



Making a Red Squirrel Nesting Box

HOW AND WHERE TO POSITION THE BOX

Place the box in woodland rather than on a lone tree. It should be anywhere from 10 to 12 feet off of the ground. Squirrels usually build their nests higher than that, but that is as high as many people are willing to go up a ladder! The squirrels still use the boxes hung at this height, so they do not appear to object too much.

After building the box, find a stick that is the same depth as the box and place it inside the box on the same side as the hole. Then fill the box about 1/2 full with clean straw. This should stabilize the stick. The stick will enable the squirrels to get out of the hole in case the straw gets packed down to far for them to reach the hole. If the squirrels want leaves and such in the box, they will take it in themselves.

In addition, it will be important to add a shelf on the outside of the box. These photos show the box without the shelf, but video of young squirrels trying to leave the box has shown them to be at risk unless there is a shelf on the outside below the opening.



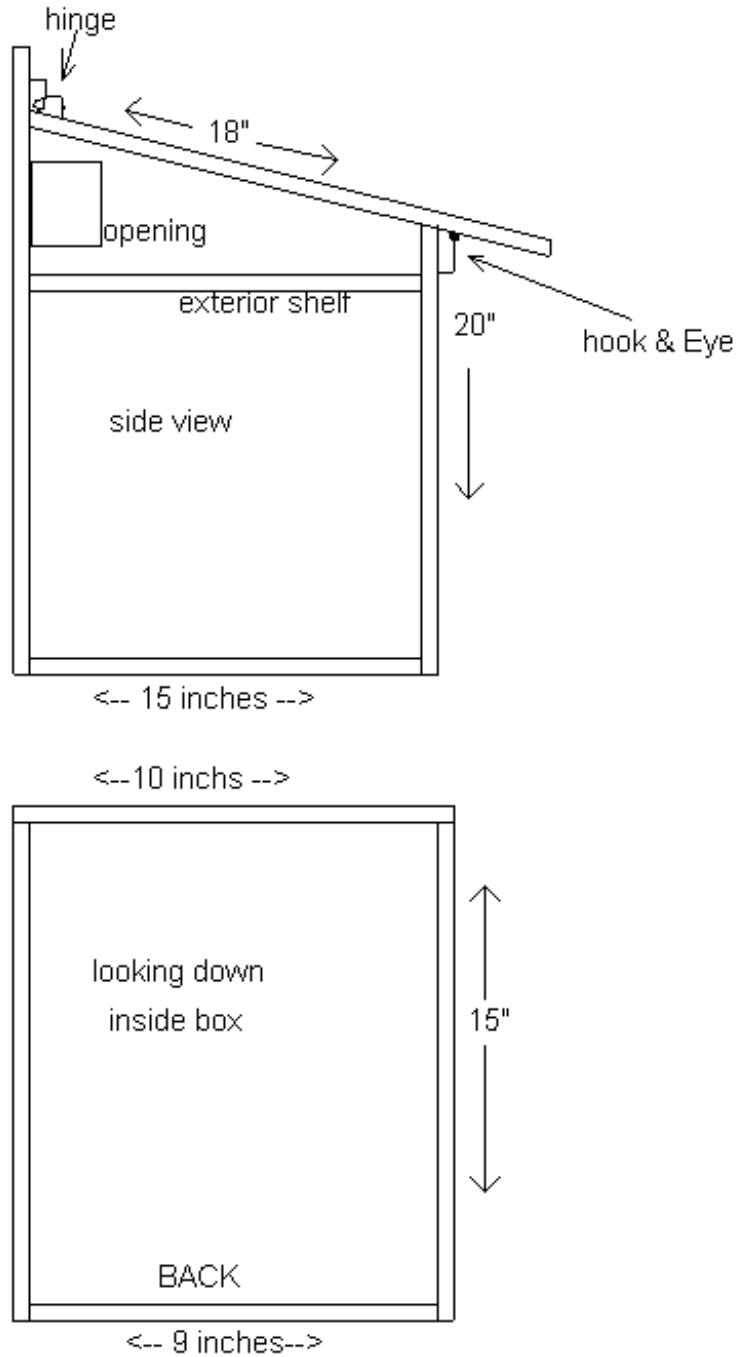
WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO MAKE THE SQUIRREL BOX

- 1/2 Sheet of 4' X 8" plywood will make 1 squirrel box. I use exterior or marine plywood, (may use 1/2" or 3/4")
- 1 pair of 1 1/2" utility hinges
- 1 hook and eye closure (1")
- 1 1/4 " or 1 1/2" wire nails , 17 or 18 gauge (1 pack will do more than box)
Length of nails depends on thickness of plywood
- Please use non-toxic water-based stain as squirrels will chew on the box
- I seal my boxes with Shellac after applying stain as it protects the box and is non-toxic when dry
- 2 heavy duty nails for nailing box to tree.



