

WOODWORKER'S JOURNAL

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Classic Project



In this plan you'll find:

- Step-by-step construction instruction.
- A complete bill of materials.
- Construction drawings and related photos.
- Tips to help you complete the project and become a better woodworker.

Hanging Bird Feeders

GIFT SHOP



HANGING BIRD FEEDERS

Not all birds eat fruit, but orioles, cardinals, tanagers and woodpeckers are among those that love it, especially apples and oranges. These colorful feeders are easy to make and are a great way to attract the fruit-eating feathered friends around your neighborhood. However, these birds won't eat an orange unless it's peeled, so make sure you do that first. And some avid backyard birdwatchers tell us it helps to peel the apple, too.

The feeder will also hold suet, a favorite food for many birds. In fact, more than 80 bird species eat suet, so expect lots of activity at the feeder if you put it on the menu.

The fruit or suet is held in place with an aluminum gutter spike. These spikes, which are used to install certain kinds of aluminum gutters, are sold at most hardware stores. We purchased a 7 in. long spike, then cut it to a 5½ in. length and filed the end to a point.

For each feeder, you'll need a piece of ¾ in. thick pine measuring at least 9½ in. square. A length of 1 by 10 pine is perfect, since it measures ¾ in. thick by 9½ in. wide. Transfer the full-size pattern to the stock, then cut it out with a scroll saw or jigsaw. You'll want to avoid short grain, which minimizes strength, so be sure to orientate the grain direction as shown. To make the 4 in. diameter inside cutout, you'll first need to bore a hole to accept the saw blade. Once cut out, smooth all the edges with a file followed by a good sanding.

Use a ruler to scribe the center line of the ¼ in. diameter spike holes. Once scribed, bore the two holes as shown. The lower hole is plugged from the outside, so you'll need to glue a ½ in. length of ¼ in. diameter dowel in place as shown. It's best to cut the plug a little long so that it protrudes a bit after gluing. When dry, you can trim it flush before sanding smooth.

Refer to the full-size pattern for the location of the ¼ in. diameter hole for the perch. Bore the hole completely through the ¾ in. thick stock, then cut ¼ in. diameter dowel stock to 4¾ in. long. Insert the dowel so that 2 in. protrude on each side of the feeder, then drive a small brass brad to secure it in place.

A couple of coats of enamel paint will complete the project. We used red, yellow and black to paint the two feeders shown, but feel free to choose any colors you like. Note that the full-size pattern includes dotted lines that locate the color patterns for both feeders.

Add the screw eye and it's ready for the backyard. Ours is hung from a stainless steel wire, but fishing line will also stand up pretty well to the weather. Now you need only add an apple, orange or some suet and give the dinner bell a ring.

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The fruit or suet is held in place with an aluminum gutter spike. These spikes, which are used to install certain kinds of aluminum gutters, are sold at most hardware stores. We purchased a 7 in. long spike, then cut it to a 5 1/4 in. length and filed the end to a point.

For each feeder, you'll need a piece of 3/4 in. thick pine measuring at least 9 1/4 in. square. A length of 1 by 10 pine is perfect, since it measures 3/4 in. thick by 9 1/4 in. wide. Transfer the full-size pattern to the stock, then cut it out with a scroll saw or jigsaw. You'll want to avoid short grain, which minimizes strength, so be sure to orientate the grain direction as shown. To make the 4 in. diameter inside cutout, you'll first need to bore a hole to accept the saw blade. Once cut out, smooth all the edges with



a file followed by a good sanding.

Use a ruler to scribe the center line of the 1/4 in. diameter spike holes. Once scribed, bore the two holes as shown. The lower hole is plugged from the outside, so you'll need to glue a 1/4 in. length of 1/4 in. diameter dowel in place as shown. It's best to cut the plug a little long so that it protrudes a bit after gluing. When dry, you can trim it flush before sanding smooth.

