

Wood Duck House

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

Wood ducks nest in cavities near water. This box has a 4"-wide by 3"-high oval entrance on a 9 1/4" x 8" floor with 24" of depth. It gets 4 inches of shavings on the floor and a strip of 1/4" hardware cloth inside, under the hole, so ducklings can climb out. One side panel swings open on two pivot nails for cleaning.

Design Specs

Spec	Measurement
Entrance hole	Oval, 4" wide x 3" high, top about 2" below the roof
Floor (inside)	9 1/4" wide x 8" deep
Depth (inside)	24" (floor to underside of roof, measured at the front)
Mounting height	6 to 30 ft
Hole direction	Facing water
Spacing between boxes	600 ft
Nesting material	4 inches of wood shavings on the floor
Duckling ladder	Strip of 1/4" hardware cloth inside, under the hole

Materials

Item	Qty	Notes
1x10 cedar board (actual 3/4" x 9 1/4")	1 @ 6 ft	Floor and sides (sides ripped to 8" wide)
1x12 cedar board (actual 3/4" x 11 1/4")	1 @ 8 ft	Front, back, and roof (front and back ripped to 10 3/4")
1/4" hardware cloth	4 1/2" x 19" piece	Duckling ladder
1/2" galvanized staples	About 20	Attach the hardware cloth
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
3/8" lag screws with washers	2	For mounting
Wood shavings	Enough for a 4 inch layer	Goes on the floor before mounting

Tools

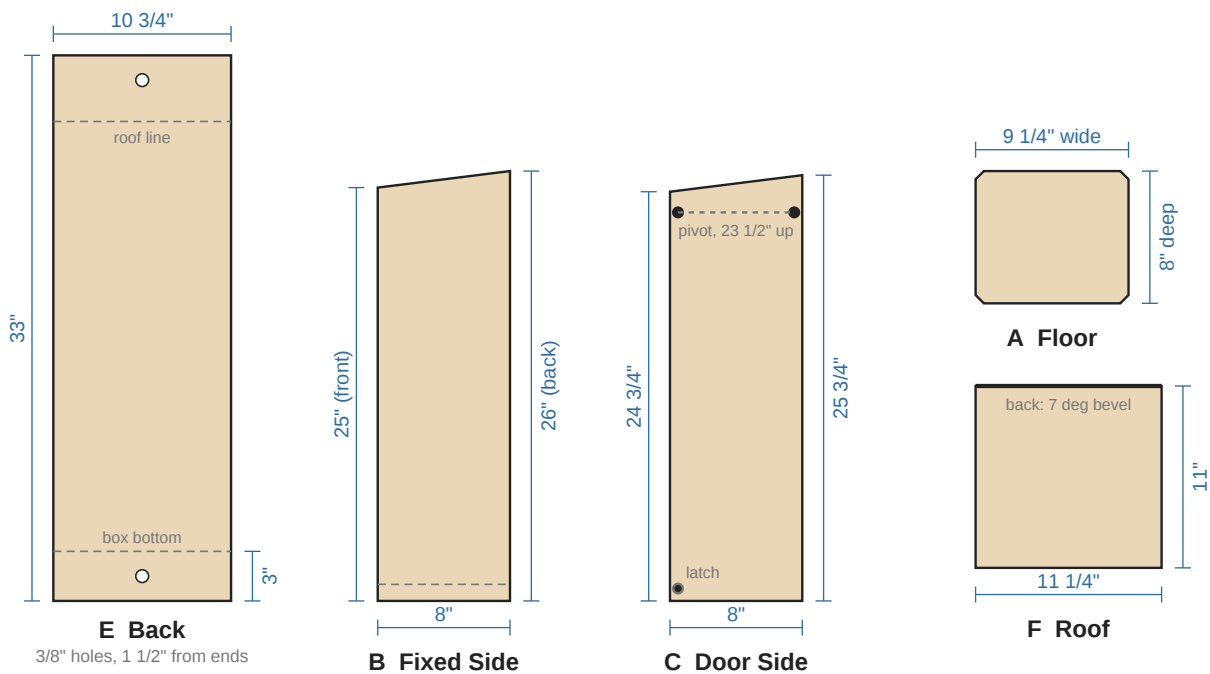
Circular saw or miter saw • Table saw or circular saw with rip guide (for ripping both boards) • Drill/driver • Jigsaw • Compass • 1/2" bit for the starter hole • Tin snips • Staple gun • 3/16" bit for pilot holes • 3/8" bit for mounting holes • Socket wrench • Speed square • Tape measure • Pencil • 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