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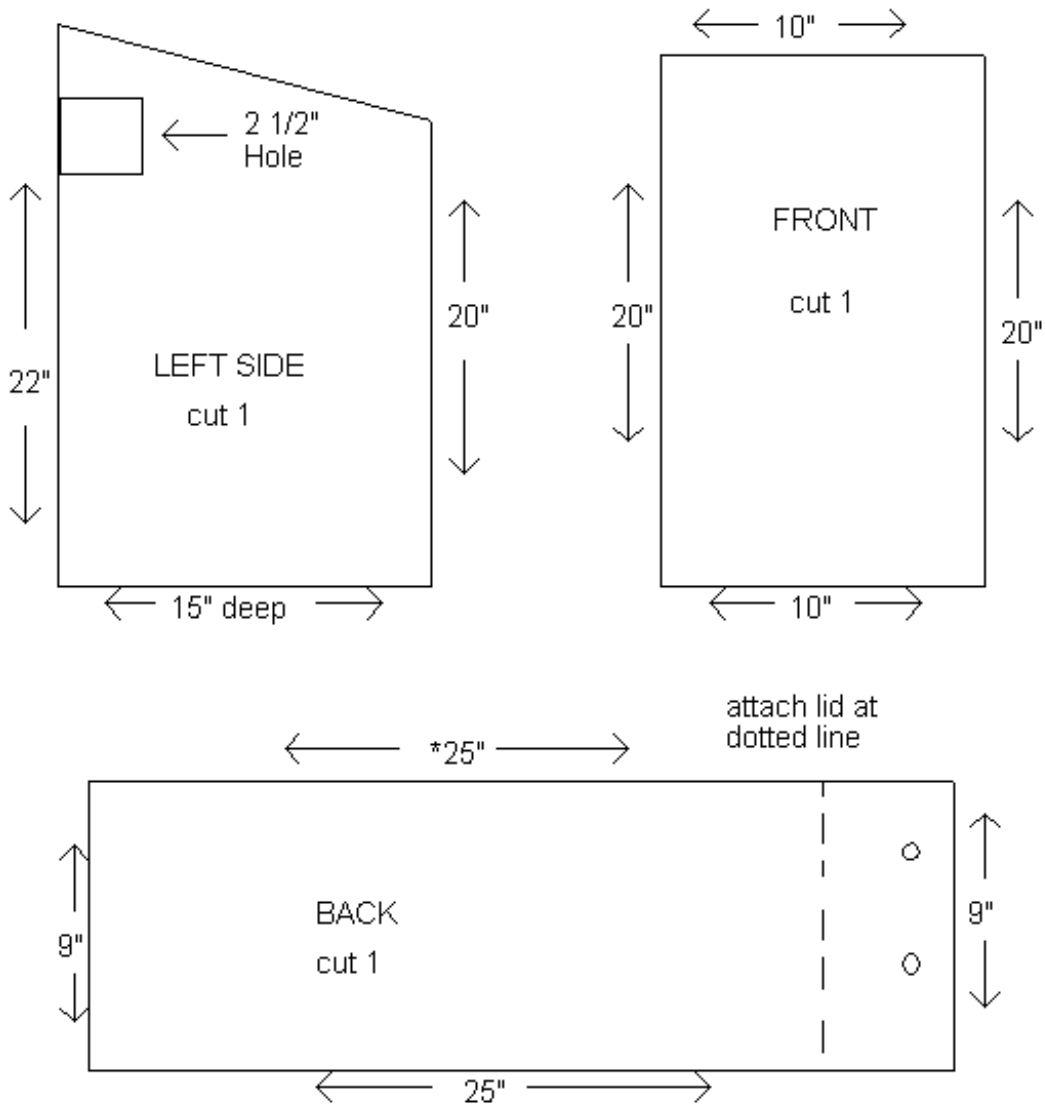
ASSEMBLY OF SQUIRREL BOX





