



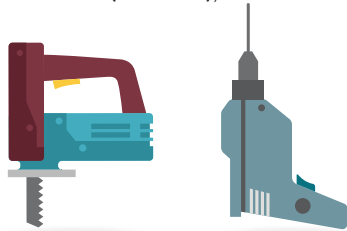
BirdWatchIreland

Making a Barn Owl box

A how-to guide

The tools

Saw (electric), drill



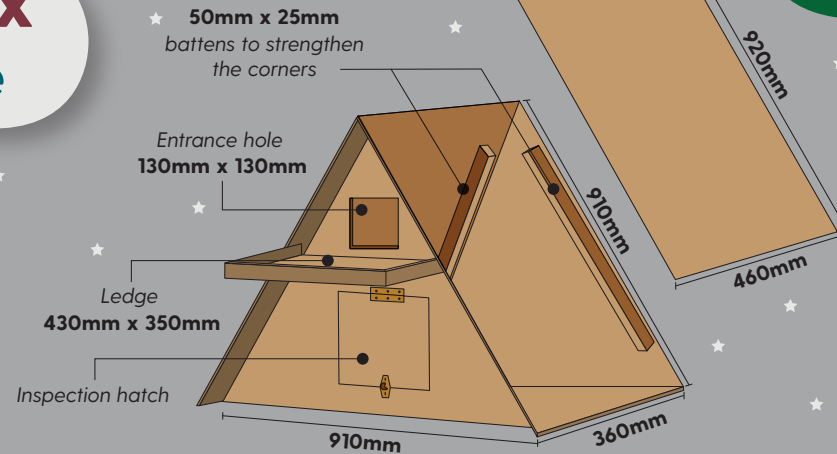
tape measure and pencil



The materials

- Exterior grade (11mm) marine plywood x 1 sheet
- Batten timber (50mm x 25mm)
- Silicone sealant
- Roofing felt
- Stainless steel screws
- Small butt hinge x 1
- Small door latch lock x 1

The measurements



Step 1

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

Step 2

Cut all panels, entrance hole and inspection hatch (retaining cut out).

Step 3

Assemble the box by screwing all but final sloped panel together. Use battens as illustrated to strengthen internally.

Step 4

Use batten timber to put a rim around the external ledge and secure to box using more batten material. Use hinge and latch to fit inspection hatch door.

Step 5

Use the silicone sealant to fill in any small gaps in the joints to weather-proof the box.

Step 6

Fit final sloped panel and finish with roof felt.

IMPORTANT: Do not install Barn Owl boxes near busy roads, as the owls are vulnerable to being hit by cars. Choose sites at least 200m away from large busy roads.

The installation

Pick a suitable location in a mature isolated tree or in a large tree on the edge of a wood or in a hedgerow.

Position the box 3 metres or higher in the tree, making sure it faces away from prevailing wind and out over suitable foraging habitats.

Do not hide the box in tree foliage. Make sure an owl can see the nest box from a distance and has a clear flight path to the box. Bear this in mind if installing the box during the winter months.

The design illustrated is for outdoor use, alternative designs are used for indoor situations such as in barns.

3m
above
ground
or higher

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