

#002

BIRD FEEDER



PRACTICAL
PROJECTS
REAL SKILLS
REAL IMPACT

Build it. Hang it. Help Wildlife!

This resource will guide you through creating your very own bird feeder at three different skill levels. Whether you're just getting started or ready for a more advanced build, there's a project here for you!



3 LEVELS – CHOOSE YOUR CHALLENGE



BRONZE BUILDER

Simple • Recycled • Easy



Perfect for beginners!
Use recycled materials to make a simple but effective bird feeder.

SKILLS DEVELOPED:

- ✓ Safe cutting (with supervision)
- ✓ Measuring simple positions
- ✓ Following instructions
- ✓ Recycling & sustainability
- ✓ Caring for wildlife



SILVER BUILDER

Wooden • Practical • Medium



Build a strong wooden feeder with a roof and side supports.
Ideal for developing your skills.

SKILLS DEVELOPED:

- ✓ Accurate measuring
- ✓ Sawing & drilling
- ✓ Screwing & assembly
- ✓ Sanding & finishing
- ✓ Teamwork & planning



GOLD BUILDER

Decorative • Advanced • Premium



Take it to the next level!
Create a decorative feeding station with extra features and a premium finish.

SKILLS DEVELOPED:

- ✓ Project planning & design
- ✓ Angled & mitre cuts
- ✓ Advanced assembly techniques
- ✓ Decorative finishing
- ✓ Quality checking & problem solving

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THIS RESOURCE



STEP-BY-STEP PLANS

Clear instructions and diagrams for each build level.



GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT

A full generic risk assessment to help keep everyone safe.



TOOLS & MATERIALS GUIDES

Lists of tools, materials and useful tips for success.



TIPS & HELP SHEETS

Pro tips, maintenance advice and bird feeding information.



SUSTAINABILITY FOCUS

Encouraging care for nature and using materials wisely.

THERE ARE MORE MAKE & GROW RESOURCES!

Looking for more hands-on projects and activities? We have a growing range of practical resources to inspire learners, support teaching, and make learning meaningful.

- ✓ Outdoor Projects
- ✓ Gardening Activities
- ✓ Construction Challenges
- ✓ Nature & Wildlife
- ✓ Recycling Ideas
- ✓ And much more!



SCAN TO FIND OUT
MORE ABOUT
MAKE & GROW



Scan me! →



PLEASE REMEMBER

- Always work safely and follow instructions.
- Use tools responsibly and with supervision.
- Wear appropriate safety gear.
- Respect nature and the wildlife you help.

**BUILD IT.
HANG IT.
HELP WILDLIFE!**



IMPORTANT

These plans are a guide. You may need to adapt measurements and methods depending on the materials, tools and environment you have. Use common sense and stay safe!



PROJECT 1

BIRD FEEDER

3

BRONZE BUILDER

RECYCLED PLASTIC BOTTLE BIRD FEEDER

Create a simple bird feeder using a recycled plastic drinks bottle. Learners cut feeding holes, add wooden spoons or dowels as perches, fill the bottle with bird seed and hang it outside using string or wire.

SKILLS DEVELOPED



Safe cutting
(with supervision)



Measuring simple
positions



Following
instructions



Recycling and
sustainability



Caring for wildlife

TOOLS & MATERIALS



Plastic bottle



Wooden spoons
or dowels



String



Bird seed



Scissors or
craft knife
(adult supervision)



Hole punch

STEP BY STEP



1 Clean and dry your plastic bottle. Mark 2 feeding holes on opposite sides near the bottom.



2 With adult supervision, carefully cut out the marked holes using scissors or a craft knife.



3 Insert a wooden spoon or dowel through each hole so birds can perch.



4 (Optional) Use a hole punch to make two small holes in the top of the bottle.



5 Thread string through the holes and tie a knot to create a hanger.



6 Fill the bottle with bird seed and hang it outside in a safe place.



SAFETY FIRST!

Always ask an adult for help when cutting the plastic bottle or using sharp tools.



TOP TIP!

Hang your feeder in a quiet spot, away from direct wind and rain, and watch the birds visit!



MAKE IT. HANG IT. HELP WILDLIFE!



