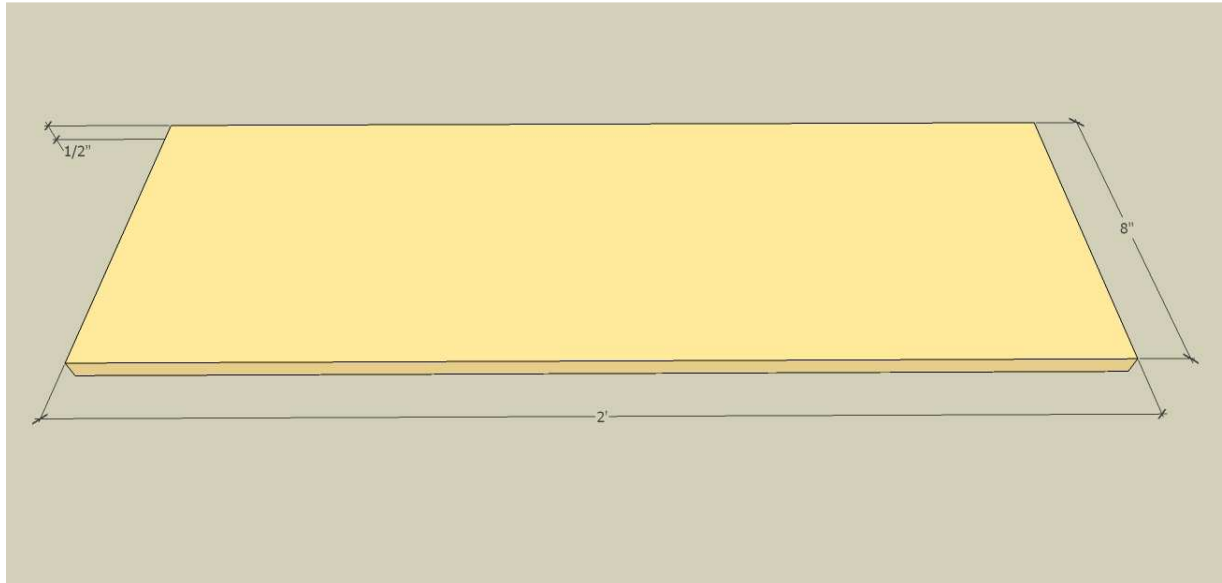
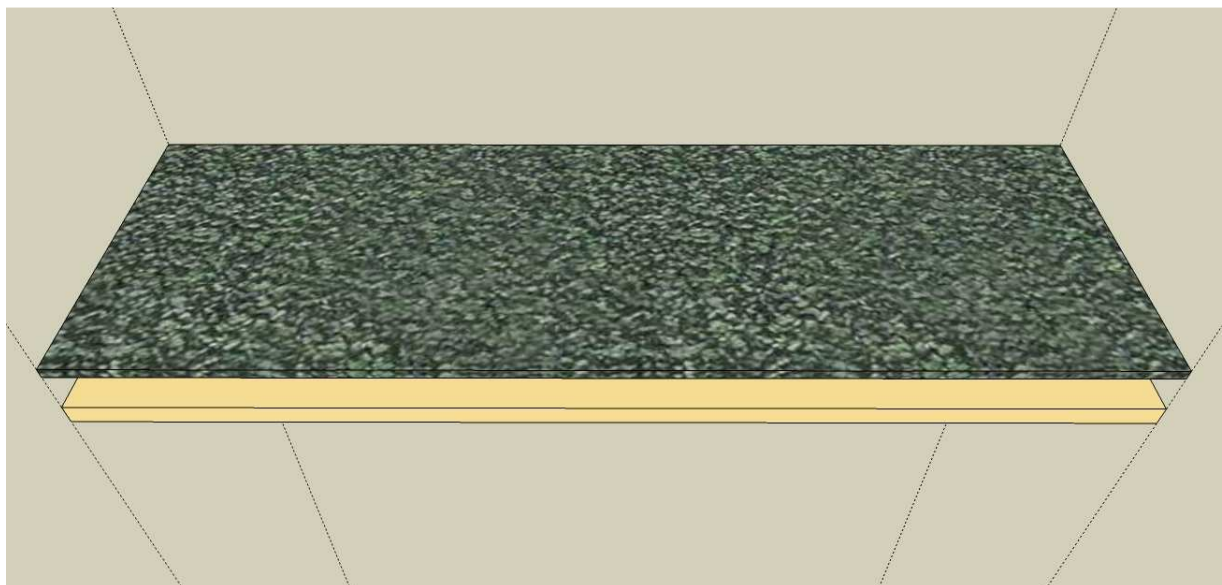


