Build a Simple Bird House

From: https://suncatcherstudio.com/birds/birdhouse-plans-simple/

Building a bird box or bird feeder can be fun family project. Attract bluebirds, swallows, chickadees, nuthatches, warblers, woodpeckers, wrens, and other birds to your garden. A nesting box will help encourage neighborhood birds to move in and raise families in your backyard and provide you and your garden with natural pest control.

This simple DIY birdhouse (nest box) can be made from a single board and requires only a few tools to assemble.
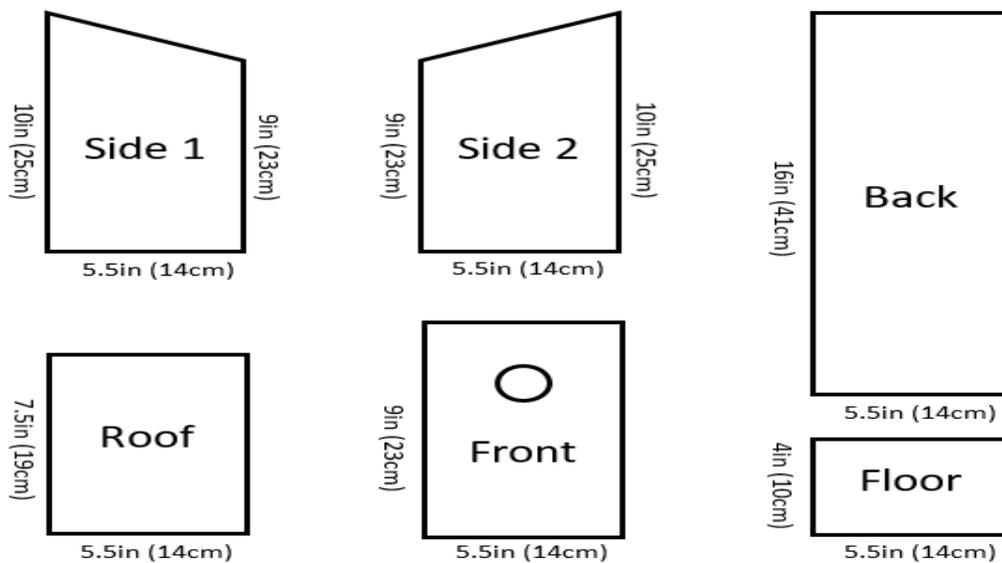
Materials and Equipment Needed to Build this Simple Birdhouse

- Wood: 1" x 6" x 5' (2.5cm x 15cm x 150cm)
- Screws: Approximately 1.5" (4cm) long
- Power drill
- Hand saw
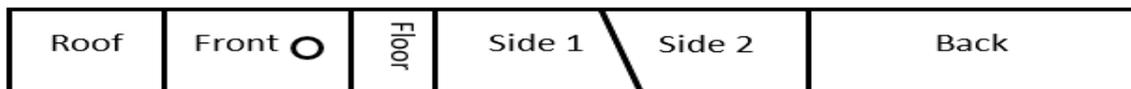- Drill bit to match appropriate entrance hole size

Step 1. Cut the board using the birdhouse plans below.

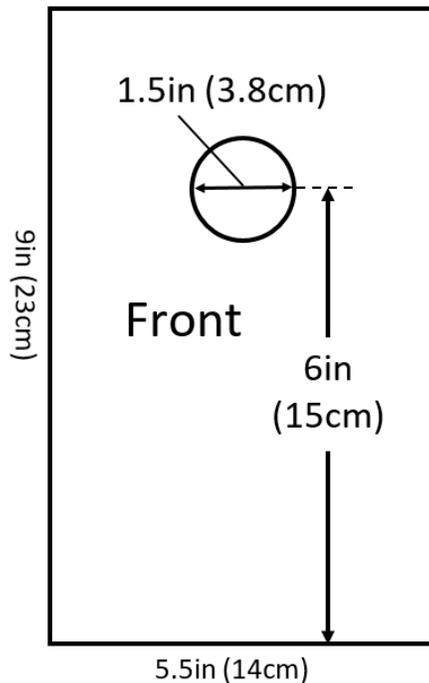Cut the 1×6 board as shown in the images below. Optionally sand all pieces smooth.