PROJECT 1 BIRD FEEDER

2 SILVER BUILDER

WOODEN HANGING BIRD FEEDER

Build a sturdy wooden bird feeder using timber.
This plan is a guide and will need to be adapted for the materials you are using.
Use your measurements and common sense.



OVERVIEW



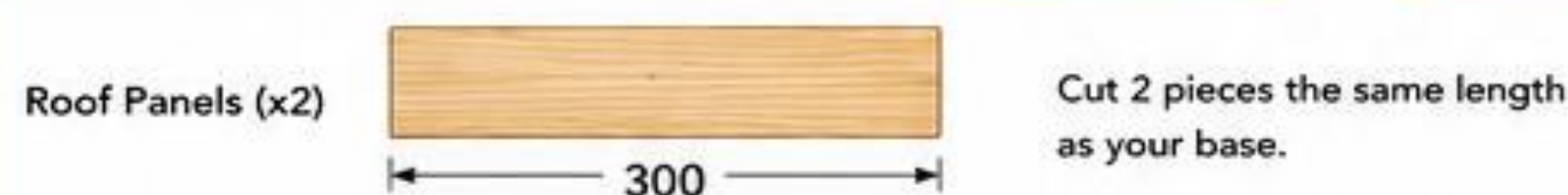
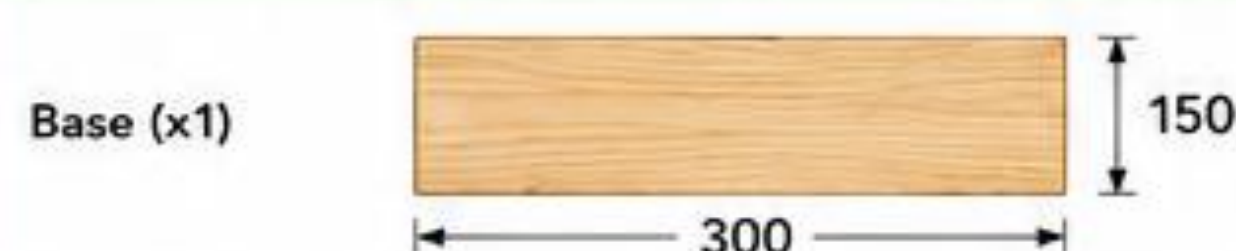
Hang using rope, chain or wire through the ring hooks.

CUTTING LIST

(All measurements in mm)

MEASURE TWICE, CUT ONCE!

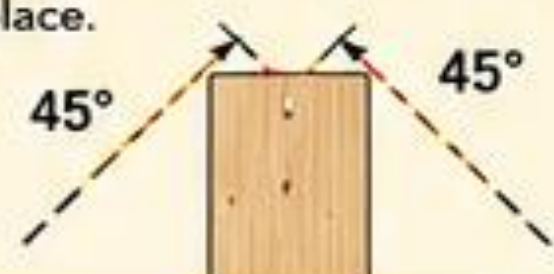
Choose your base – it will be a plank of wood. The length needs to be longer than the width. Example shown: 300 x 150