## DIY Cat Shelf - Step by Step Instructions (by David Stonham)

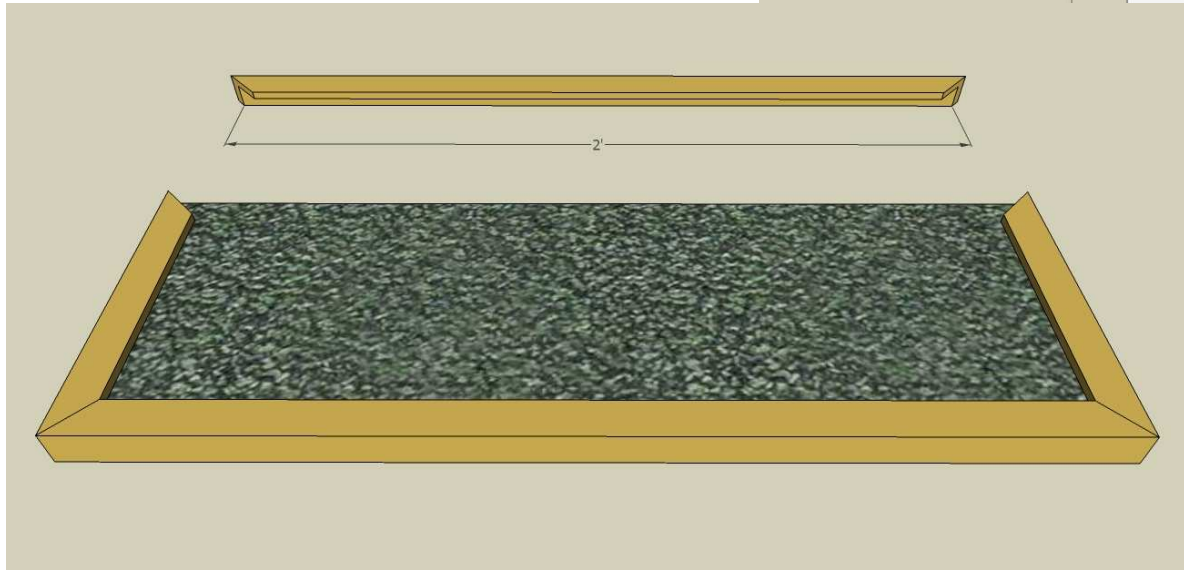
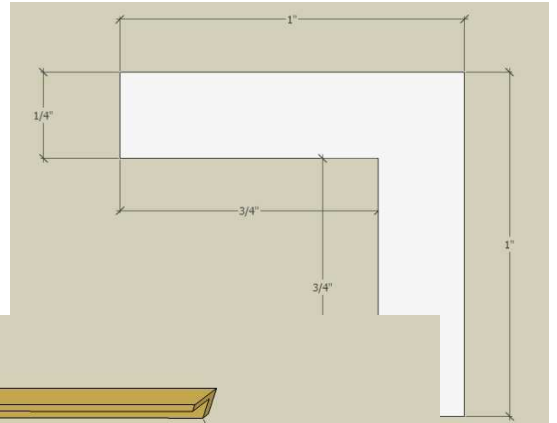
1. Begin by selecting **a solid platform** for the foundation of your cat shelf. Plywood is great, but a natural wood board is fine too. (Can you recycle something?)
  - o 1/2" to 3/4" thick
  - o 6" - 10" wide (enough for your kitty to comfortably stand on)
  - o 18" to 28" long



