

HOW TO BUILD A BIRD BOX

This Project is a follow up to Daisy's story of when she befriended a lost pigeon and got a new house out of the deal!!

If you haven't seen the film of this – click on this link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCPJXTbGj64>

By building a very simple bird box for your garden or for your family or a friend, you are helping bird life, doing an eco project and creating a act of random kindness!

So by posting the results of this project on your page on HETwebsite you are going to get at least 3 tokens emailed across to you.

So here goes:

This project was designed by Nigel at Norton College for their students on a HET journey and was made from recycled wood donated by Jim and Paula at Brierley Hill Sheds and fences.

Here are some pictures of what Nigel did in order to create the bird box using the wood off cuts from Jim and Paula's sheds.

Firstly, he cut 4 square pieces of wood each 120 mm X 120 mm square

He then got some spare $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick plywood and cut the top piece 180 mm x 140 mm and the bottom piece 160 mm X 120 mm



Get everything you need together first

He then drilled the holes for the screws before assembling it:



Drill screw holes first before assembling bird box

Nigel then took a 32 mm flat drill bit to put the hole in place for the birds to enter. This needs to be done, by drilling from both sides of that flat piece of wood to prevent the wood from splitting. As soon as the point goes through to the other side, then you need to turn it the other way round and drill from the other side.

The hole should be slightly off centred, towards the top, to give the birds enough nest room inside the box.

Don't forget to drill a small hole in the back of your box to hang on a screw to fix to the garden fence /tree / wall. If you drill 2 holes on top of one another like a figure 8 but making the top one slightly smaller it will secure the screw head in place.

When the bird box is finished then you can create your own design on it – here's one that Lin did with a wood burning kit. This is a craft called pyrography.



The next thing of course is to use your bird box.

A good time to hang your bird box is during the winter months so the birds get to know it is there and when they think about nesting in the spring, they are all set to move in!

Did you know that February 14th (9 Valentine's Day) is National Bird Box week in the UK?

Usually a good place to hang your bird box is away from busy places and not too close to a bird feeder as they get very protective of their bird box when they are nesting. You must not disturb the birds when they are nesting but you can get small bird box cameras now that can transmit pictures to your computer via webcams so you can make nature films for yourself.

The directions and the bird box we have suggested here is useful to attract a wide range of birds but you could do some research beforehand.

What birds visit your garden?

Try and recognise them by their birdsong – a useful website to help you learn the different types of bird song is www.garden-birds.co.uk for the UK

You could try to attract certain types of birds that can be found in your area to your garden – in which case you will need to find out where they like their boxes to be hung for example high up, in a tree etc.

You may need to design the front door of your bird box for particular birds, For example 25mm is the right size for a blue, coal, or marsh tit; 28 mm for a great tit or tree sparrow and 32 mm is for a house sparrow.

Don't forget to take some pictures or film of your project and post it to your page on www.HETwebsite.com for some tokens.