

The Carpenter's Son's Apprentice



Divinely inspired woodwork. www.TheCarpentersSonsApprentice.ca

Cedar Birdhouse

Building Plans

Congratulations! You are about to embark on a very satisfying journey of working with wood and making something that is charming, practical, and very useful to the little creatures around us. More information on bird houses in general can be found at:

http://birds.audubon.org/faq/where-can-i-get-plans-build-bird-house-what-are-correct-dimensions-each-species

http://birds.audubon.org/sites/default/files/documents/nest_box_chart_0.pdf

Materials:

- 28-32" of 1x6 (3/4" x 5 1/2" true) rough cedar (depending on how you cut the 20° angle).
- 27" of 1x4 (3/4" x 3 1/2" true) rough cedar
- 5 5/8" of 1/4" hardwood dowel.
- 1" of 3/4" hardwood dowel.
- 1 1/2" or longer finishing nails (very small heads). You will need about 16-20 of them.
- Outdoor wood glue or similar water resistant glue for the locking pin handle.

You will also need a hammer, a drill with 1/4" and 1 1/2" bits (optional 5/16" bit also for a looser fit to all holes except the lock pin knob, and a 1/32" bit for pilot holes), and a saw of some sort.

Layout:

A dimensioned lay out of all the pieces appears on the following page. Please note the following:

- Bevelled edges: When cutting your wood, pay particular attention to the 45° bevels (angled cuts) on the tops of the front and back walls, and on both ends of the roof.
- Round overs: Also note that the bottom (floor) will need to be rounded over in the front on top and in the back on the bottom to allow for the bottom to swing open.
- For 1/4" dowel hinges, the holes in each side of the bottom (floor) will need to be centred on each side, 3/8" from the back end of the wood. This will leave 1/4" of wood between the whole and the top, back, and bottom. These holes should be 1 1/8" long.
- Drill dowel holes in side walls ½" deep not all the way through to the outside.

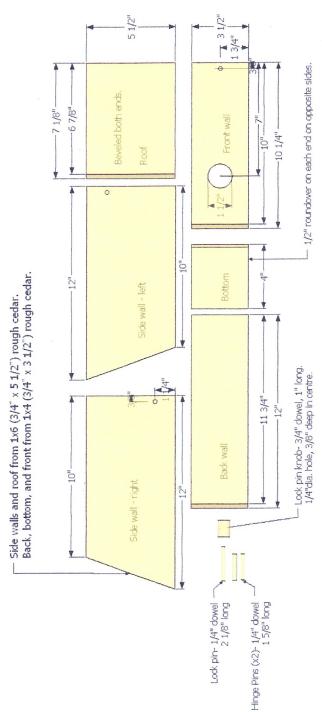


Layout: (Continued)

THE CARPENTER

Divinely inspired woodwork.









The Carpenter's Son's Apprentice



Divinely inspired woodwork. www.TheCarpentersSonsApprentice.ca

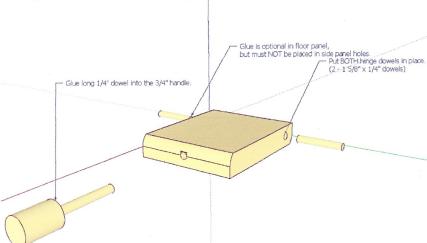
Cedar Birdhouse

Building Instructions



Whether building from scratch with wood you have cut yourself or from one of our pre-cut, pre-drilled, all-included (except a hammer or rock!) kits, assembly is the same.

Step 1 – Assembling the dowels.

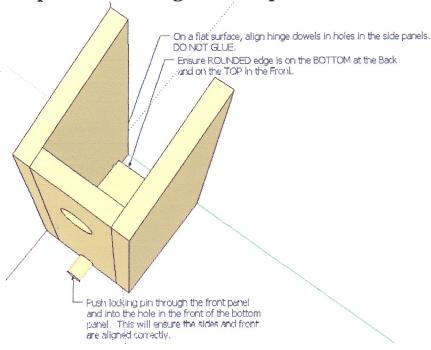


Glue the long, thin dowel into the hole in the knob. Do NOT glue the front peg into the bottom plate of the bird house. This peg must move freely.

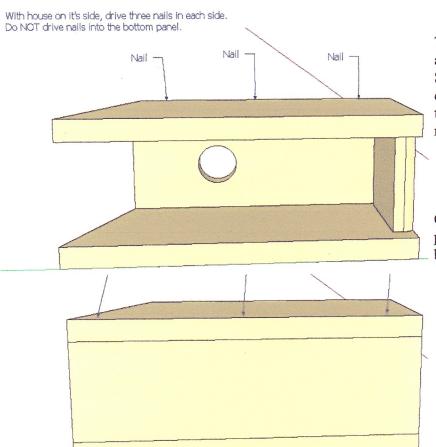
Glue the shorter thin dowels into the side holes of the bottom plate of the bird house. Insert FULLY, leaving only ½ to 1 cm (3/8 to 5/8 inch) sticking out.

Clean up any excess glue. The glue supplied with our kit is only water soluble before it dries.

Step 2 – Fastening the side panels.

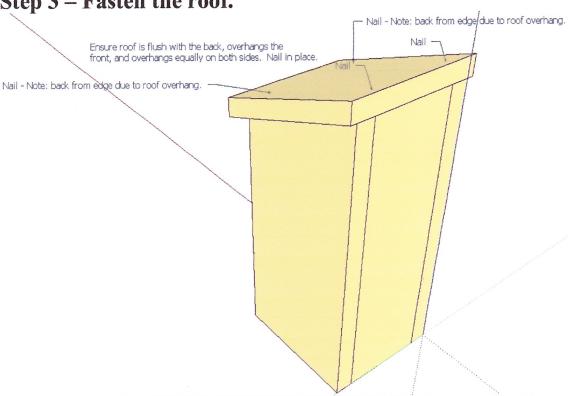


Insert the bottom plate dowels into the side panels and place the front pin through the front panel and into the bottom panel as shown.



Tip house on its side and align the front panel. Secure in place by driving the nails through the guide holes. Flip and repeat for the other side.

Carefully align the back panel and nail in place on both sides. Step 3 – Fasten the roof.



Notes:

Mounting:

Your bird house may be mounted either by securing the back panel to something (house, fence post, tree, etc.) or by mounting the bottom panel to a post. Post-top mounting both protects the post top from rot and adds a decorative feature to your fence. For mounting through the back wall, open the bottom to allow a screw to be driven through the back wall near the bottom. Another screw may be driven through the top of the roof.

Cleaning:

The bottom of your bird house opens to allow you to clean out old nesting material on a yearly basis to avoid the build up of next parasites. Simply open the bottom (or tilt back the whole house if you have bottom-mounted the house on a post) and brush away old nesting material in the late fall or winter when no birds are using the bird house.