

Making nest boxes

A how-to guide

The measurements

Follow measurements in **red font** for Starling box. For all other species follow measurements in black.



The tools

Saw, hammer or drill



Pencil, tape measure and scissors



The materials

Rough sawn timber or plywood
Old rubber tubes or small hinge
20mm nails or screws

Step 1

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

Step 2

Choose the size of the entrance to suit the desired species:

Hole fronted boxes:

- Drill hole to selected diameter
- » Blue Tit (25mm)
- » Great Tit/Wren (28mm)
- » Sparrow (38mm)
- » Starling (45mm)

Open fronted box:

- » Suitable for Robin (open fronted boxes can sometimes be used by Wren or Spotted Flycatcher). Cut front panel at 130mm as illustrated by the broken line in the diagram above.



Step 3

Assemble the box by nailing/screwing panels together. Fix the roof panel using a hinge or strip of rubber. Box can be treated with water-based preservatives (externally only) to prolong its life and help repel water.

The installation

Fix the box 2-5m above the ground somewhere sheltered. Robin boxes are best placed no higher than 2m.

If there is no natural shelter, it is best to mount a box facing somewhere between south-east and north, to avoid strong direct sunlight and the heaviest rain.



2-5m above ground

