

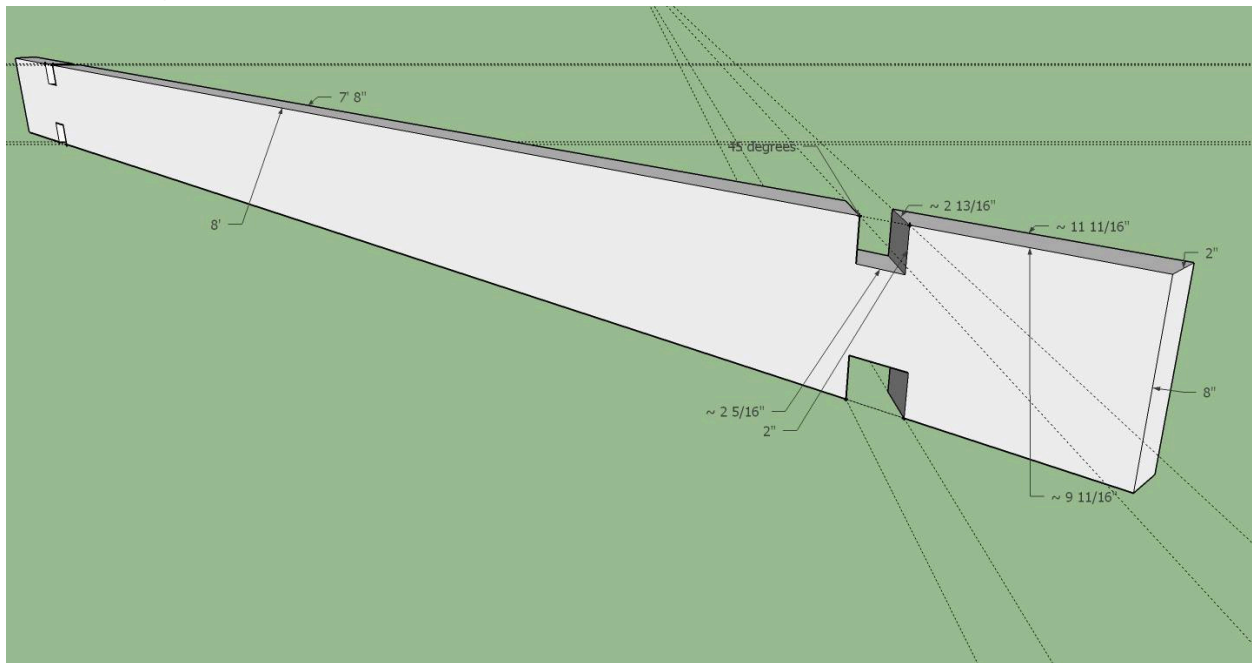
THE DIY GAGA PIT

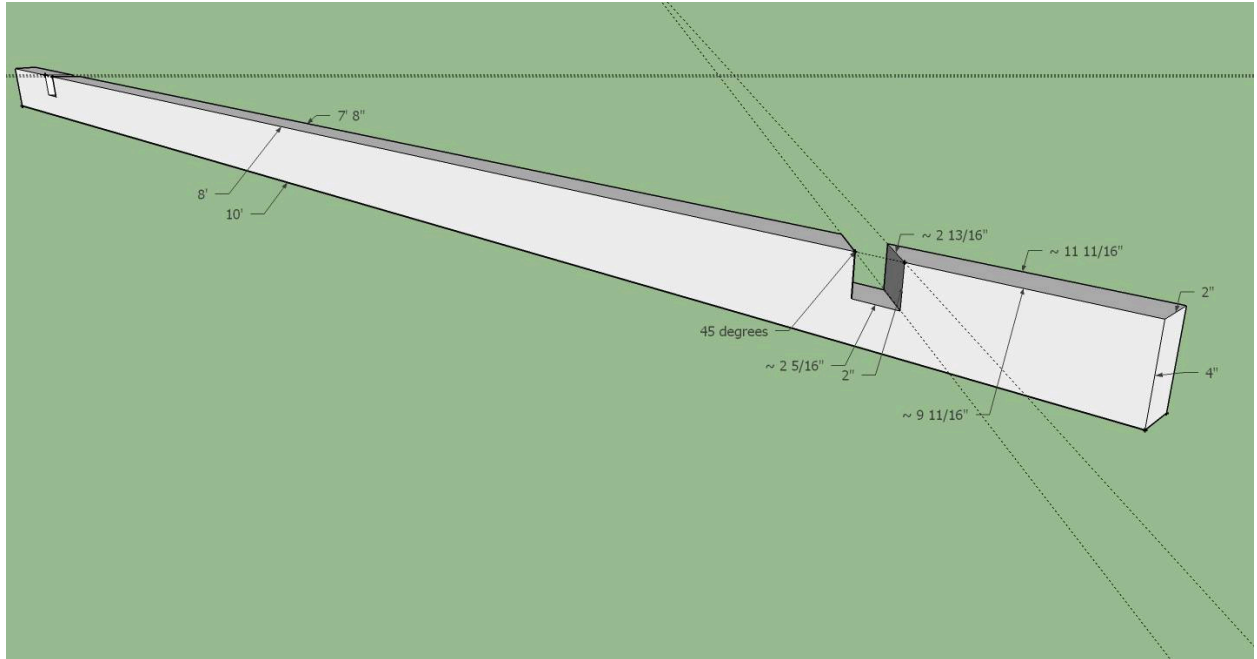
Gaga: Israeli-style dodgeball played in an enclosure with one ball

Two Design Lab alumni from the Winter 2015 cohort went back to their local synagogue, Congregation Beth El in Sudbury, and identified a design challenge: *How might we build a Gaga Pit that:*

- is not a permanent structure,
- is easy to take apart and put together so that people who didn't build it should be able to do so without much instruction,
- is sturdy and stable enough for kids to lean on the walls while watching,
- is strong enough for the walls to handle the rubber ball hitting it at high rates of speed,
- is affordable (a \$500 budget: teens only spent \$350 on wood, replacement blades for a saw, and metal sanders).

The teens recruited other teens to help them with the project and then began to research different types of gaga pits. The teens developed a design similar to “Lincoln Logs” where wood boards would interlock as they were stacked together. The teens then came up with blueprints of their design:





After a few months of work, the teens had finished their project: !



The Gaga Pit ended up fulfilling all of the design constraints: it is mobile because it can be taken apart and put back together. It is sturdy enough to handle kids leaning and sitting on it, and can be easily assembled and disassembled by others with very little instruction.

You are welcome to share this design and replicate this Gaga Pit at your synagogue or education center. It is important to note that teens should have training on how to use power tools and supervised by an adult with experience using power tools. Additionally, safety wear should be used (eye protection, ear protection, etc.)