

Ash-throated Flycatcher House

Woodworking plans: cut list, drawings, and step-by-step assembly

This western flycatcher shares the same plans and box size as the great crested flycatcher: a 1 3/4" entrance on an 8" x 7" floor with 9" of depth. The box can mount on a post or hang from its roof eye bolt. This design is a classic side-opening box: one side panel swings open on two pivot nails, so you can check the nest and clean it out without taking anything apart.

Design Specs

Spec	Measurement
Entrance hole	1 3/4" round
Floor (inside)	8" wide x 7" deep
Depth (inside)	9" (floor to underside of roof, measured at the front)
Mounting height	3 to 20 ft
Hole direction	Facing southeast
Spacing between boxes	200 ft
Habitat	Chaparral, oak scrub, mesquite thickets, desert, and streamside woodland
Fledgling ladder	Shallow horizontal kerfs below the hole, inside

Materials

Item	Qty	Notes
1x8 cedar board (actual 3/4" x 7 1/4")	1 @ 4 ft	Floor and both side panels (ripped to 7" wide)
1x12 cedar board (actual 3/4" x 11 1/4")	1 @ 4 ft	Front, back, and roof (front and back ripped to 9 1/2" wide)
1 5/8" exterior deck screws (coated or stainless)	About 20	Main assembly, plus 1 for the door latch
6d galvanized finishing nails (2")	2	Door pivots
1/4" eye bolt with washer and nut	1	Optional, for hanging; through the roof
Exterior wood glue	Optional	Do not glue the door side

Tools

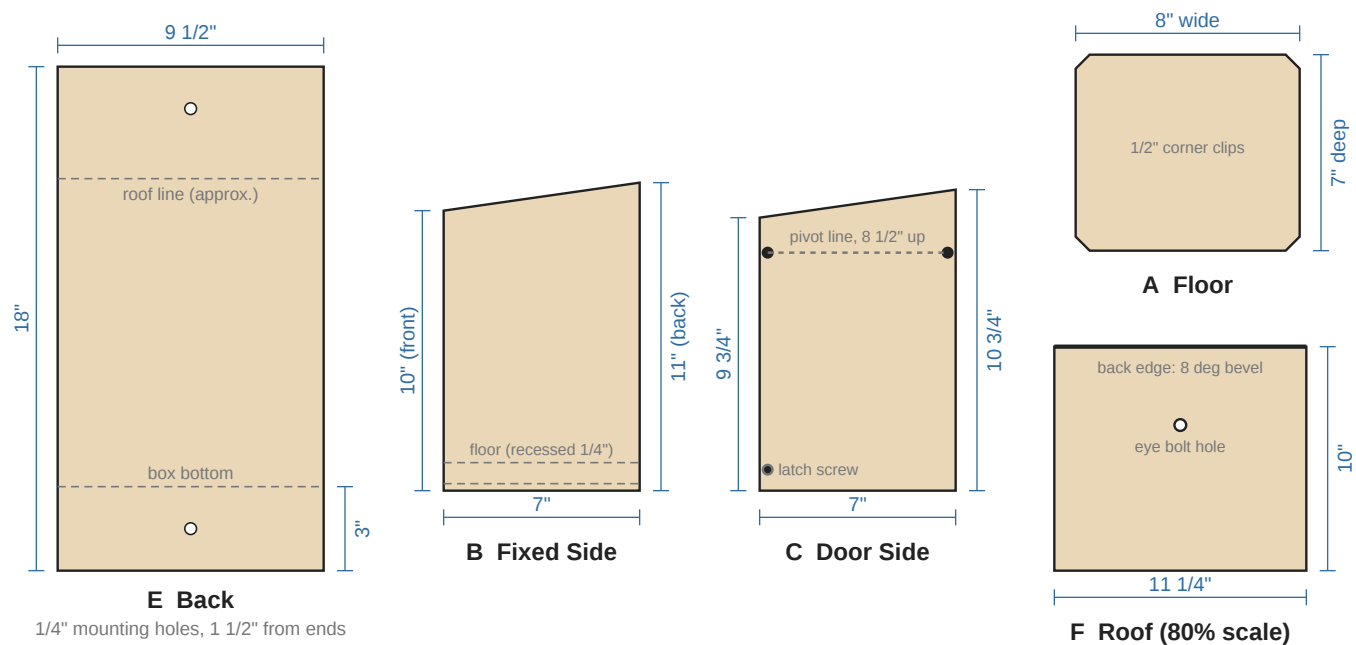
Circular saw or miter saw • Table saw or circular saw with rip guide (for ripping both boards) • Drill/driver • 1 3/4" Forstner or spade bit • 3/16" bit for pilot holes • 1/4" bit for mounting holes • Speed square • Tape measure • Pencil • Hammer • Sandpaper