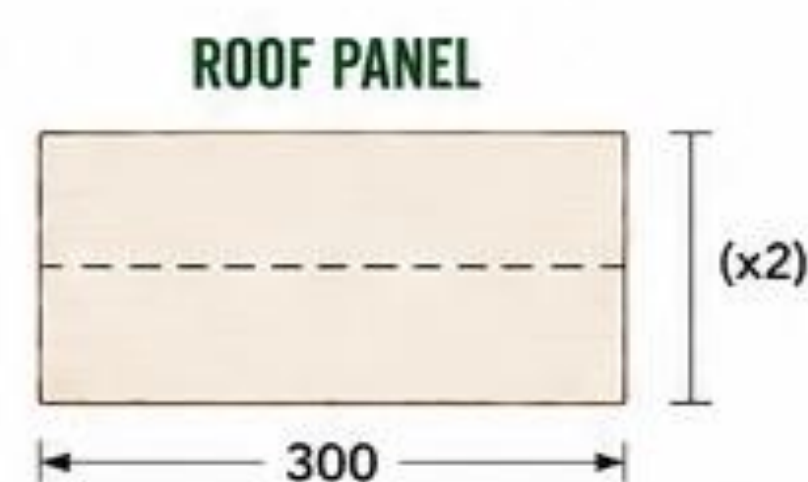
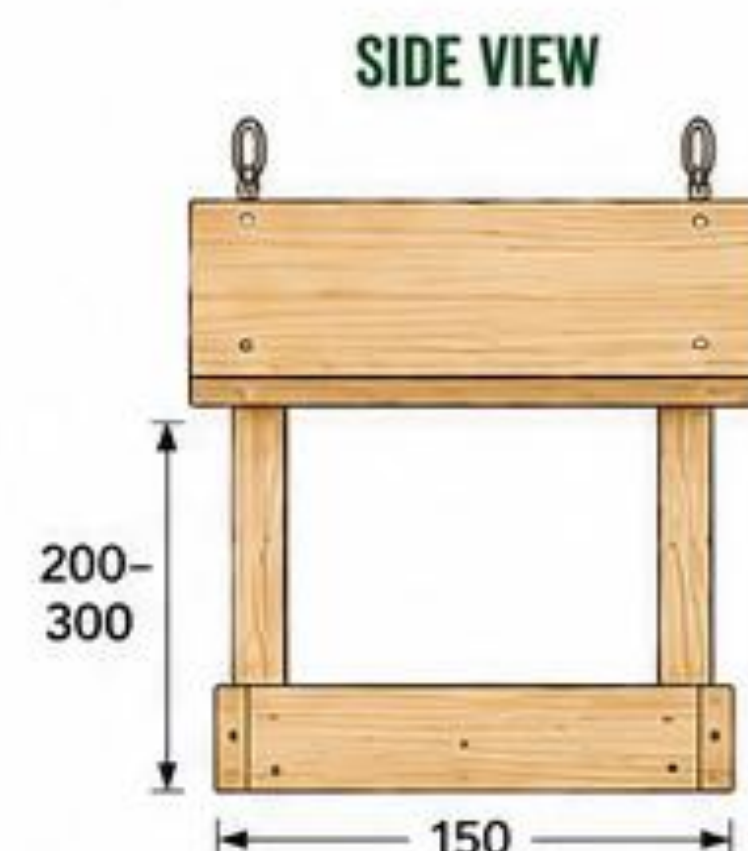
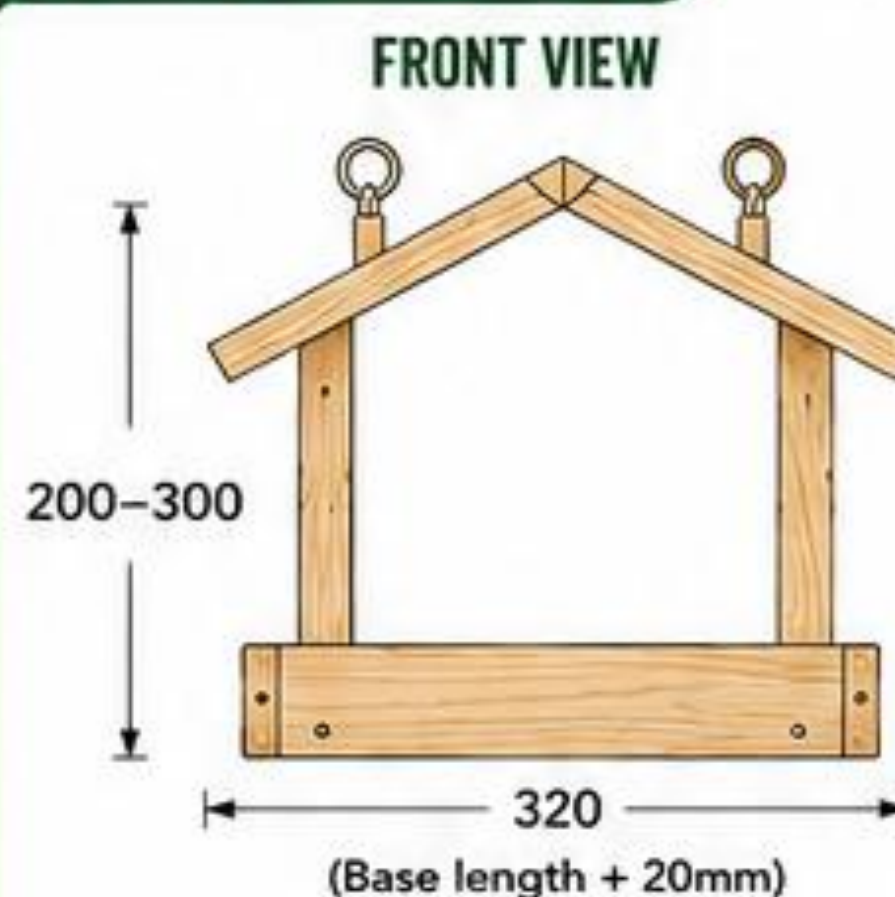
Wood thickness example: 10mm (measure your wood and adapt)

