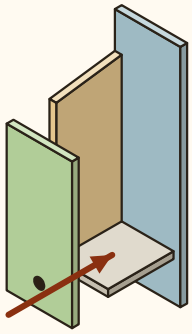


The floor sits just above the bottom edge

Set the floor between the sides, a little above the bottom edge, and screw it in.

8 Screw on the front

TOGETHER

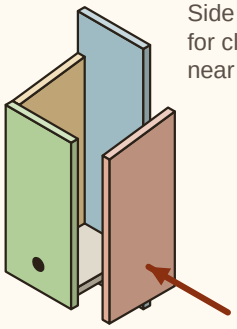


Door goes at the BOTTOM

Put the front on with the round door at the bottom, so warm air stays inside.

9 Hang the door side

GROWN-UP

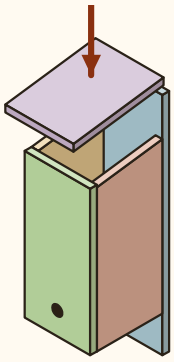


Side B swings open for cleaning. 2 screws near the top = the hinge

Fit Side B in. A grown-up puts one screw through the front and one through the back, near the top. That's the hinge!

10 Put on the roof

TOGETHER

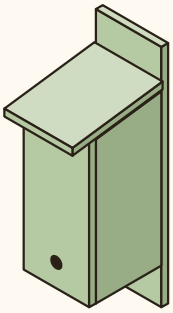


Roof hangs over the front, like a hat

Set the roof tight against the back so it hangs over the front. Screw it on.

11 Paint the outside

LITTLE BUILDER



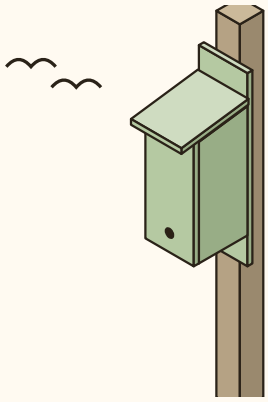


Outside only. Light colors. No paint inside.

Paint only the outside, in a light color. Let it dry and air out for a week.