Before you build: Use untreated cedar and leave the inside unfinished. Skip the perch. All dimensions assume actual lumber sizes (a 1x6 measures 3/4" x 5 1/2"). Measure your boards before cutting, since mill sizes can vary slightly.

Cut List

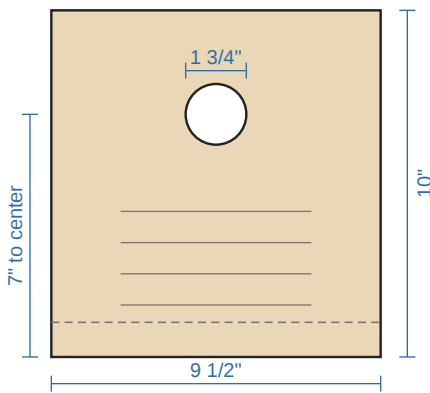
Part	Qty	Size	From	Notes
A Floor	1	8" wide x 7" deep	1x8 ripped	Clip each corner 1/2" for drainage
B Fixed side	1	7" wide; 10" front edge, 11" back edge	1x8 ripped	Top cut at about 8 degrees
C Door side	1	7" wide; 9 3/4" front edge, 10 3/4" back edge	1x8 ripped	1/4" shorter than B for a vent gap
D Front	1	9 1/2" x 10"	1x12 ripped	Bevel top edge 8 degrees; 1 3/4" hole
E Back	1	9 1/2" x 18"	1x12 ripped	Extends above and below box for fixed mounting
F Roof	1	11 1/4" x 10"	1x12	Bevel back edge 8 degrees; eye bolt hole for hanging

Part Drawings



Drawings are to scale except where noted. Dashed lines show where other parts meet. Cut the 8-degree slope on both side panels first, then use a side panel to set your saw for the bevels on the front and roof.

Part D: Front Panel and Entrance Hole



D Front: 1 3/4" Round Hole

Hole: Mark the center 7" up from the bottom edge and 4 3/4" in from either side. Bore with a 1 3/4" Forstner or spade bit, backing the board with scrap to prevent tear-out.

Fledgling ladder: On the inside face, cut four shallow horizontal saw kerfs (about 1/16" deep) below the hole so fledglings can climb out.

Hanging hardware (optional): Drill a 1/4" hole through the roof, centered side to side and 3 1/2" from the back edge. Install a 1/4" eye bolt from the top with a washer and nut on the underside.

