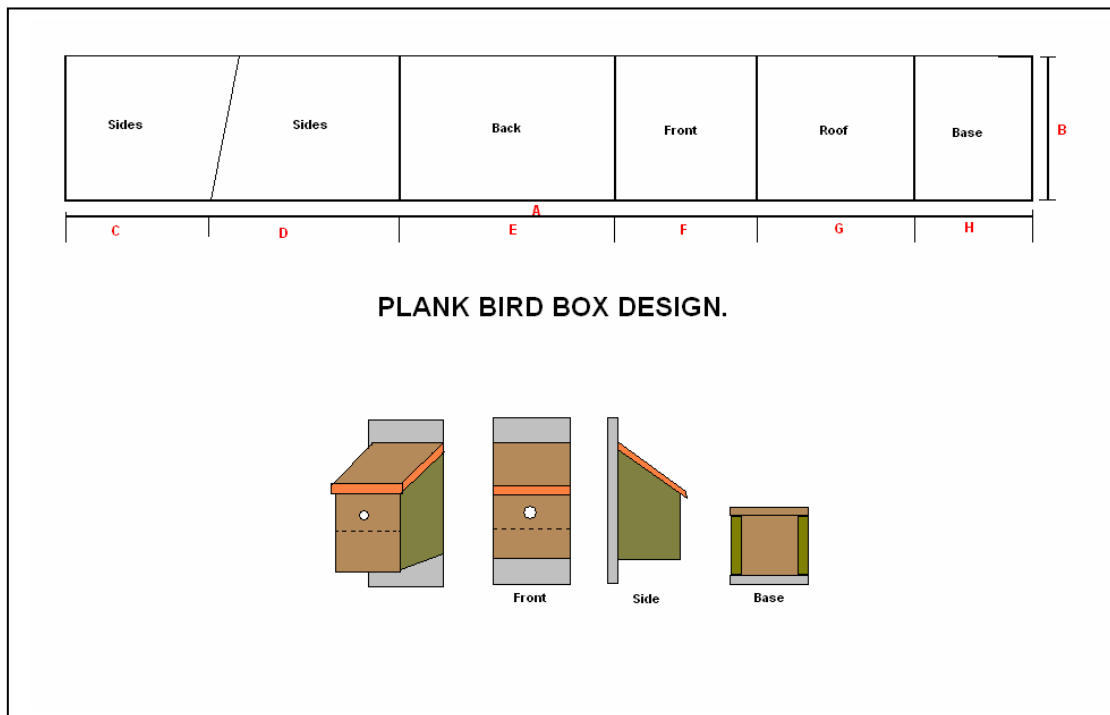


Putting together a Bird Box for your Garden.



One of the simplest designs is a plank nest box which can be cut from a single plank of untreated timber. Once the different sections are cut out the box can quite simply be nailed together.



For nest boxes with holes it is necessary to hinge the lid to allow access to clear out old nesting material and reduce fledgling mortality due to disease. The hinge can be made using an old cycle inner tube nailed to the back of the lid and the backboard to make a flexible joint (old cycle inner tube can be collected from your local cycle repair shop who normally have to just throw damaged tubes away.). The lid should be then secured with either a hook and eye or thin wire wrapped around two nails to prevent access by squirrels.

Open front nest boxes for birds such as Robins have only the area below the dotted line to the front of the box on the Plank Bird Box design diagram above.

Installing your box.

Make sure the box is secure and will not be blown down in the next wind. I like to use more old inner tube as a strap to secure the boxes in to trees avoiding nailing the box directly to the tree.

Make sure that the position of the box does not leave it open to predators such as cats or larger birds.

The Bird boxes which need to be positioned lower down should be hidden in bushes or dense ivy to protect them from predators.

Please remember that many birds are territorial and will not tolerate another pair near by as they both would be after the same food to bring up their young. Do not be disheartened if your box or boxes are not used in the first year. It will take some time for the birds to acclimatise to the new box or another factor may be putting the bird off one that you or I did not foresee.

Further information

<http://www.lincstrust.org.uk/factsheets/nestbox.php>

<http://www.overthegardengate.net/wildlife/projects/birdpot.asp>

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/advice>

Bird\ Dimension	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Hole Dia	Height above ground
	Total	Width	cm							
Blue Tit	112	15	15	20	30	15	17	15	2.7	2-3m
Great Tit	112	15	15	20	30	15	17	15	3.5	2.5-3m
Coal Tit	112	15	15	20	30	15	17	15	3-3.5	1-2m
Tree Creeper	110	15	15	20	30	13	17	15	open front	1-3m
Wren	74	10	10	15	20	7	12	10	open front	1-2m
Robin	105	15	15	20	30	8	17	15	open front	0.5-1m
Sparrow	112	15	15	20	30	15	17	15	3.5	2-3m as a terrace of three boxes
Tree Sparrow	112	15	15	20	30	15	17	15	3.5	2-3m
Black bird	117	25	15	20	30	5	17	30	10 x 30 open front	1 -2 m

Timber thickness 2.5cm of untreated softwood. It is acceptable to treat the outside with preservative.

Nails 4cm x 25

Length of old cycle inner tube for hinges. Also useful to secure box into trees avoiding nailing box to the tree.

Roof felt tacks for cycle inner tube x 10.