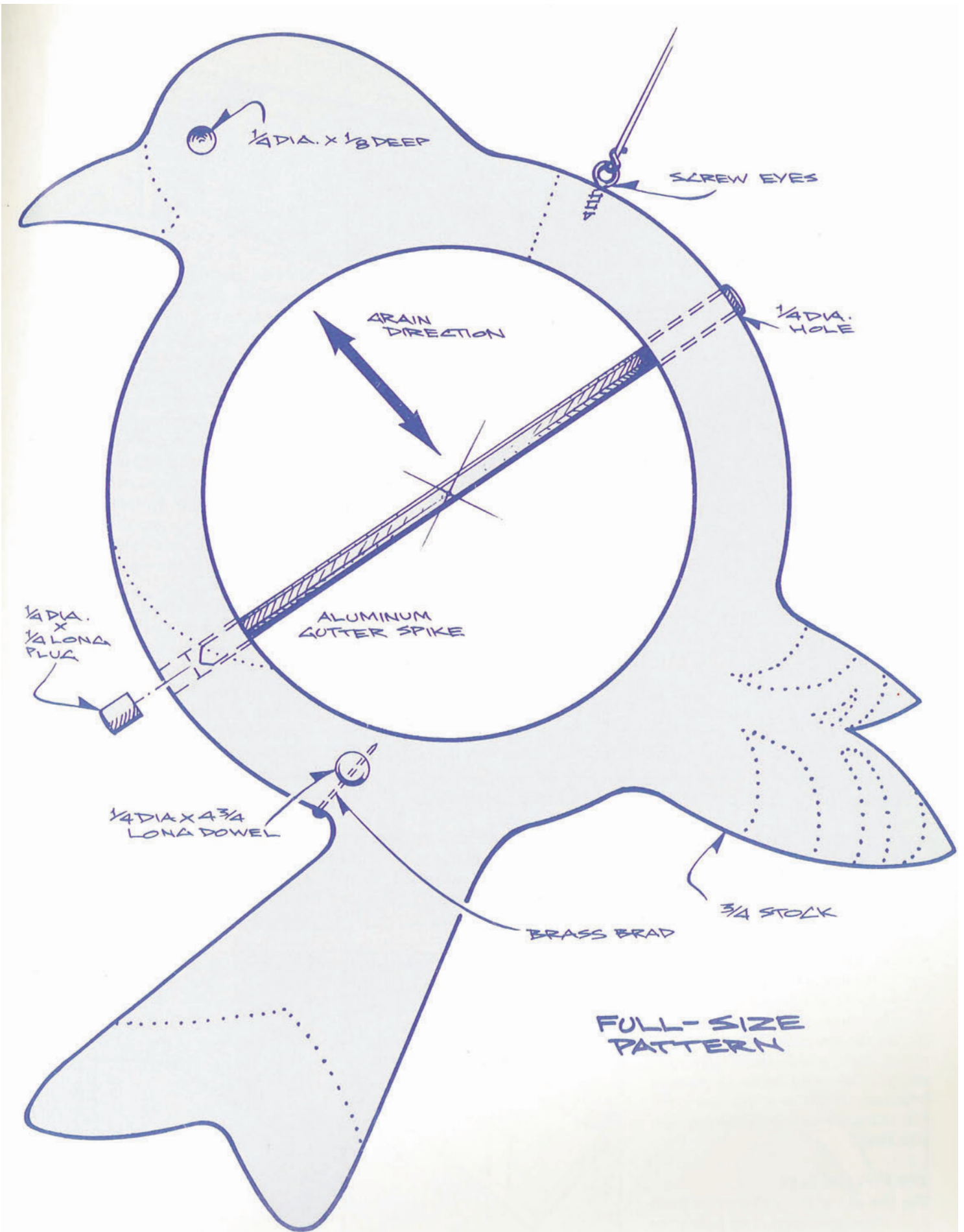
Refer to the full-size pattern for the location of the 1/4 in. diameter hole for the perch. Bore the hole completely through the 3/4 in. thick stock, then cut 1/4 in. diameter dowel stock to 4 3/4 in. long. Insert the dowel so that 2 in.

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Thank you again for your purchase, and happy woodworking!

Matt Becker
Internet Production Coordinator