IMPORTANT - 45° CUTS

Cut two 45° angles at the top of each side support so the roof panels can sit and be screwed in place.



PLAN & DIMENSIONS



ASSEMBLY STEPS

1 BUILD THE BASE



Add the long base sides to the base first, then the short sides.
Use wood glue and screws.
Pre-drill holes so the timber does not split.

2 ADD SIDE SUPPORTS



Once the base is assembled, position the side supports (front and back) on the base sides. Make sure they are straight and secure with screws.

3 BRACE (OPTIONAL)



For extra strength, add another piece of wood between the two side supports and screw in place.

4 ADD THE ROOF



Place the two roof panels on top of the 45° cuts and screw them in place at the top. Make sure they meet neatly at the centre.

5 WATERPROOF & FINISH



Pro Tip: Add roof batten on top to cover the gap between the two roof panels and help keep rain out.

6 HANG & ENJOY!



Screw ring hooks into the top of the roof. Run rope, chain or wire through them and your bird feeder is ready to hang.



PRO TIPS

- Choose a sheltered spot, 2-4 metres above the ground.
- Keep feeders clean and refill regularly.
- Use a variety of seed to attract more bird species.
- Never use treated or painted wood on the inside.

BEST FOOD OPTIONS



Sunflower hearts



Peanuts



Mixed seed



SAFETY FIRST!

- Always wear safety glasses when cutting or drilling.
- Secure wood before cutting.
- Use tools correctly and ask for help if unsure.
- Keep work area tidy.



PLEASE NOTE: THESE MEASUREMENTS ARE ROUGH GUIDES ONLY.
YOU WILL NEED TO ADAPT THEM TO SUIT THE MATERIALS YOU HAVE AVAILABLE.



PROJECT 1

BIRD FEEDING STATION

3

GOLD BUILDER

DECORATIVE BIRD FEEDING STATION

Design and build a premium bird feeder with a pitched roof, enclosed feeding tray, drainage holes and decorative features. Personalise your design with engraved signs, painted finishes, perch bars and removable roof panels for easy cleaning.

Plan your project, build with care and create something that will last.



DIFFICULTY: ADVANCED

★★★★★

TIME: 3-5 HOURS

- POSSIBLE FEATURES
- Pitched waterproof roof
 - Feeding tray with drainage
 - Decorative wooden brackets
 - Clear seed viewing panel (optional)
 - Removable roof for refilling
 - Multiple feeding ports
 - Hanging or post-mounted options
 - Painted or stained weatherproof finish

SKILLS DEVELOPED

- Project planning
- Technical drawing
- Precision measuring
- Mitre or angled cuts
- Drilling & countersinking
- Assembly techniques
- Decorative finishing
- Quality checking
- Problem solving

TOOLS & MATERIALS

Softwood or hardwood timber

Exterior wood screws

Wood glue

Drill & drill bits

Saw

Combination square

Clamps

Sandpaper

Exterior paint or wood stain

Roofing felt or thin timber shingles (optional)

