

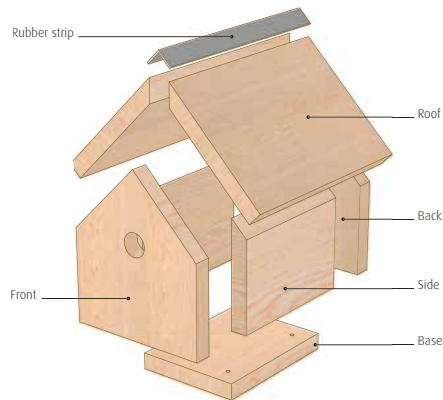
BIRD BOX



This straightforward project doesn't require any sophisticated jointing techniques, so it is great for a beginner to tackle. The panels, once marked out and cut, are fixed together simply. The bird box shown is made from Western red cedar, but larch and plywood are good alternatives. Each bird species requires a specific-sized hole, so research how big your hole should be. This box has a 25mm- (1in)-diameter hole, which is suitable for a blue tit.

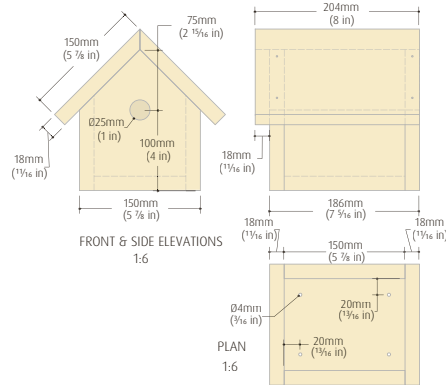
Dimensions:

210 x 200 x 204mm (8¼ x 7⅞ x 8in)



TOOLS AND MATERIALS

Pencil	Nail gun or hammer and nails
Ruler	Screwdriver
Combination square	8 screws (4 x 40mm/No.8 x 1½in), plus more for fixing to post
Panel saw	Rubber strip (recycled inner tube)
Shooting board	10 panel pins
Plane	
Marking gauge	
Sandpaper	
Drill and bits (4mm/½in and 25mm/1in)	



CUTTING LIST

Item	Material	No.	Length	Width	Thickness
Front and Back	Cedar	2	175mm (7¼in)	150mm (5⅞in)	18mm (¾in)
Sides	Cedar	2	118mm (4⅞in)	150mm (5⅞in)	18mm (¾in)
Roof	Cedar	2	204mm (8in)	150mm (5⅞in)	18mm (¾in)
Base	Cedar	1	114mm (4½in)	150mm (5⅞in)	18mm (¾in)

How the elements fit together

All of the panels fit together with pins except those for the roof, which are screwed in place. The roof panels need to be removable so that you can discard old nesting material and clean the box.

PREPARING THE COMPONENTS



1 Mark the shape of each panel using a pencil and combination square. Shade in the waste, so it's clear what you are cutting off.

2 Following your markings, cut the top of the front and back panels to 45 degrees; this creates the roof's pitch.

3 Mark 45-degree cuts on the side panels and the long edge of the roof panels, and cut using a panel saw.



4 Clean up the 45-degree cuts on a shooting board using a plane.

5 Using a marking gauge set to 27mm (1¼in) and 195mm (7¾in), scribe lines for the screw hole positions on the roof pieces.

6 Mark up the access hole position in the front panel using a pencil and combination square. Next, using a marking gauge, mark drainage holes in the base panel (inset).

ASSEMBLING THE BOX



7 Drill the holes. Use a 25mm(1in) drill bit for the access hole and a 4mm (½in) drill bit for the drainage and screw holes (inset).

1 Nail all the panels together. Use four nails in the front and in the back panels, and two nails in each side panel to secure the base and form the box carcass.

2 Drive the screws into the roof panels to fix the roof in place; no countersinking is needed for the cedar.



3 Attach the rubber strip to the roof with panel pins. To avoid awkward stretching of the rubber, hammer in the pins alternating each side of the roof line as you move along.

4 Sand the edges. To attach the finished box to a fence or tree, you'll need to partly unscrew the eight screws to release the whole roof. Then you have access to screw through the back panel to secure it to the fence or tree, before replacing the roof and driving the eight screws back in.

FINISHES

Cedar will weather over time and fade to a silvery grey; if you choose a wood that needs protecting from the weather, be sure to check that any finish is safe for birds.

THE FINISHED PIECE