12 Hang it up

GROWN-UP





Face south

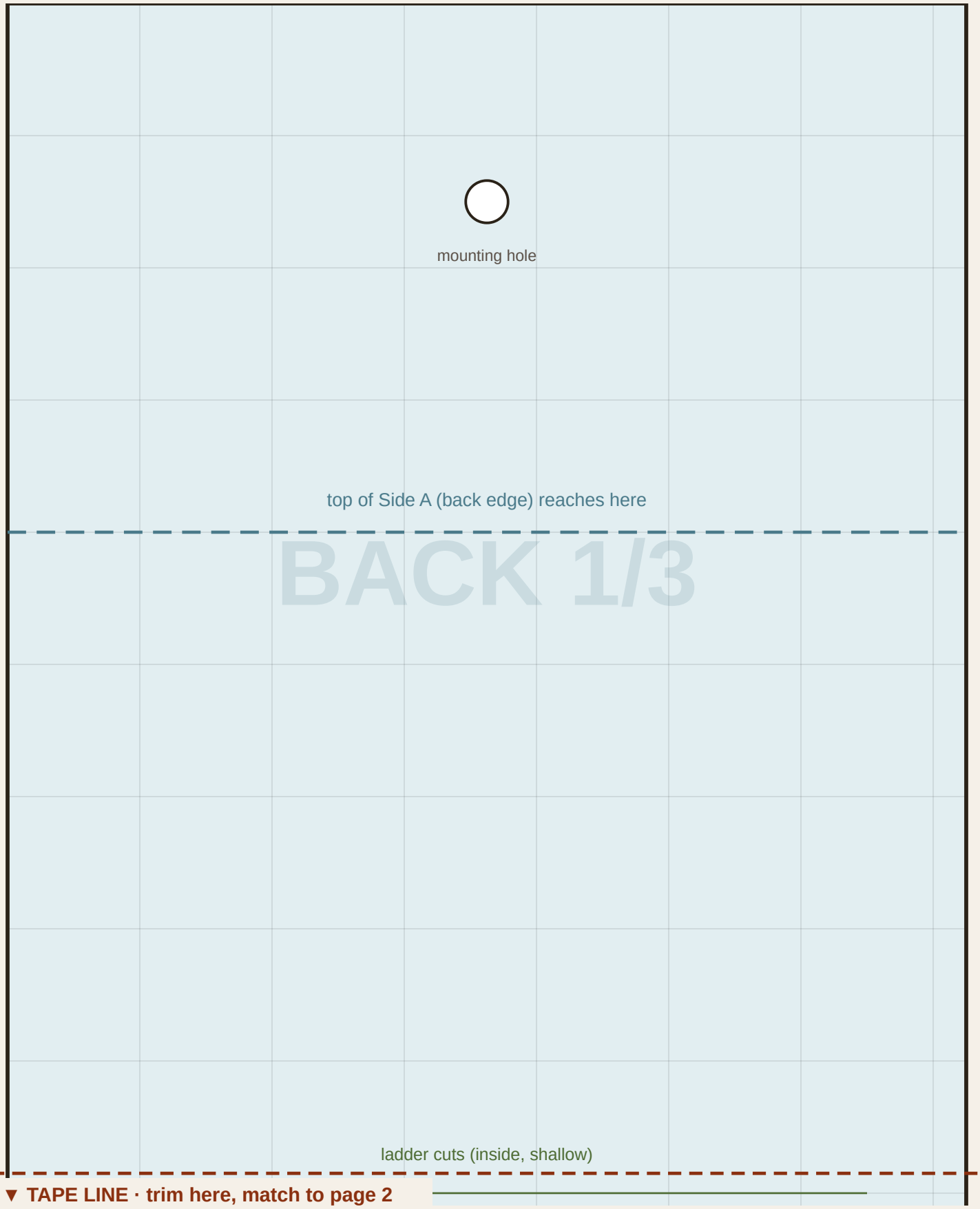
5 to 15 feet up, out of the wind

A grown-up hangs it on a post or tree, 5 to 15 feet up, facing south. Then watch for chickadees!

PATTERN · BACK · page 1 of 3

Full size. Print at Actual Size (100%). Little Builders: The Real Roost Box

this box = 1 inch wide



this box = 1 inch wide

▲ TAPE LINE · lay page 1 on top, lines matching

dashed = bends (inside, shallow)

