

WOODWORKER'S WJOURNAL

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Classic Plan

Greek Revival Birdhouse

In this plan you'll find:

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



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Greek Revival BIRDHOUSE

The Greek temple design of this birdhouse may not appeal to every bird, but after all, there are plenty of barns for the swallows of the world. This house seems to cry out for an owner with a certain style and color, perhaps an oriole or a bluebird.

Start by cutting $\frac{3}{4}$ in. pine for the base (B) and $\frac{1}{2}$ in. pine for the box parts (C, D, E and F). Note the $\frac{1}{4}$ in. by $\frac{3}{8}$ in. rabbet cut all around the base that forms a step. Cut the top (A) to rough size from $\frac{3}{4}$ stock. Cut the dowel pillars (H) to a bit less than the 7 in. dimension given in the Bill of Materials. Cutting them slightly short insures that they won't bottom out when you put the house together. Also drill the holes for the pillars.


Next, shape the pitched roof to a 10-degree angle from the $\frac{3}{4}$ pine. Lay out the roof lines as shown and saw or plane down to the lines. A band saw is the easiest way to cut the roof, but if you don't have one — or yours won't handle the depth of cut — you can also use a hand plane. The pine planes easily so you should make quick work of the roof.

After shaping the roof pitch, cut the grooves on all four sides with the table saw. Set the blade $\frac{1}{8}$ in. high and $\frac{1}{8}$ in. away from the rip fence. Cut on the end grain first so any chip-out will be removed by the subsequent cuts. Also attach the cleats (G) to the top, measuring for their location.

Now bore the entrance hole in the front and assemble the box. Refer to the chart for hole sizes. Note that some birds, like the robin, dove and phoebe, prefer an open side rather than a hole.