Personally, I am using cedar. However, pine would also make a great choice.
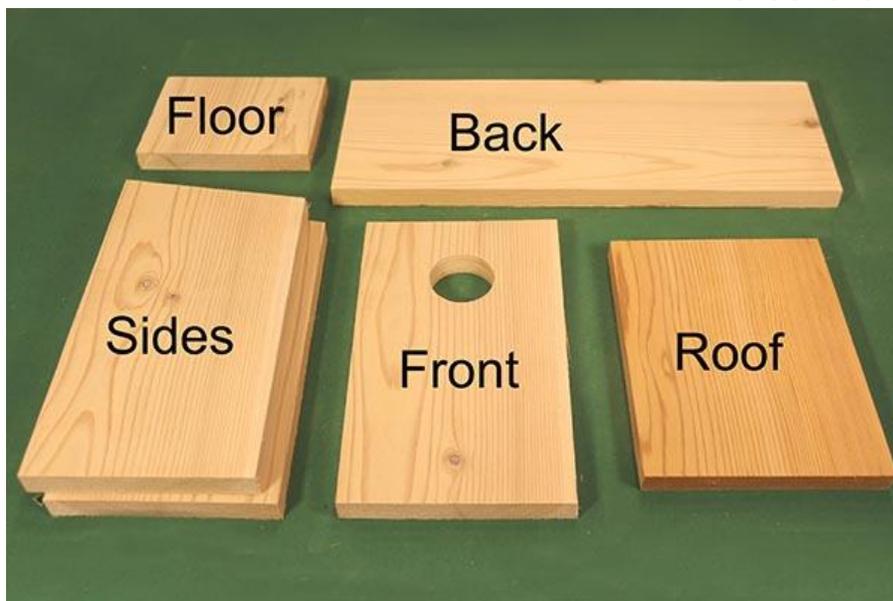

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Use a single 1 x 6 board. The actual dimensions will be 3/4 inch thick and 5.5 inches wide. This project will require a board approximately 60" (1.5m) in length.

1.5in (3.8cm)

9in (23cm)

Front

6in
(15cm)

5.5in (14cm)

Front of birdhouse

Floor

Back

Sides

Front

Roof

Step 2. Drill the entrance hole for the birdhouse.

Drill a hole for the entrance using either a spade bit or forsnter drill bit. The plan above specifies a a 1.5" hole 6" off the floor.   A 1.5" entrance hole is the optimum diameter for bluebirds and tree swallows. However, chickadees, nuthatches, warblers, woodpeckers, and wrens will also gladly make this their home. See Bird House Hole Size if you want to attract a specific bird.

Drill birdhouse entrance hole.

Step 3: Pre-drill the holes.

Drill pilot holes to help prevent the wood from splitting. Ideally this hole should be at least as large as the screw's minor diameter.
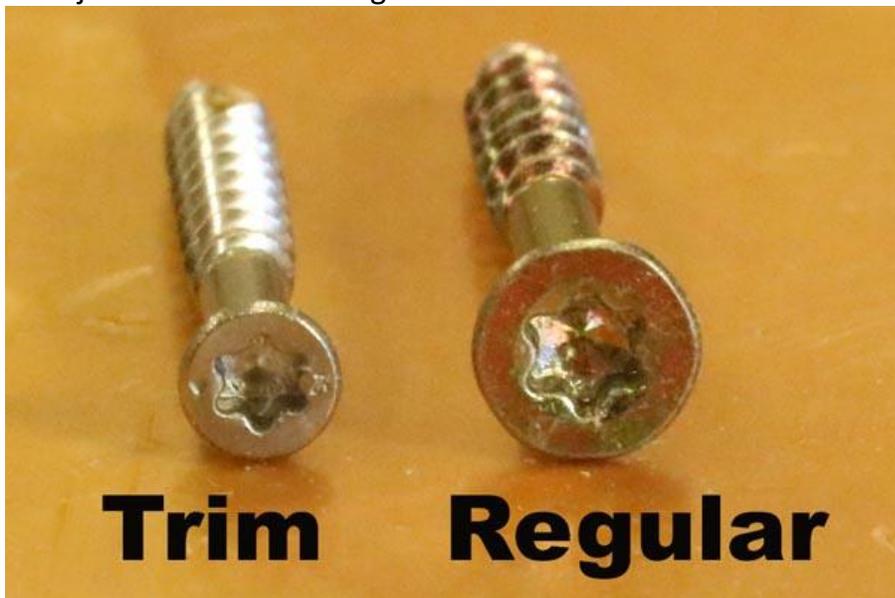