BACK

INSIDE FACE · this side faces the birds

BACK 2/3

▼ TAPE LINE · trim here, match to page 3

this box = 1 inch wide

▲ TAPE LINE · lay page 2 on top, lines matching

FLOOR LINE: bottom of Side A and the floor

◀ Side A here

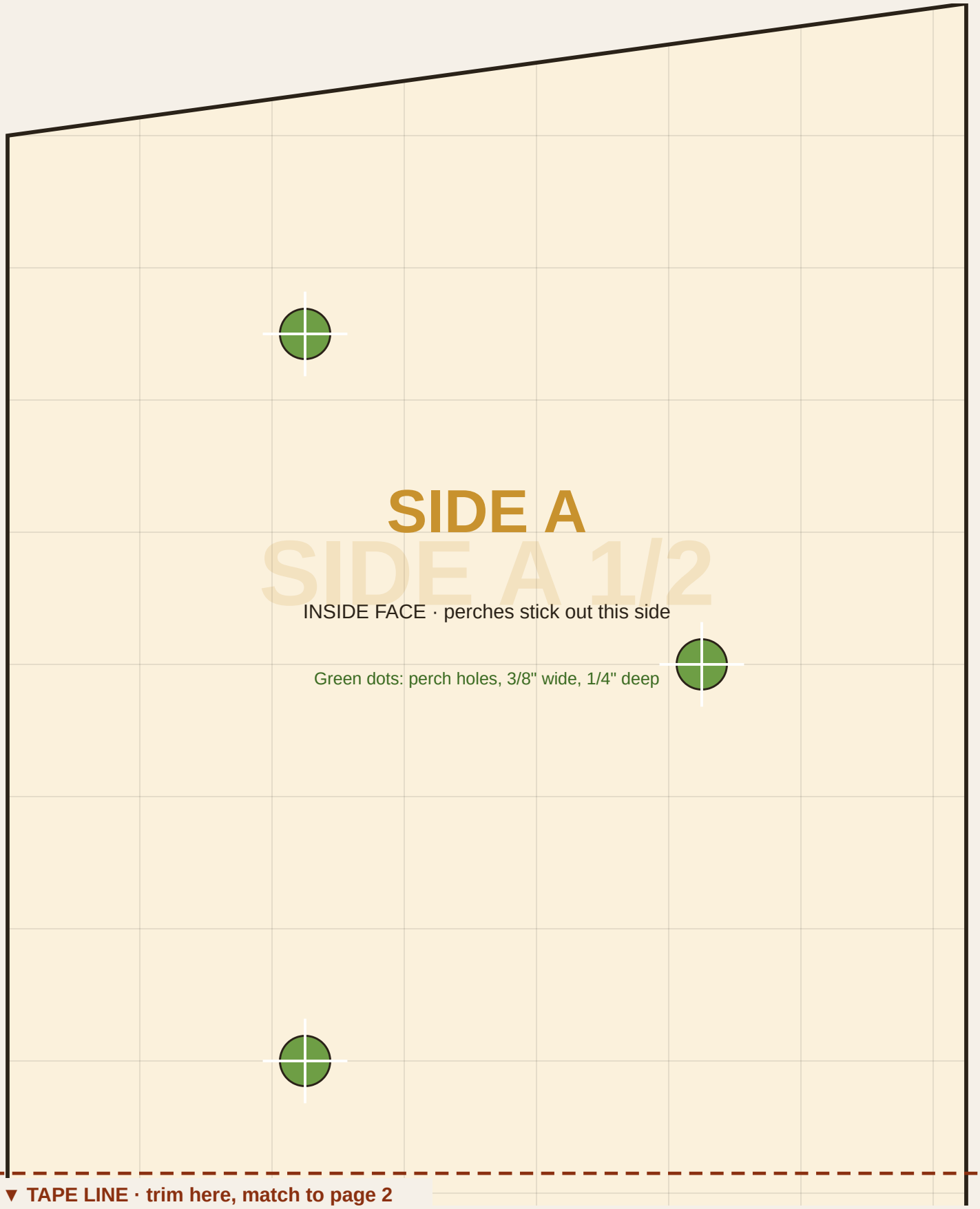
BACK 3/3

Side B here ▶



mounting hole