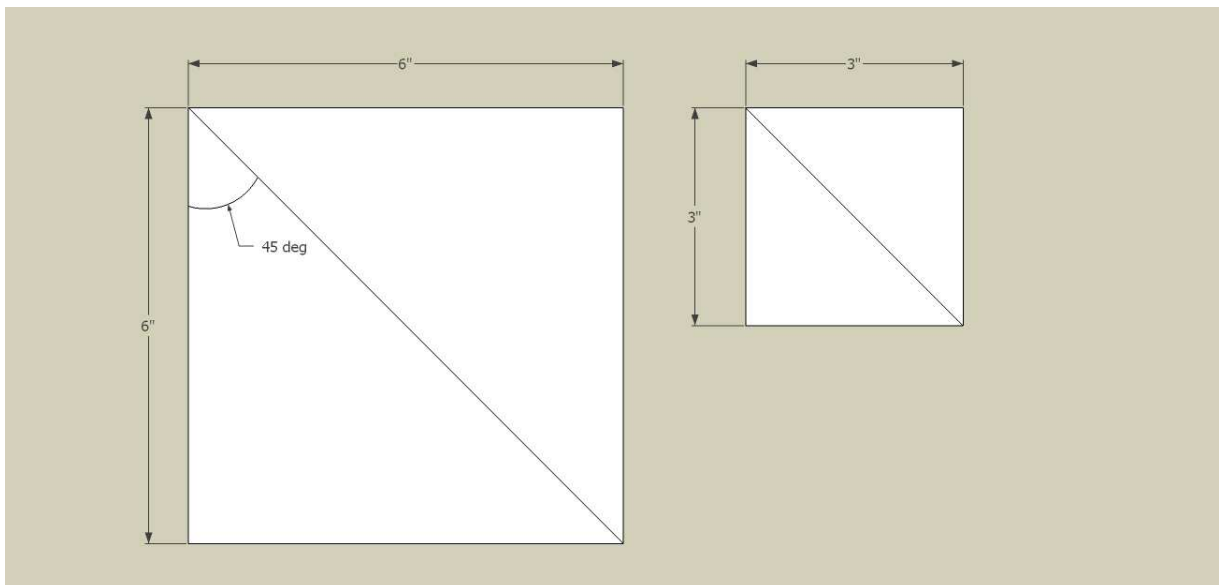
2. Cut **a piece of old carpet** to the same size as the platform. This will provide a nice (non-slip) surface for scratching, and can be replaced when it wears out.



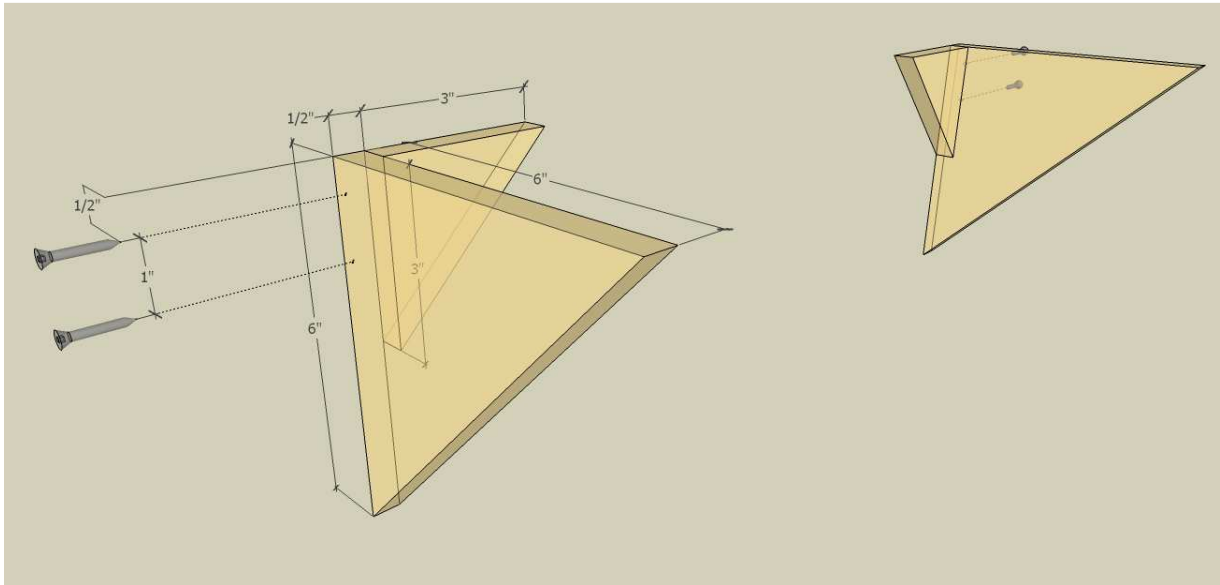
3. Using a length of **90° edging**, make a frame to sit over the carpet and platform. Cut the corners at 45° (use a **mitre block** to guide your **saw** if necessary). Ensure that the inside dimension of the frame pieces match those of your platform. **Glue** the frame together, but don't attach it to the platform yet.