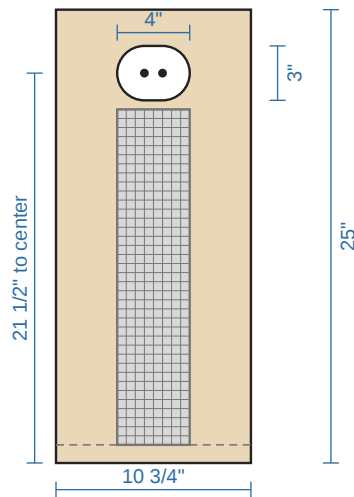
Part	Qty	Size	From	Notes
A Floor	1	9 1/4" wide x 8" deep	1x10	Clip each corner 1/2" for drainage
B Fixed side	1	8" wide; 25" front, 26" back	1x10 ripped	Top cut at about 7 degrees
C Door side	1	8" wide; 24 3/4" front, 25 3/4" back	1x10 ripped	1/4" shorter than B for a vent gap
D Front	1	10 3/4" x 25"	1x12 ripped	Bevel top 7 degrees; 4" x 3" oval hole
E Back	1	10 3/4" x 33"	1x12 ripped	Extends above and below box for mounting
F Roof	1	11 1/4" x 11"	1x12	Bevel back edge 7 degrees

Part Drawings



Drawings are to scale. Dashed lines show where other parts meet. The front panel and oval entrance are on the next page.

Part D: Front Panel, Oval Entrance and Hardware Cloth Ladder



D Front (inside face)

Laying out the oval: Draw a horizontal line 21 1/2" up from the bottom edge. Mark two points on it, 1" apart, centered side to side (4 7/8" and 5 7/8" from the left edge). With a compass set to 1 1/2", draw a circle around each point, then join the circles with straight lines across the top and bottom. That gives an oval 4" wide and 3" tall, with its top 2" below the top edge, where the roof sits. Drill a 1/2" starter hole inside the line, cut with a jigsaw, and smooth the edge.

Hardware cloth ladder: Cut a strip of 1/4" hardware cloth 4 1/2" wide and 19" long with tin snips. Fold each cut edge under about 1/4" so no sharp wire ends stick out; that leaves a strip about 4" x 18 1/2". Center it under the hole on the inside face, bottom at the floor line, top about 1/2" below the hole, and staple it every 2" or so with 1/2" galvanized staples. Install it before assembly while the front lies flat.

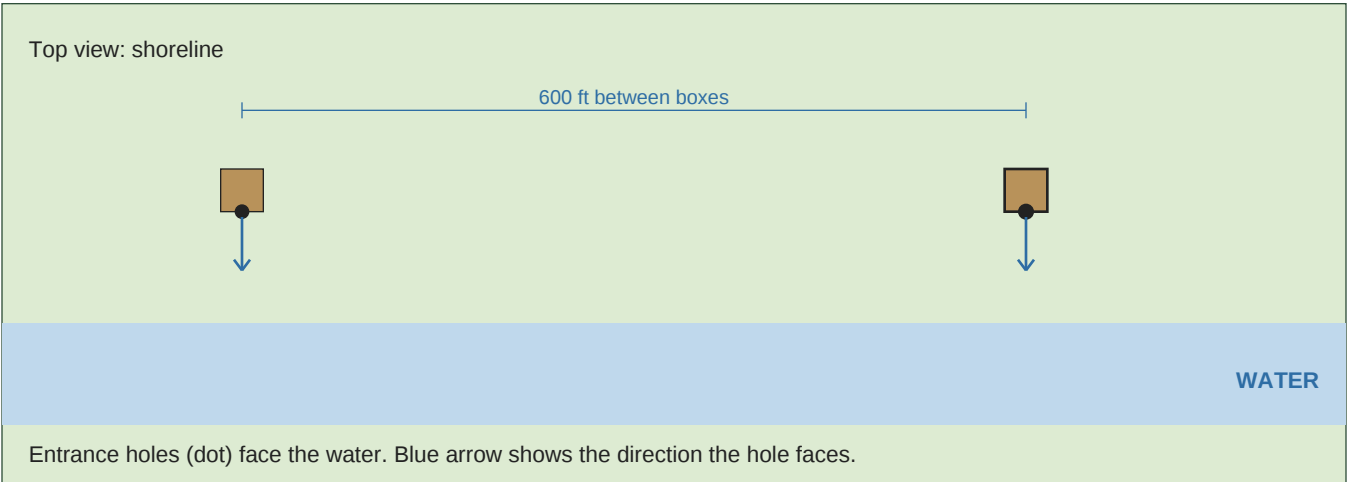
Assembly

- 1 **Cut all parts** per the cut list. Rip the sides to 8" wide and the front and back to 10 3/4" wide. Cut the 7-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 **Cut the oval entrance** in the front and staple the hardware cloth ladder to 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 overhangs each side about 1/4". 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 23 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 3/8" mounting holes** in the back, centered, 1 1/2" from each end.
- 10 **Add the wood shavings.** Open the side door and spread 4 inches of wood shavings on the floor.

Where to Put It

Wood ducks nest in cavities near water. Face the entrance toward the water, mount the box 6 to 30 ft high, and keep boxes 600 ft apart.

Placement	Guideline
Location	Near water
Mounting height	6 to 30 ft
Hole direction	Facing water
Spacing	Keep wood duck boxes 600 ft apart



Mounting Tips

- Fasten the box 6 to 30 ft up on a sturdy pole, post, or tree near water, with two 3/8" lag screws and washers through the holes in the back.
- At the upper end of that range, use a properly secured extension ladder and a helper.
- Mount the box level. The sloped roof sheds rain forward, past the entrance hole.
- After the nesting season, open the side door, clean out old nest material, and add fresh shavings.