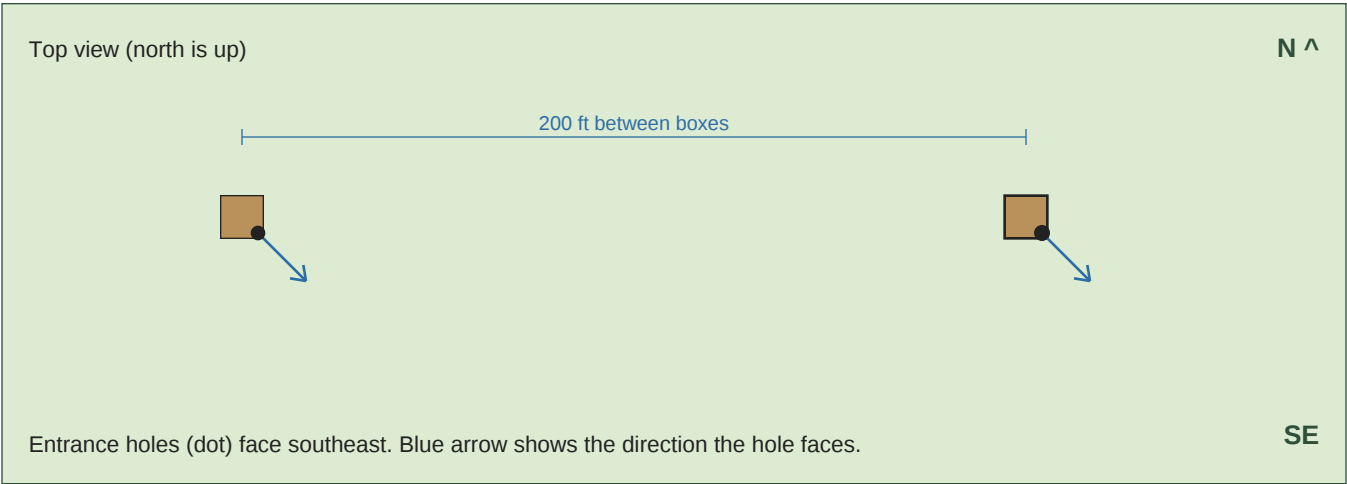
Assembly

- 1 **Cut all parts** per the cut list. Rip the 1x8 to 7" wide for the floor and sides, and rip the front and back to 9 1/2" wide. Cut the 8-degree slope on the tops of both side panels, bevel the top edge of the front, and bevel the back edge of the roof.
- 2 **Drill the entrance hole** in the front and cut the fledgling-ladder kerfs on the inside face. Clip the four floor corners 1/2".
- 3 **Attach the fixed side (B) to the back (E).** Lay the back flat, set the side's tall edge on it with the side's bottom 3" up from the back's bottom end, and flush with one long edge. Drill 3/16" pilot holes and drive 2 screws through the back into the side.
- 4 **Install the floor (A).** Set it against the fixed side and back, raised 1/4" above the bottom edge of the side. Drive 2 screws through the side and 2 through the back into the floor.
- 5 **Attach the front (D).** Bottom edge flush with the bottom of the fixed side. Drive 2 screws into the fixed side's front edge and 2 into the floor edge. Do not drive any screws on the open side.
- 6 **Attach the roof (F).** Butt the beveled edge against the back so the roof overhangs the front about 2" and each side about 7/8". Drive 2 screws down into the fixed side, 2 into the front, and 2 through the back into the roof edge.
- 7 **Hang the door (C).** Slide it into the open side, bottom flush with the box bottom; the 1/4" gap at the top is your ventilation. Sand the edges if it binds. At 8 1/2" up from the bottom, drive one 6d nail through the front and one through the back into the door edges, lined up across from each other. Test the swing.
- 8 **Add the latch.** Near the bottom, drive one screw through the front into the door edge. Back it out when you want to open the box.
- 9 **Drill two 1/4" mounting holes** in the back, centered, 1 1/2" from each end, for fixed mounting.
- 10 **Add the eye bolt (optional)** for hanging. Drill a 1/4" hole through the roof, centered side to side and 3 1/2" from the back edge. Push the eye bolt through from the top and tighten a washer and nut on the underside. Hang the box from the eye bolt to check that it sits level before you put it up.

Where to Put It

Good spots include chaparral, oak scrub, mesquite thickets, desert, and streamside woodland. Face the entrance southeast, mount the box 3 to 20 ft high, and keep boxes 200 ft apart.

Placement	Guideline
Habitat	Chaparral, oak scrub, mesquite thickets, desert, and streamside woodland
Mounting height	3 to 20 ft
Hole direction	Facing southeast
Spacing	Keep boxes 200 ft apart



Mounting Tips

- Fixed mounting: bolt the box 3 to 20 ft up on a sturdy pole, post, or tree through the two holes in the back.
- Hanging: the box can also hang by its roof eye bolt from a sturdy limb. Keep the entrance facing southeast.
- Mount the box level. The sloped roof sheds rain forward, past the entrance hole.
- Put the box up before nesting season starts, and use the side door to clean out old nest material once the season ends.