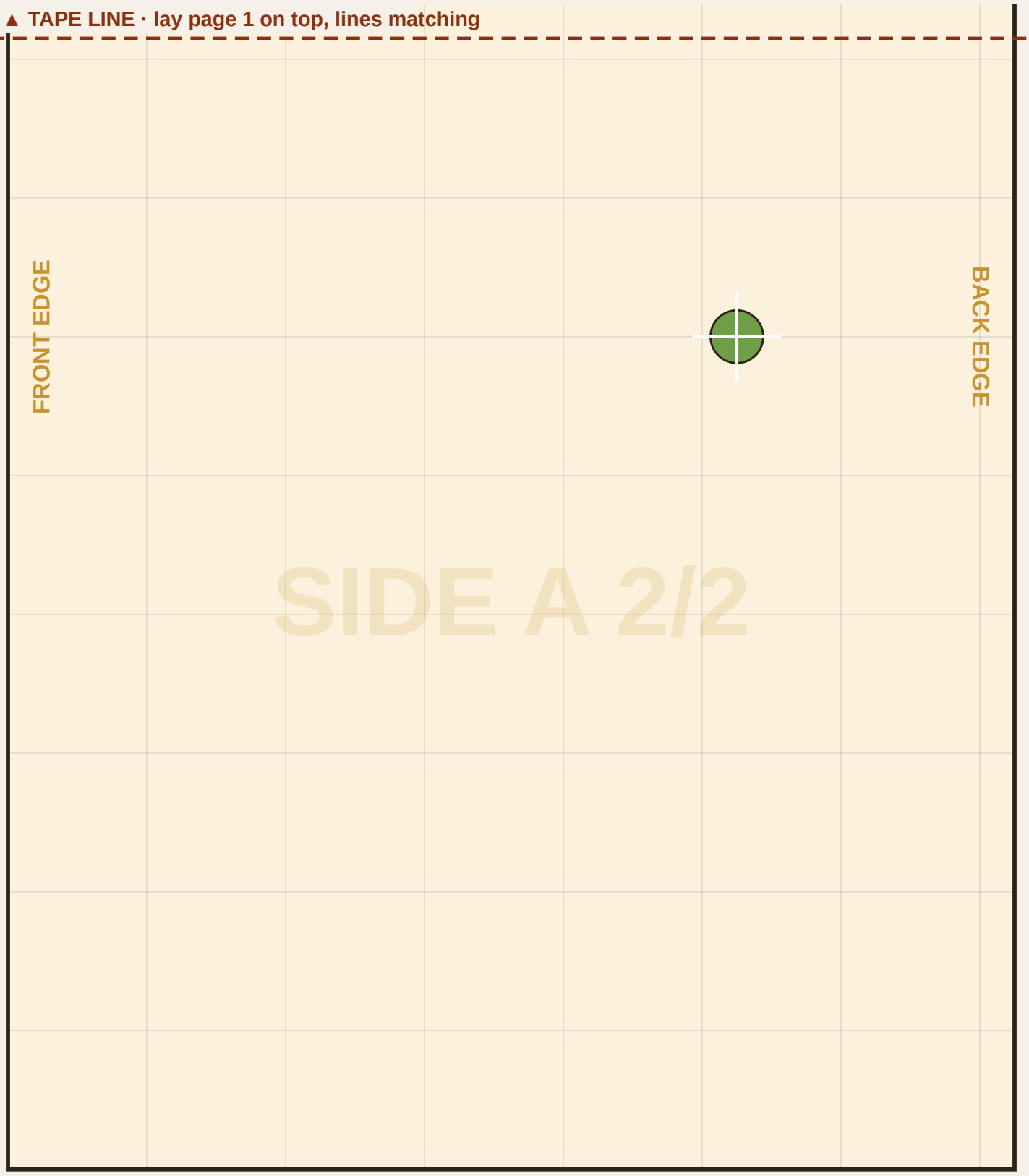
this box = 1 inch wide



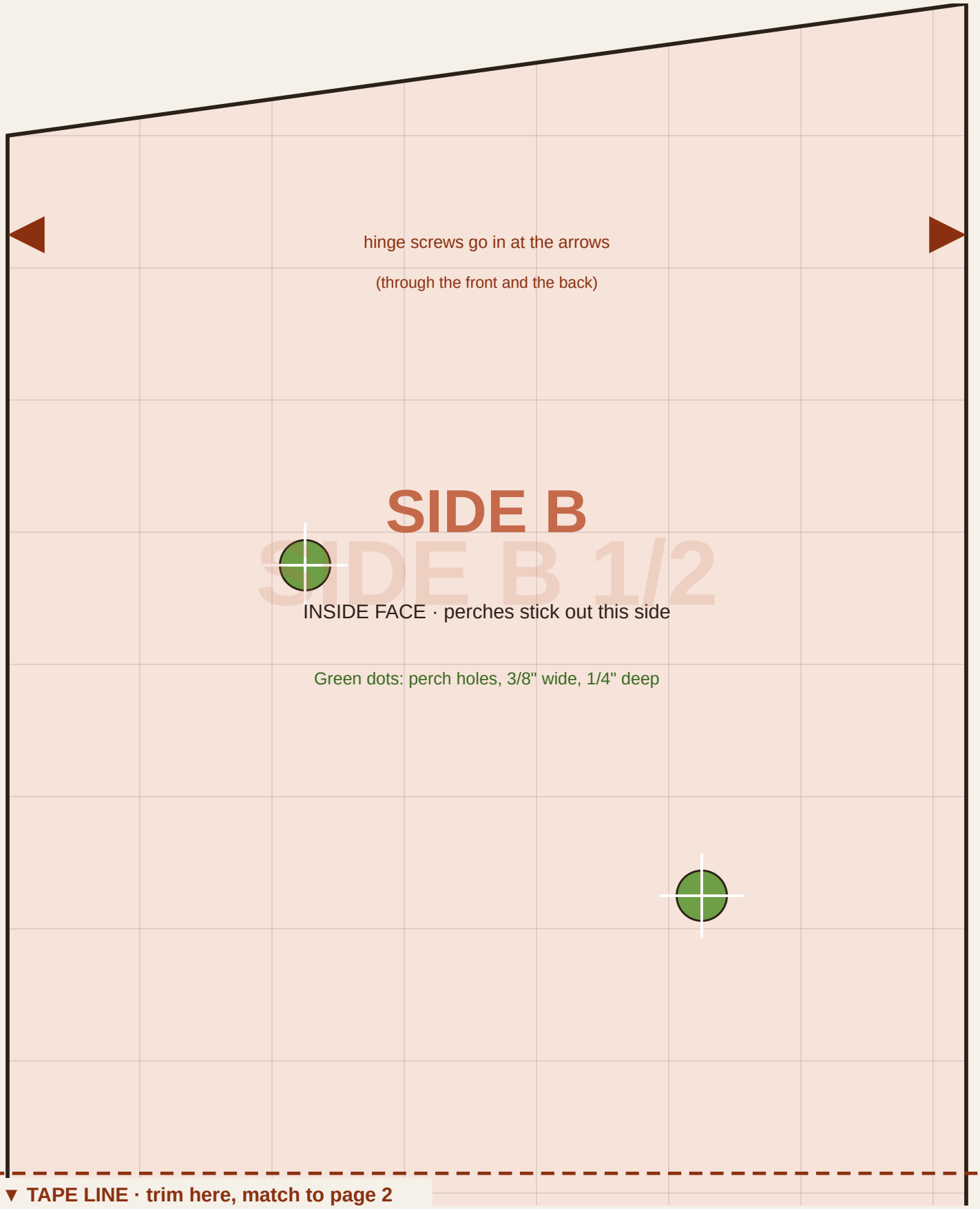
▼ TAPE LINE · trim here, match to page 2