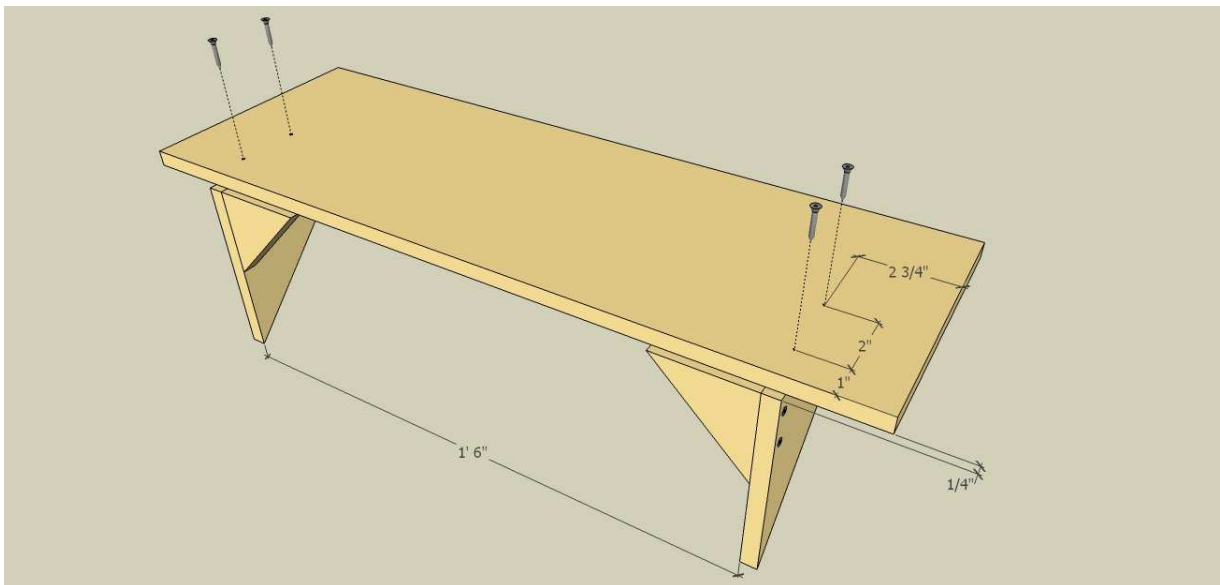
4. To attach the shelf to a wall, one option is to make simple brackets from some **pieces of wood**. Cut four triangular pieces, two from a 6" square and two from a 3" square of 1/2" plywood or natural board.



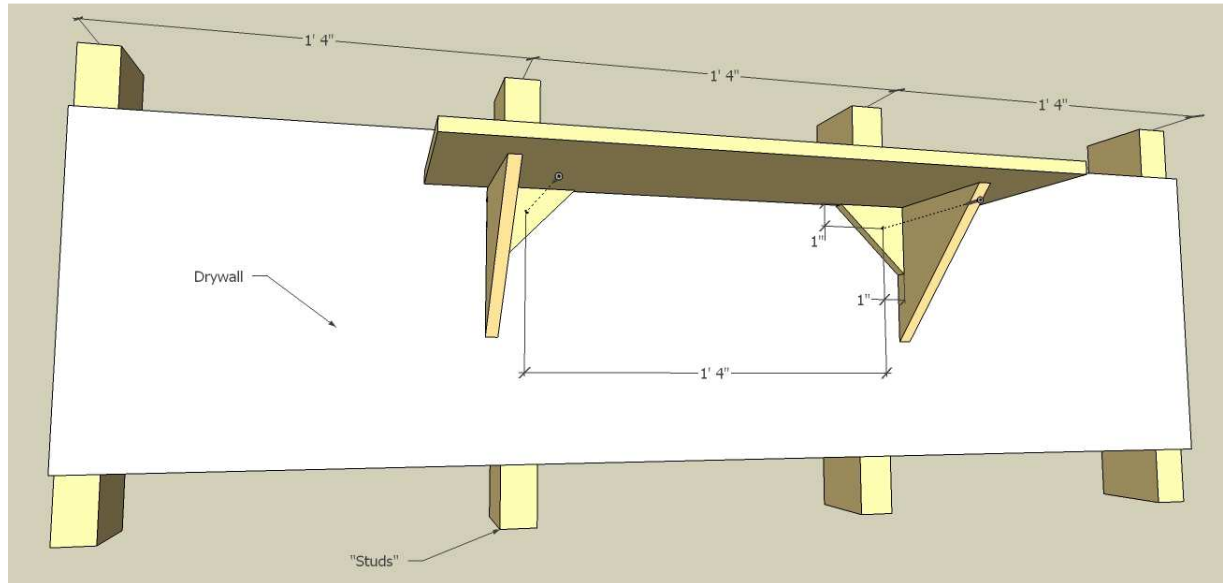
5. Attach your bracket pieces together at 90° to each other using **2" wood screws**, aligning the tops like in the diagram. You may need to pre-drill the holes to avoid splitting the wood, in this case use a **drill and a small drill bit**.