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CUT OUT THE FOLLOWING PIECES FOR SQUIRREL BOX

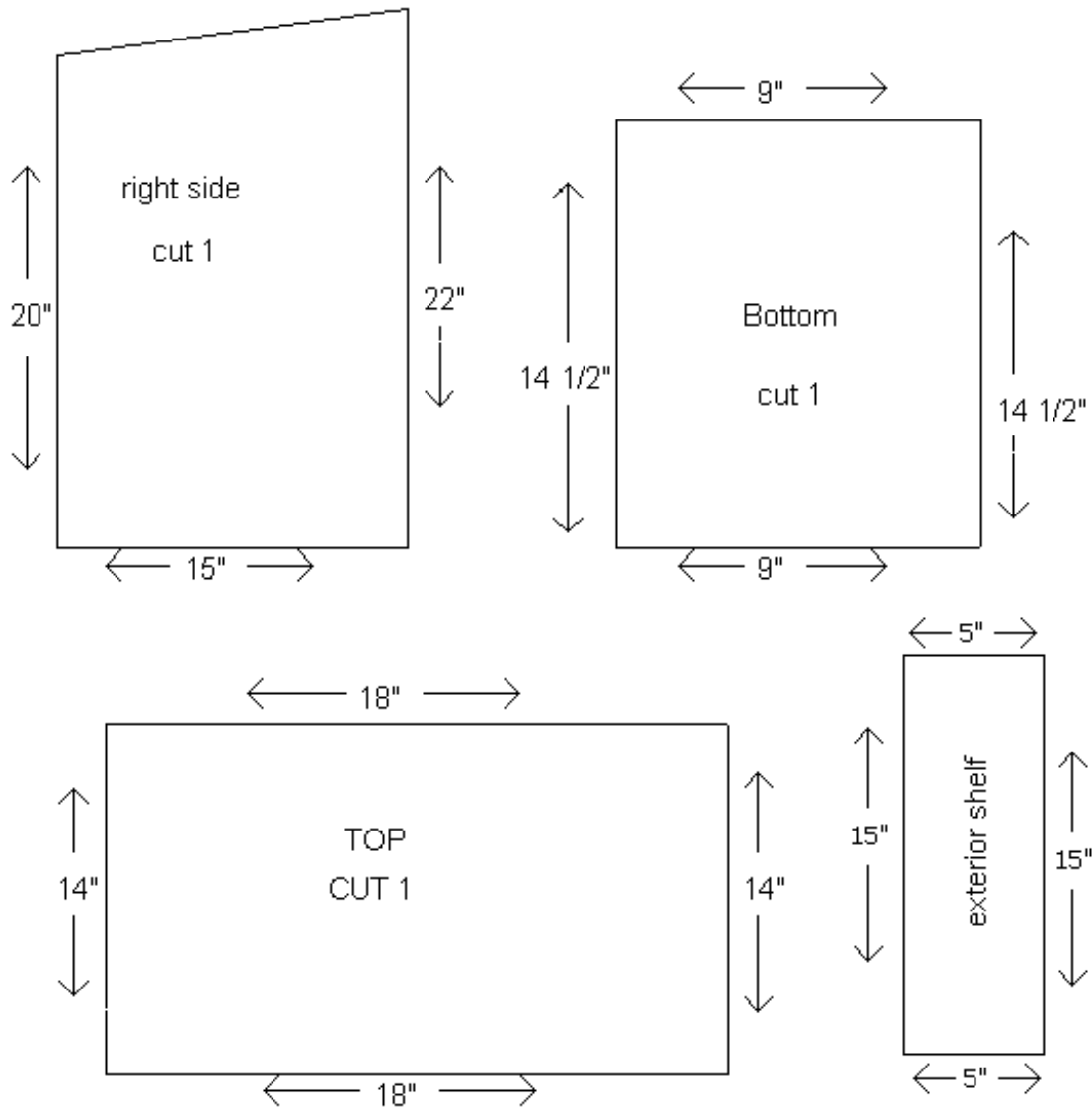


*may cut longer if you wish an extension piece on bottom to have for mounting in addition to the 3" space at the top.



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PIECES TO BE CUT CONTINUED



IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Sadly, because the red squirrel is a protected animal in Great Britain, it is a prosecutable offence to intentionally disturb their 'resting places'. For this reason therefore you will not be able to inspect the nest box when it is in use. Fortunately, many people would not wish to stress or cause a squirrel to flee the box anyway, so please refrain from climbing up to look inside. If you do visit the box to clean it out after a year or two, you must make sure well in advance that there are no red squirrels using it.

Many thanks for your interest in red squirrel conservation.