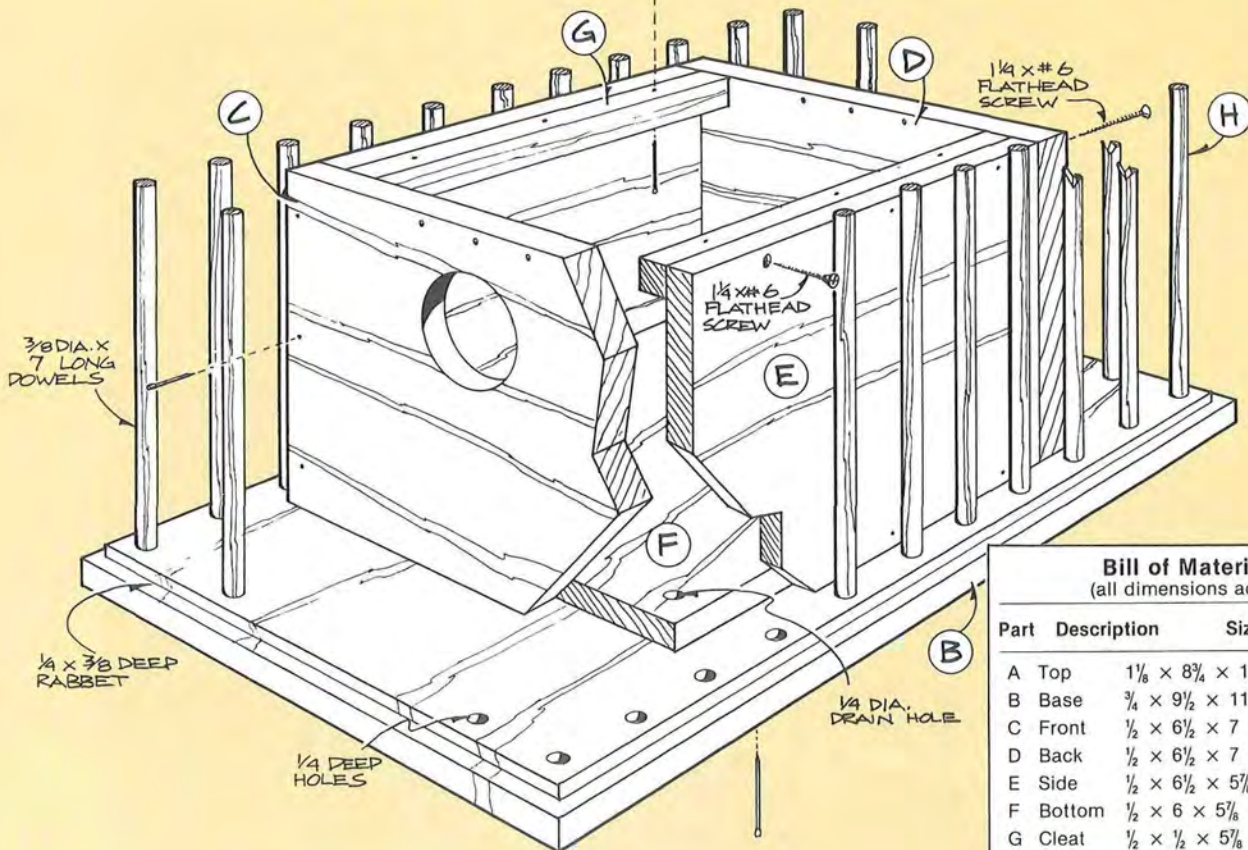
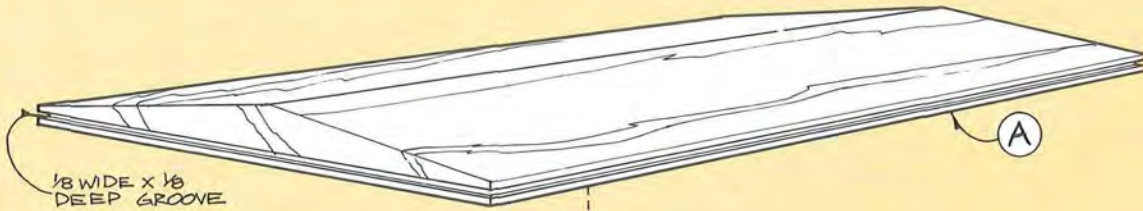
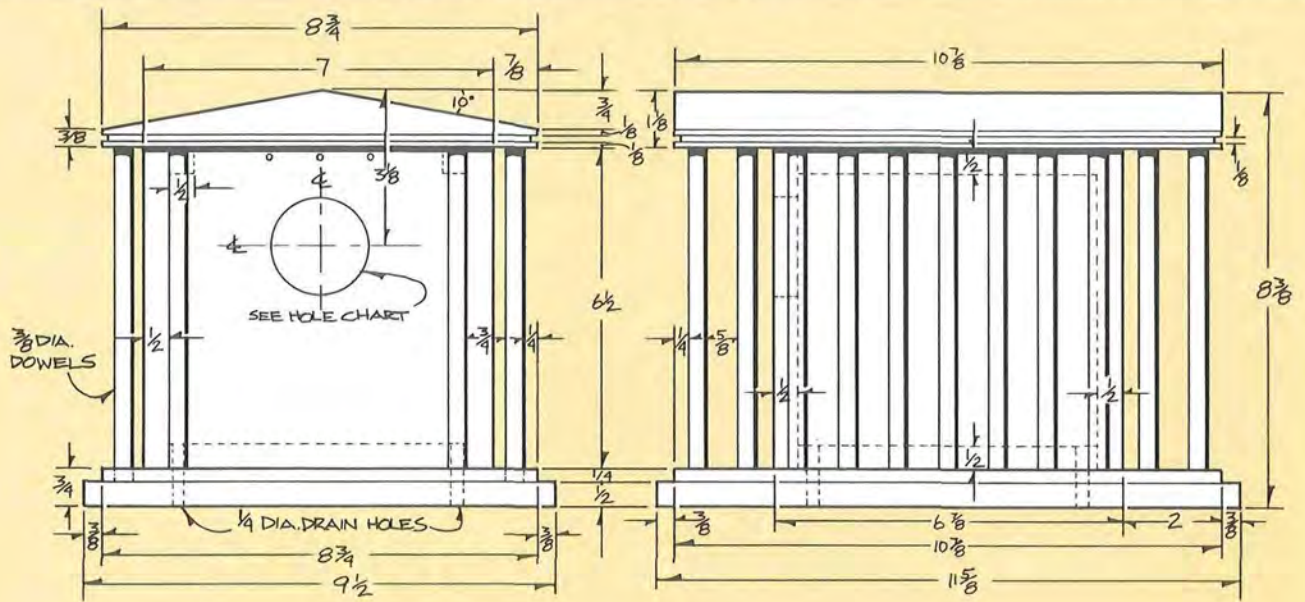
Next, paint the box and all the parts. We used antique white exterior paint. You can paint right to the ends of the dowels, if you wish, because they won't be glued into their holes. The house is held together by nails and screws, so the dowels aren't a structural element. You should use two or three coats of paint.

After the paint dries, assemble the box. First nail on the bottom and then fit the dowels in place. Insert the dowels one by one while holding the top in place. When all the dowels are in, screw the sides to the cleats underneath the top.

The birdhouse is attached to a 1 in. inside diameter steel pipe with a steel flange. The pipe and flange are available at building supply stores. To mount the birdhouse outside, bury the pipe about 2 ft. deep. The height can vary, but should be far enough above the ground to discourage squirrels and other animals. 

Birdhouse Chart

Species	Entrance Diameter	Height Above Ground
Bluebird	1½	5-12 ft.
Chickadee	1⅝	6-15 ft.
Titmouise	1¼	6-15 ft.
Nuthatch	1¼	12-20 ft.
House Wren	1	6-10 ft.
Tree Swallow	1½	10-15 ft.
Purple Martin	2½	15-20 ft.
Great Crested Flycatcher	2	8-20 ft.
Downy Woodpecker	1¼	6-20 ft.
Robin	—	6-15 ft.
Dove	—	6-12 ft.
Phoebe	—	8-12 ft.



Bill of Materials
(all dimensions actual)

Part	Description	Size	No. Req'd.
A	Top	1 1/8 x 8 3/4 x 10 7/8	1
B	Base	3/4 x 9 1/2 x 11 5/8	1
C	Front	1/2 x 6 1/2 x 7	1
D	Back	1/2 x 6 1/2 x 7	1
E	Side	1/2 x 6 1/2 x 5 7/8	2
F	Bottom	1/2 x 6 x 5 7/8	1
G	Cleat	1/2 x 1/2 x 5 7/8	2
H	Pillar	3/8 dia. x 7 in. dowel	26