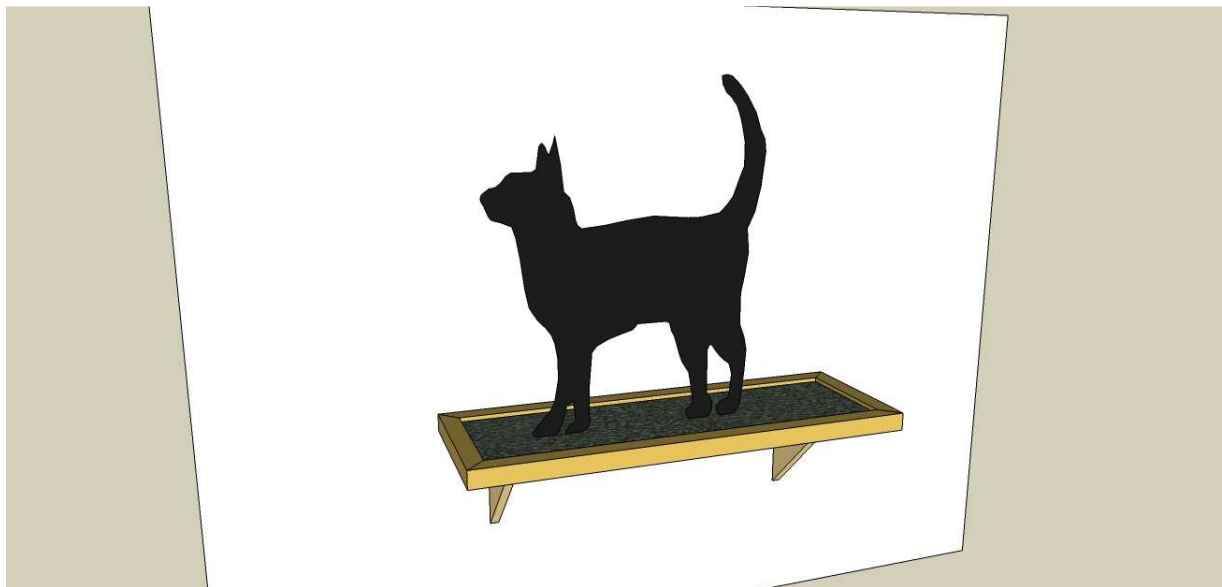
6. Now attach the brackets to your platform, using **2" wood screws**. Be sure to leave enough of an overhang to accommodate your wooden frame around the back of the platform once it's on the wall. In my case this was a 1/4" gap.



7. Now you need to attach the shelf to the wall. Most houses are framed using a 16" spacing between the "studs" of the wall, hence we'll try to line up our screws with these studs. Use a stud finder to locate studs near where you'd like your shelf to be and screw directly into them (through the drywall) with **3" wood screws**.



8. Place the carpet and frame over the platform and your cat shelf is complete. You may wish to use **small nails** to hold the frame down if it seems loose.



**Pro Tip:** If you feel confident, you could alter the way you attach the platform, adapting to locations suitable for your own home or cats. For example it could be on window ledge, or a post in the living room, or at the end of your bed. Why not make more than one, positioning them like steps on the wall so your cats can get up high?