

Building Additions

How to add on to the Builder's Cottage or Little House
An Enchilada Bonus

Building one of the houses in the [Enchilada kit](#) is pretty straightforward. Using the Little House plans you can build a simple post and pier foundation cottage in any of three sizes. Using the layouts of the [Builder's Cottage](#) you can upgrade any of these plans to a concrete foundation, 2x6 walls and higher insulation levels.

But let's say you want to build a more complex cottage such as the expanded plan shown on page 9 of the [Little House kit](#) (see the Enchilada link at [Countryplans.com](#)). It has the 14x24 cottage as the main house. Attached to this at right angles is a 12x18 gable roofed element and a 10x14 addition with a shed roof.

Here's the easy way to envision how these additions connect to the main house. Imagine you were able to build the main cottage and the additions as three separate buildings. Each would have an end wall framed up with their own rafters. The low-pitch roof on the 10x14 would have a slightly higher end wall on the high side.

Now imagine that you can just push the additions into the main cottage at right angles until the end walls of the smaller cottages melt into the side wall of the larger.

For the gable roofed 12x18 you have a pointed end wall built on top of the main cottage wall. Now you get up on the roof of the main cottage and build a little "cricket" extending the ridge board and a few rafters from the end wall of the 12x18 addition onto the roof of the main cottage. These get nailed right down to the roof deck or a 2x ledger on the framing. After the roof is sheathed, some flashing installed and the roofing goes down, it is done. From the inside of the smaller cottage the end wall looks the same as if it was on its own (except it probably doesn't have a window!) These end walls are insulated just as they would be on their own.

For the low-pitched 10x14 addition you have a slightly higher rectangular wall where the cottage and the addition meet. Depending on whether or not you built the high sidewall on the main cottage, you may or may not need to extend the rafters over the main roof. If so, build a short wall extension up to the new rafters. Carry the roof sheathing over the joint and flash where the angles of the roof meet.

In the Expanded plan diagram the 10x14 addition is glazed with a full height glass window wall based on the [Sky-light and Greenhouse plans](#) (included in the Enchilada plans kit). This addition can be used as a sunroom, dining or family room.

There are many custom cottages that can be built using just the three sizes of the Little House plans and the gable or low-pitch roof options. These are all included in the Enchilada kit. Remember too, the lengths of each cottage can be easily reduced or extended. It is easiest to use 2' increments for this but that is only because it is most efficient with the use of materials. You can make each cottage whatever length works best for your use.

Play with your own floor plan by making extra copies of the plan sheets and trying out different sizes and combinations. Also remember additions can be built later. You would simply size the headers (see chart and details on Sht. 6 of L.H. Dwgs) in the walls for wide openings that might be walled up for a year or two until the addition is done and you break through to the new room. This also keeps the main cottage clean and livable during construction of the addition.