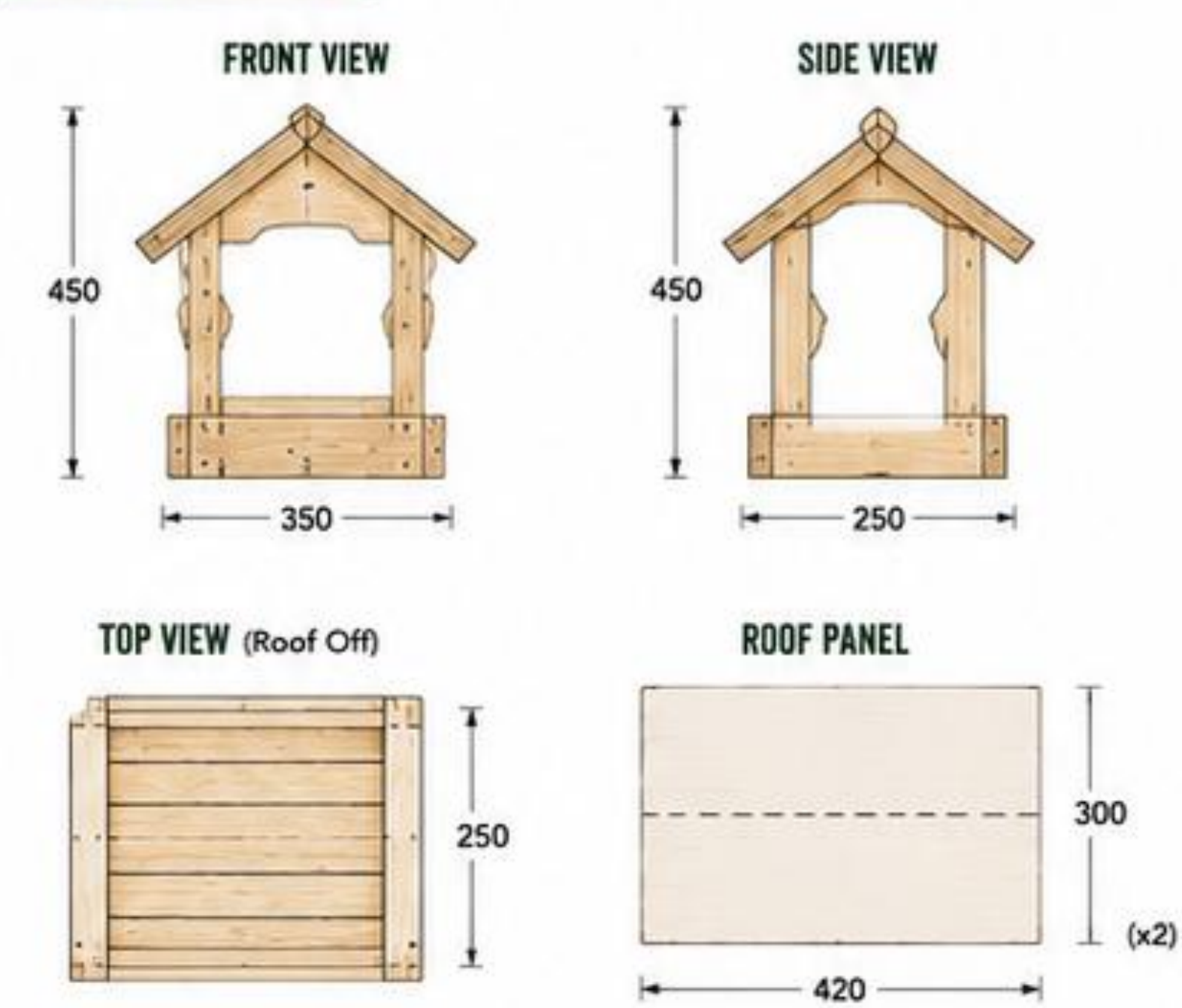
Rope, chain or mounting post

CUTTING LIST (Rough guide – adapt to your materials)

