

How to: make a bird box



Day 1

After purchasing the wood, measure and cut to size. In order to get good straight edges especially on the diagonal cuts, use a mitre block. Finish off with a file and some sand paper. Mark out a circle towards the top end of the front panel. Please note that the entrance hole size depends on the species you hope to attract:

- 25 mm for coal, marsh and blue tits
- 28 mm for great tits and tree sparrows
- 32 mm for nuthatches and house sparrows
- A starling box needs to be 25-30% larger with an entrance 45 mm across.

Drill 4 x 10 mm holes in the corners. Then, take a smaller saw, such as a coping saw, undo the blade and pass it through one of the holes to start working your way around the circle. Carefully follow the steps in diagram 1 to assemble the bird box. Fix the box with wood glue and secure with panel pins, leaving it to dry overnight.

Tools/Materials

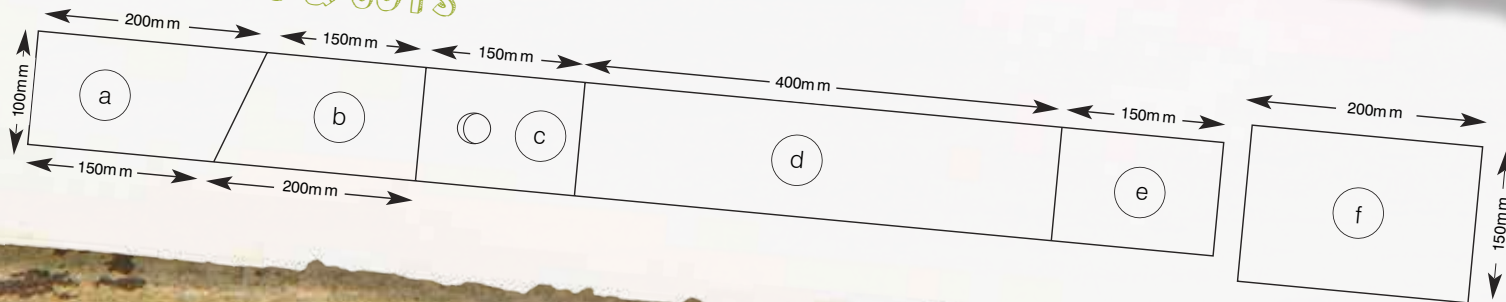
- Tenon saw or similar
- Small hammer
- Galvanised long panel pins (nails)
- Wood glue
- Mitre block
- 1 x plastic or brass hinge (optional)



Cheats and cost savers:

Larger DIY stores have a wood cutting service. They will only cut straight lines so be prepared to cut your own angles. This way, you can have most of the wood cut for you. Also, it is quite possible that cheap off-cuts near the timber cutting service could be used.

Dimensions & CUTS



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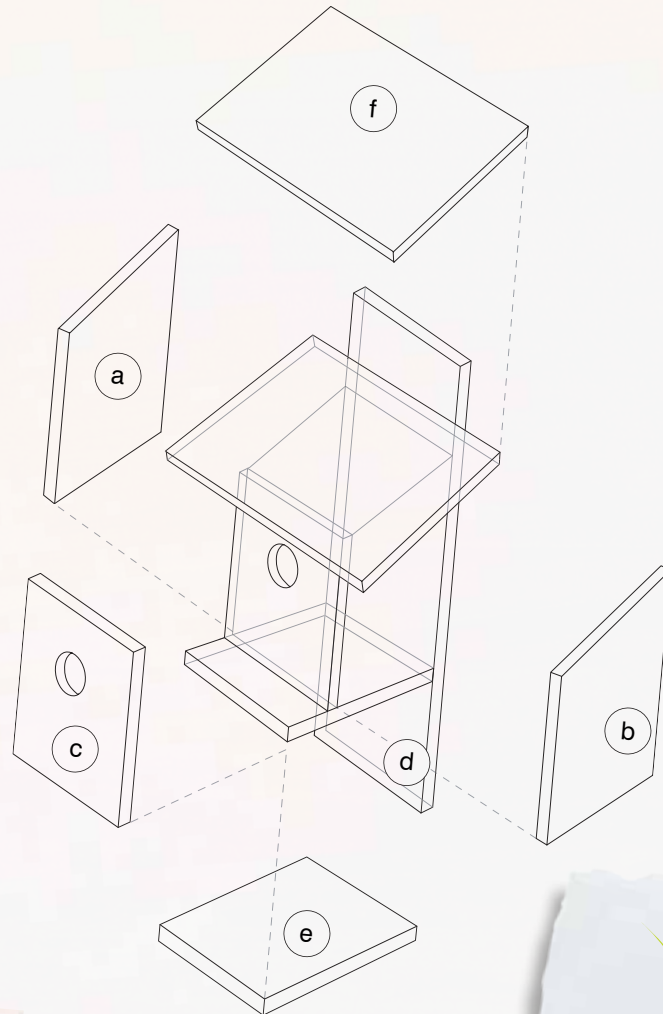
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Day 2

Fit the hinge to a spare piece of wood and attach to box. You may want to use a file to shave off a bit of wood to create a better fit where the hinge joins the final 2 pieces. Finally, treat the exterior of the box with a water based preservative such as Fenceguard or Sadolin.



Diagram 1



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