

Making a bat box

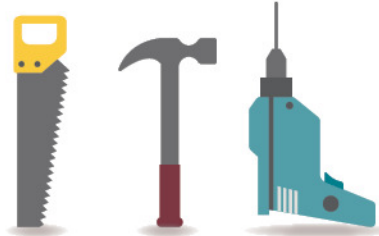
A how-to guide

The 'Kent' bat box is easy to make, self-cleaning and will provide shelter for roosting bats in your garden.



The tools

Saw, hammer or drill

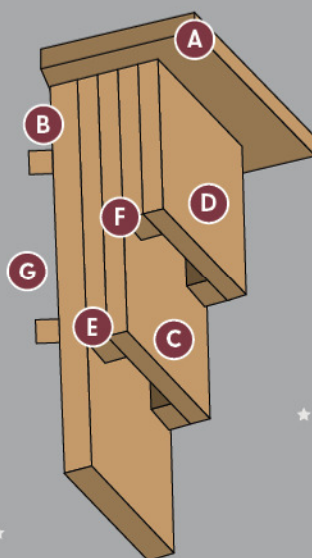


Pencil and tape measure



The materials

Rough sawn (untreated) timber
25mm nails or screws
Wood glue



Name	Quantity	Size (mm)
Roof (A)	1	250 x 150 x 20
Back (B)	1	450 x 150 x 20
Centre (C)	1	330 x 150 x 20
Front (D)	1	210 x 150 x 20
Centre Rails (E)	2	330 x 20 x 20
Front Rails (F)	2	210 x 15 x 15
Stand-offs (G) (optional)	2	20 x 30 x 20

Step 1

Using the diagram and table, measure and mark out the timber*. Labelling the sections can come in handy later.

Step 2

Assemble the box by nailing/screwing panels together.

Step 3

Use the wood glue to fill in any small gaps in the joints to draught-proof the box.

The installation

The boxes should be fixed up as high as possible in a sheltered location which gets sun for part of the day.

Walls as well as trees are suitable. Multiple boxes may be fixed around the circumference of a large tree trunk.

Bats require a clear flight-line to and from the box, so avoid locations with overhanging branches or other obstacles.

Place boxes well away from bright outdoor lights.

IMPORTANT: Do not use wood stain or preservatives on the bat box!

* Smooth timber such as plywood can be used, but make sure to score the timber surface horizontally to provide a surface that the bats can grip to.

5m above ground