Pre-drill holes for screws.

Step 4: Assemble the sides, floor, and back of the birdhouse.
Use a combination of glue and screws to attach the sides, floor, and back of the birdhouse together. A waterproof wood glue will help extend the life of the birdhouse. Personally, I recommend using stainless steel trim screws as shown below. The smaller screw head is less obvious and helps prevent the wood from splitting. If you pre-drill the holes, these screws will countersink themselves nicely because the head is not much larger than the pilot hole.
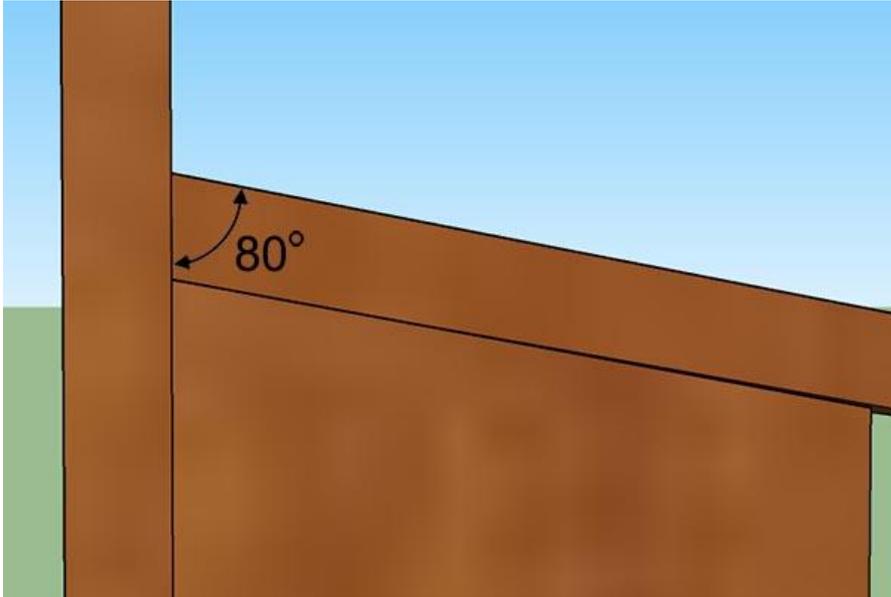

Glue joints before inserting screws.

Trim screws have a smaller head than regular screws.

Step 5. Attach the roof to the birdhouse

Attach the roof panel to the birdhouse using only screws. This way, it can be later opened for cleaning. The top edge of the roof panel can be optionally cut or sanded to approximately 80 degrees for a perfect fit as shown below.

Drill several 1/4" holes in the floor for drainage.

Optionally, cut roof panel at angle for a better fit.

Step 6. Paint or finish your birdhouse.

In our case, we applied a linseed-oil. This finish helps accentuate the grain and helps make the wood more resistant to damage.

Paint or apply a finish to your birdhouse.

Step 7. Hang or mount your birdhouse.

Mount your birdhouse and see which bird will call your habitat home. See <u>Bird House Hole Size</u> for the recommended mounting height for various birds. Your new birdhouse should provide you excitement for many seasons to come.

Enjoy your birdhouse for seasons to come.