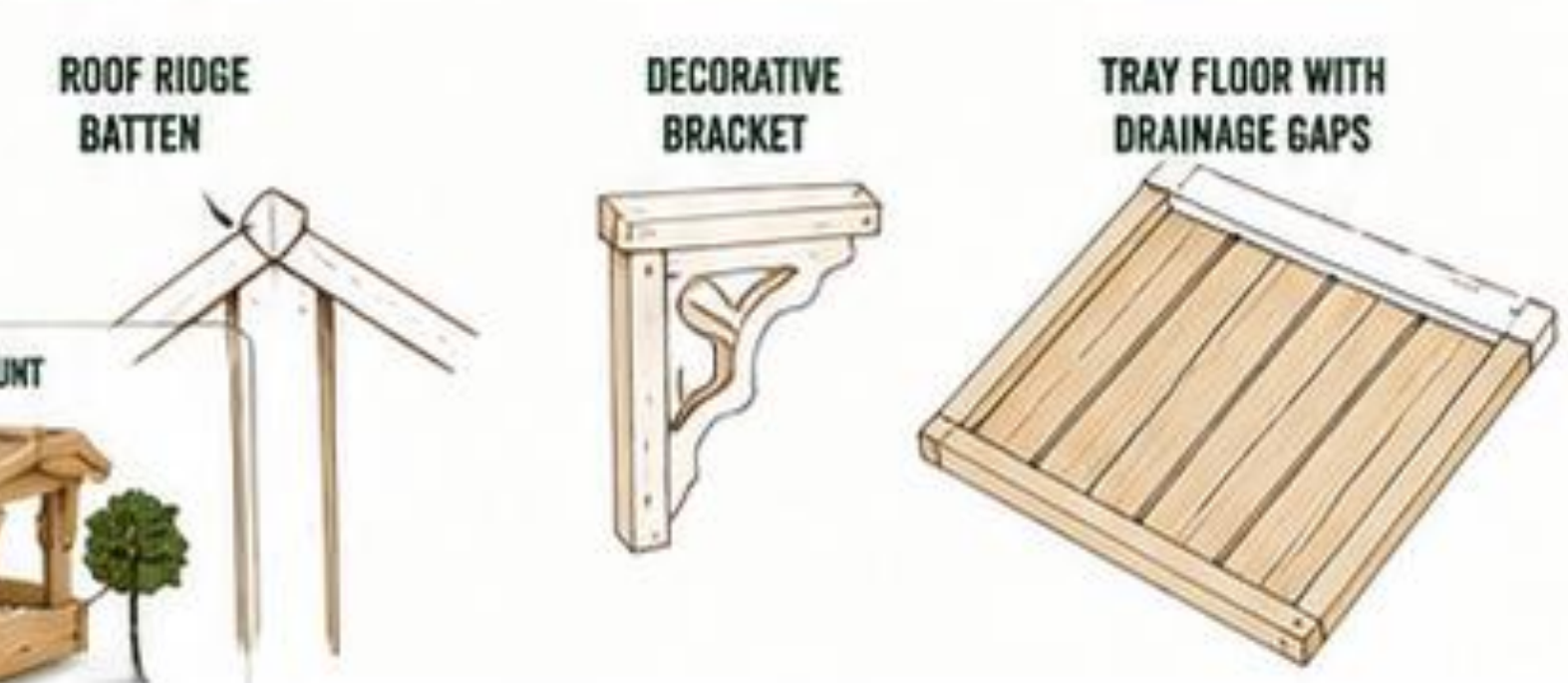
PART	QTY	DIMENSIONS (mm)	NOTES
Base (Tray bottom)	1	350 x 250 x 18	Choose a plank. Length longer than width.
Base Front & Back	2	350 x 70 x 18	Height of tray sides.
Base Sides	2	250 x 70 x 18	Height of tray sides.
Corner Posts	4	450 x 45 x 45	Support corners of roof.
Roof Panels	2	420 x 300 x 18	Length overhangs base each side by approx. 35mm.
Roof Ridge Batten	1	420 x 40 x 18	Covers roof join.
Decorative Brackets	4	150 x 150 x 18	Or design your own.
Perch Bars (optional)	2	150 x 20 x 20	Perches at front/back.
Clear Viewing Panel (optional)	1	330 x 120 x 3	Acrylic or polycarbonate.
Tray Floor Battens	3	330 x 25 x 12	Raises seed off the base for drainage.

MEASURE TWICE, CUT ONCE! THESE MEASUREMENTS ARE A ROUGH GUIDE ONLY. YOU WILL NEED TO ADAPT THEM TO SUIT THE MATERIALS YOU HAVE AVAILABLE.

PLAN & DIMENSIONS



DETAILS



ASSEMBLY STEPS

1 BUILD THE TRAY

Assemble the tray using glue and screws. Pre-drill all holes to prevent splitting. Add the tray floor battens with small gaps for drainage.

2 ADD CORNER POSTS

Position the four corner posts on the inside corners of the tray. Check they are square and plumb, then screw securely.

3 FIT BRACKETS

Attach decorative brackets between the posts and tray to strengthen the structure and add style.

4 PREPARE ROOF PANELS

If using timber shingles or roofing felt, attach to the roof panels now. Add a slight overhang to each side.