this box = 1 inch wide

▲ TAPE LINE · lay page 1 on top, lines matching



this box = 1 inch wide



▼ TAPE LINE · trim here, match to page 2

this box = 1 inch wide

▲ TAPE LINE · lay page 1 on top, lines matching



FRONT EDGE

BACK EDGE

SIDE B 2/2

latch screw

Side B is 1/4" shorter so it can swing open

this box = 1 inch wide

FRONT

INSIDE FACE

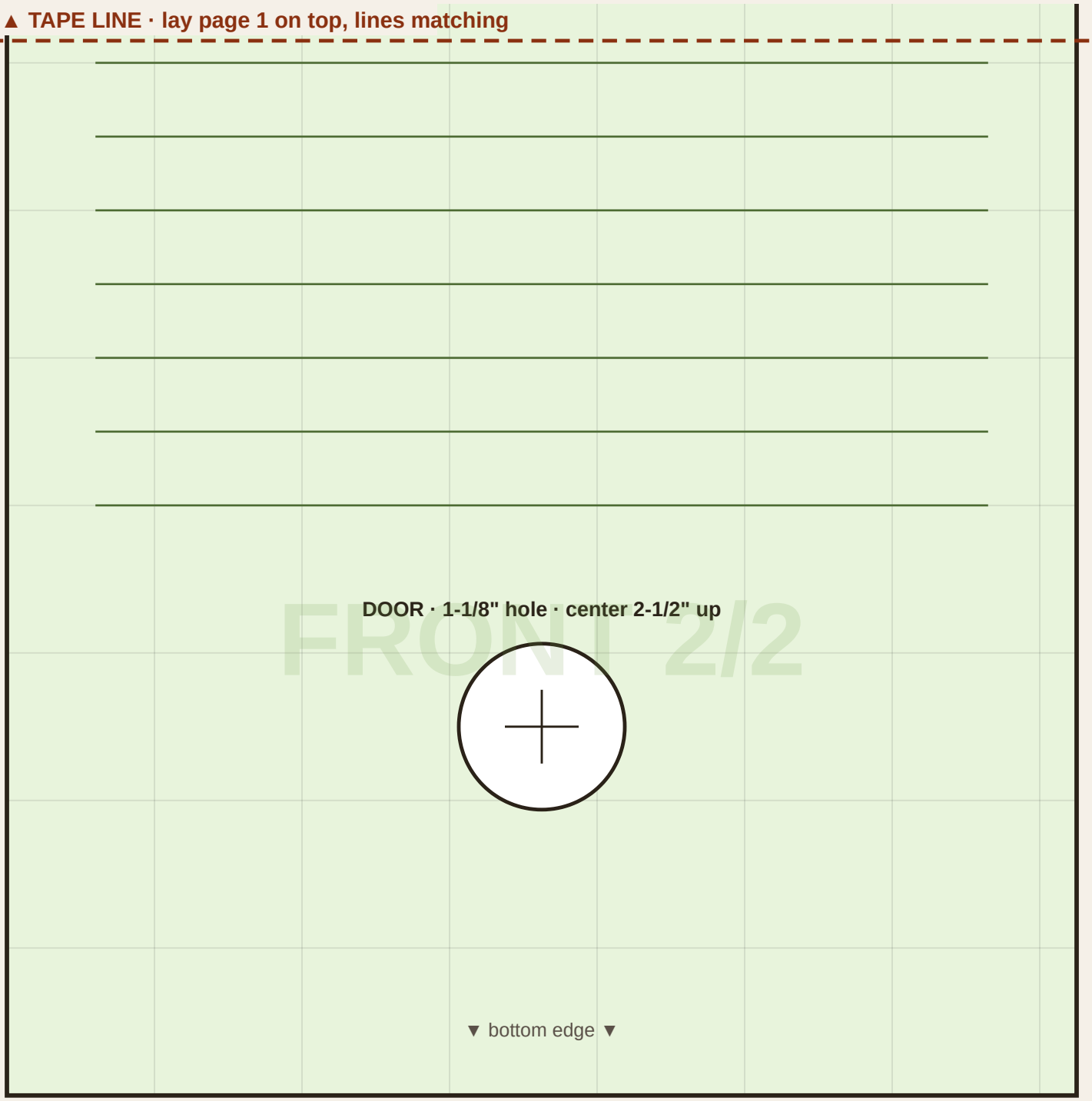
ladder cuts (inside, shallow, 1/2" apart)

FRONT 1/2

▼ TAPE LINE · trim here, match to page 2

this box = 1 inch wide

▲ TAPE LINE · lay page 1 on top, lines matching



this box = 1 inch wide

