Construction 7: Book I, Proposition 12

To a given infinite straight line, from a given point which is not on it, to draw a perpendicular straight line.



I.12:3. Let AB be the given infinite straight line, and C the given point which is not on it;















GOSUB I.10. Relabel EG as ab. I.10:4. Let the equilateral triangle abc be constructed on it, [I.1]

GOSUB I.1.

I.1:7. With centre a and distance ab let the circle bcd be described; [Post.3]



I.1:10. again, with centre b and distance ba let the circle ace be described; [Post.3]



I.1:13. and from the point c, in which the circles cut one another, to the points a, b let the straight line ea, cb be joined. [Post. 1.]



GOSUB I.9.



I.9:8. let cf be joined.

Here, e, f are the two points in which the circles cut one another.

RETURN to I.10.





This is the point at which the line in step 5 cuts the line AB. We relabel this point H. Cleanup. I.1:10. again, with centre b and distance ba let the circle ace be described; [Post.3]



.12:16. and let the straight lines CG, CH, CE be joined. [Post. 1]

Actually, only CH is needed.



46

I.12:17. I say that CH has been drawn perpendicular to the given infinite straight line AB from the given point C which is not on it.

Q.E.F.

