

Blue Tit/Great Tit Bird Box Instructions

Please take care and assess the risks when building the box, fixing it into position and if revisiting the site.

Contents:

X2 side pieces (sloping at top)
X1 large back piece with roof groove/hinge recess
X1 front piece (with entrance hole)
X1 floor piece (with 9 drainage holes)
X1 roof flap (angled along 1 edge)
X1 piece neoprene rubber strip
X4 wood screws
X8 tacks

NB:

The following are not provided –

- Coarse sandpaper – handy to smooth rough edges and ease the fit of the pieces
- PVA glue (craft glue) is recommended for gluing vertical edges of side, front and back pieces for more durability.
- Contact adhesive for hinge (optional).
- Water-based wood preservative and brush.
The above underlined items should not be used by children
- x2 clout nails to erect birdbox (Aluminum nails are preferable to avoid damage to machinery if the tree were to be felled or pruned in future).

Tools needed -

- Small wooden/rubber mallet
- A Philips screwdriver. (If you have them an electric drill and/or impact driver with a pz2 drive bit or a pz2 hand screw driver would be better.)
- Protective gloves if using wood preservative or contact adhesive.

NB: Work on a solid stable surface or on flat ground. Use contact adhesive & wood preservative outdoors.

Assembly

Check that all of the pieces are present and all tools are at hand. Lay out on solid surface.

Place single large back piece flat on surface with hinge & roof groove facing out at top.

Take 1 side piece with the slope at the top. At a right angle slot the longer side into one side of the back piece tapping only as necessary with hammer to secure firmly.

Repeat step 2 on the remaining side.

Take floor piece with drainage holes and slide between the two side pieces inserting into the slot in the back piece again tapping with hammer only as necessary.

Take front piece, align slots with sides and floor and tap (only as necessary) with hammer into place.

Optional: At this point use contact adhesive on one side of the rubber hinge strip, along the hinge recess (the shallow groove) and along the upper facing roof edge. [If using this option align glued rubber strip into the hinge recess and then insert roof into roof groove immediately pressing the rubber strip into the angle to create a hinge then proceed with next steps]

Align rubber hinge strip to hinge recess and tack in place with x4 tacks.

Insert angled edge of roof into roof groove immediately beneath the hinge recess.

Tack remaining edge of rubber strip to roof with x4 tacks.

Using 4 remaining screws secure sides at guide holes.

The wood used is ready treated but another thin coat of water-based wood preservative to the outside only will give it a longer lease of life.

Your bird box is complete and can be put up in your chosen tree, secluded fence or wall!

Siting

It's best to site the box in a north or east facing position to avoid the box getting too warm from - direct sunlight. Tits prefer sites that are 6-7 feet from the ground and give an open view so that as the leave and enter the box they can more easily spot predators.

Each autumn open lid to remove old nest material and brush clean if necessary.