

## How to build a Squirrel Nesting Box

The following instructions can be used to construct one squirrel nesting box from a standard 8 foot board and a few inexpensive pieces of hardware. The design is simple and only uses straight cuts (no angles).

Construction time for the nesting boxes will be around 1 1/2 hours for an experienced wood worker and 2 hours for a beginner.

Have fun!



### Tools

1. Heavy duty staple gun
2. Saw
3. Cordless drill with screw driver bits
4. 3 inch hole saw
5. 1/2 inch drill bit
6. Wire cutters

## Materials

1. One 1 inch x 8 inch x 8 foot solid pine, white-wood, or other natural wood board.
  - a. Actual board dimension will be  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch x  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inch x 8 foot
  - b. Do not use manufactured woods such as pressboard, particle board, or plywood. These woods will fall apart when exposed to rain.
  - c. Do not use pressure treated wood. The chemicals used to treat the wood are toxic to squirrels.
2. One,  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wire mesh (a.k.a wire cloth) cut to a  $9\frac{1}{2}$ in x 11in rectangle.
  - a. This is used as the bottom of the box to permit ventilation.
  - b. For strength, the mesh is over-sized so that it can be folded up on and stapled to the sides of the nesting box.
3. One, "locking" hook and hook-eye (figure 3)
  - a. Used to hold the lid closed.
  - b. <https://smile.amazon.com/MADOL-Safety-Hook-Zinc-1860-5/dp/B00LI95XLS>
4. Twelve, 2in wood screws (3 per edge)
5. One, 2-1/2in butt hinge and screws for the lid.

## Steps

1. Cut board into five pieces (see figure 1):
  - Three, 16in
  - One, 20in
  - One,  $10\frac{1}{4}$ in
2. Drill a centered,  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch hole 1 inch from the top of the 20 inch piece (purple).
3. Drill a centered, 3 inch hole 4 inches from the top of one 16 inch piece (gray).
4. Fasten the gray side piece (with the 3 inch hole) to the right edge of the purple back piece using three wood screws. Be sure the gray side piece is flush with the back edge and bottom of the purple back piece as shown in the top left image of Figure 1 below.
5. Fasten the green side piece to the left edge of the purple back piece using three wood screws. Be sure the green side piece is flush with the back edge and bottom of the purple back piece as shown in the top left image of Figure 1 below.
6. Fasten the yellow front piece between the gray and green side pieces using 6 wood screws (3 per edge). Be sure the yellow front piece is flush with the front edges and bottoms of the two side pieces as shown in the top center image of Figure 1 below.
7. Place the blue top piece centered over the two side pieces and flush against the purple back piece.
8. Install the butt hinge centered between the top and back pieces.
9. Install the locking eye hook into the top piece so that it hangs just in front of the yellow front piece.
10. Install the hook eye in the yellow front piece so that the eye hook can reach it.
11. Cut notches into the wire mesh bottom (figure 2) using the wire cutters.
  - Wire mesh has sharp edges. Use caution when handling wire cloth.
12. Fold up edges of wire mesh around bottom of nesting box and fasten to the sides with heavy duty staples.

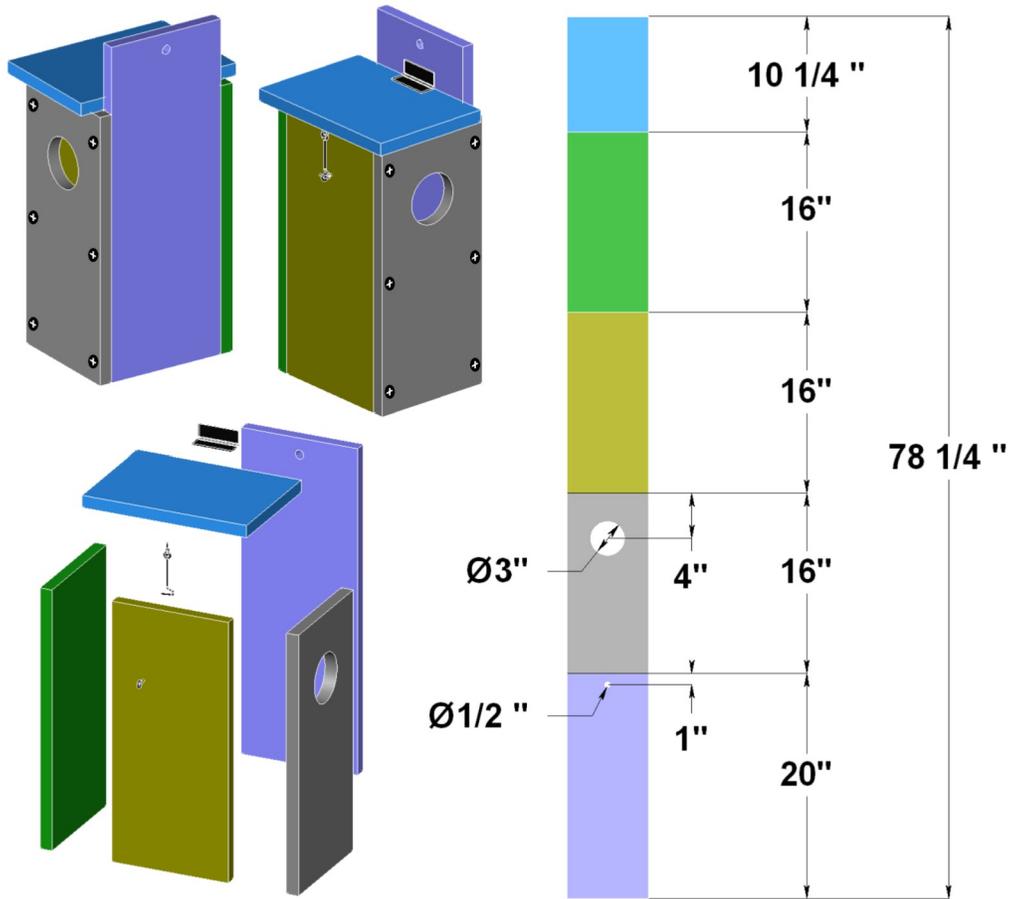


Figure 1: Cut-list, assembly, and exploded view

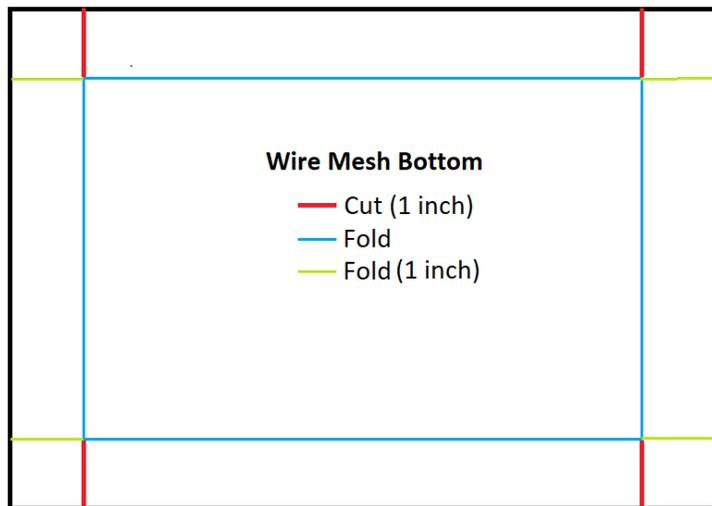


Figure 2: Wire Mesh Bottom



Figure 3: Locking eye-hook and hook eye