

# WOOD DUCK BOX

woodworking  
FOR WILDLIFE

## CUT SHEET

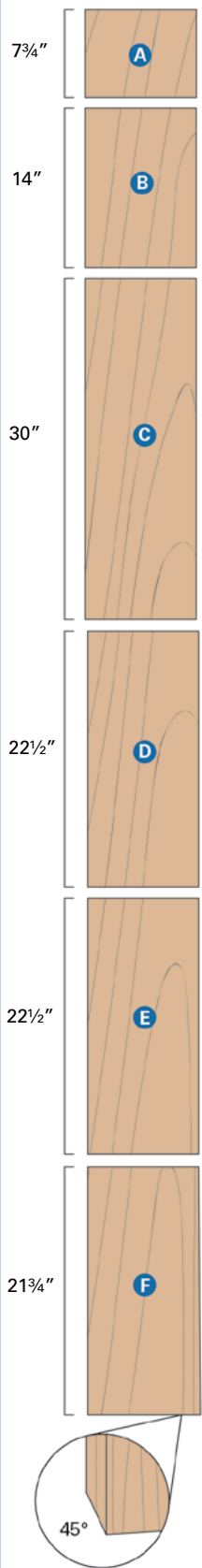
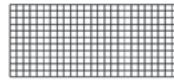
Wood ducks are one of North America's most remarkable birds. From the starkly contrasting brilliant colors of the males, to the acrobatic capabilities of the day old-chicks departing nests high in trees, careful observers have much to gain by attracting and watching these birds. This box emulates their natural nesting locations, which are cavities formed in mature trees following decay or by the skillful excavation of pileated woodpeckers. After building and erecting one of these boxes near a local lake, river, or wetland, keep your eye out in early spring for a pair prospecting for nesting locations in the canopy or the flash of the hen as she returns to the nest during her month-long incubation period. And if you are really lucky, you may catch those day-old chicks leaping to the ground at their mother's insistence before they walk to the nearest waterbody to grow. Wood ducks take their young to water immediately after they hatch, so be sure to place your box near a wetland, river, or lake. Place the box at a height that allows for annual maintenance within reach of a ladder. Boxes mounted on poles in water are often used extensively and are easy to maintain when the water is frozen. Wood ducks rely on nesting material in the box so add a few inches of cedar bedding chips to the bottom each spring.

### SUPPLIES



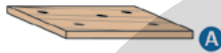
Drill and 1/2" drill bit  
2" drill bit that is same diameter as nails  
Circular saw  
Tape measure  
Jig saw  
Staple gun

- 1 10 foot 1x10 of cedar  
(or other rot-resistant wood)
- 1 6" x 14" sheet of hardware cloth
- 18 1 5/8" deck screws
- 3 2" nails

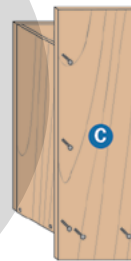
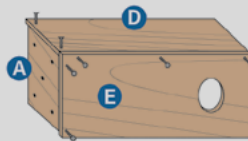


### ASSEMBLY

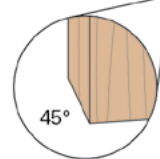
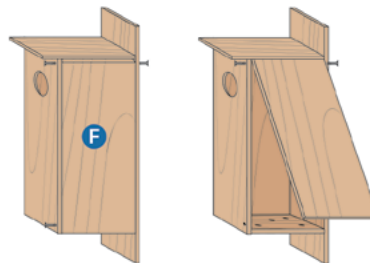
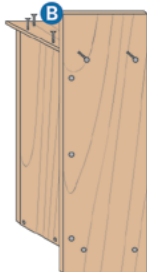
- 1 Drill five 1/2" holes through the bottom **A** to allow for drainage.
- 2 Cut a 4" by 3" oval hole in **E** with a jig saw. Use the watermark on this page as a stencil to ensure right size and shape. Center the top of the hole 3 1/4" from the top of the board.



- 3 Mount the hardware cloth on the inside of **E** with a staple gun to allow chicks to climb out.
- 4 Assemble the side **D**, front **E**, and bottom **A** with deck screws.
- 5 Mount the back **C** with deck screws.



- 6 Mount the roof **B** with deck screws.
- 7 Align the door **F** with the angle facing out. Drill two holes in a parallel plane on each side of the door from the front and back and then push a nail into each hole to function as a hinge. Drill one additional hole at the bottom to keep the door closed with the third nail.



WL 0012 August 2020