5 CUT ROOF RIDGE

Place the two roof panels together at the top. Add the ridge batten over the join and screw in place.

6 ADD THE ROOF

Lift the roof assembly onto the posts. Screw down into the top of each post. Ensure overhang is even on all sides.

7 ADD PERCHES & PORTS

Add perch bars and extra feeding ports if desired. Drill holes or cut access points for feeding.

8 ADD CLEAR PANEL (OPTIONAL)

Fit the clear viewing panel between the front posts so you can see the seed level. Secure with screws.

9 FINISH

Sand all surfaces smooth. Apply exterior stain or paint. Allow to fully dry before use.

10 HANG OR MOUNT

Use eye hooks and chain/rope to hang from a branch, or mount on a post using a suitable bracket.

- PRO TIPS
- Choose a sheltered spot, 2–4 metres above the ground.
 - Keep feeders clean and refill regularly.
 - Use a variety of seed to attract more bird species.
 - Never use treated or painted wood on the inside.

BEST FOOD OPTIONS

Sunflower hearts

Peanuts

Mixed seed

Niger seed

- SAFETY FIRST!
- Always wear safety glasses when cutting or drilling.
 - Secure wood before cutting.
 - Use tools correctly and ask for help if unsure.
 - Keep work area tidy.

PROJECT 1 BIRD FEEDER

From simple to spectacular!
Choose your build level and
create a feeder that will bring
birds to your garden.



3 BRONZE BUILDER

Simple • Recycled • Easy

2 SILVER BUILDER

Wooden • Practical • Medium

1 GOLD BUILDER

Decorative • Advanced • Premium

1

HANGING BOTTLE FEEDER



- Recycled plastic bottle
- Feeding holes with perches
- Easy to make and hang
- Great for beginners

CLASSIC HANGING FEEDER



- Wooden roof and tray
- Side supports and perches
- Hangs from rope or chain
- Sturdy and practical

DECORATIVE PITCHED ROOF FEEDER



- Pitched roof with battens
- Decorative side brackets
- Multiple feeding ports
- Stained or painted finish

2

TIN CAN FEEDER



- Recycled tin can
- Perch dowel
- Fun to decorate
- Quick and easy build

OPEN FRONT FEEDER



- Open front for easy access
- Slatted roof for shelter
- Drainage holes in tray
- Simple and effective

PREMIUM FEEDING STATION



- Clear viewing panels
- Decorative details
- Removable roof for refilling
- High quality finish

3

CARTON FEEDER



- Recycled milk carton
- Cut-out feeding hole
- Perch stick
- Lightweight and fun

PLATFORM FEEDER



- Large platform for seeds
- Roof for protection
- Four post supports
- Ideal for larger birds

GAZEBO FEEDER



- Six sided design
- Decorative railings
- Shingled roof with finial
- A garden centre piece

4

YOGURT POT FEEDER



- Recycled yogurt pot
- Perch dowel
- Easy to decorate
- Perfect for small spaces

HOUSE STYLE FEEDER



- House style design
- Pitched roof
- Decorative cut-outs
- Fun and durable

DELUXE FEEDING HOUSE



- Fully enclosed back panel
- Dormer roof details
- Perch railing
- Built to last for years

FEED RESPONSIBLY



- Use foods that are safe for birds
- Keep feeders clean and dry
- Refill regularly, especially in winter
- Provide fresh water nearby

BEST FOOD OPTIONS



Sunflower Hearts



Peanuts



Mixed Seed



Suet Pellets



Mealworms

ENJOY NATURE



A bird feeder brings life, colour and song to your garden. Take time to relax and watch the wonderful wildlife you help.



BUILD IT. HANG IT. HELP WILDLIFE!



PROJECT 1 BIRD FEEDER



FEED YOUR GARDEN BIRDS ALL YEAR ROUND

Providing the right food in the right place helps birds stay healthy, raise their young and return to your garden.

BEST FOODS FOR WILD BIRDS



SEED MIX

A mix of seeds provides a balanced diet that suits many different birds.

- Contains sunflower hearts, millets, cracked corn, wheat, kibbled peanuts
- Attracts a wide variety of birds

LOVED BY:

Sparrows
Finches
Dunnocks
Tits
Robins



SUNFLOWER HEARTS

High in oil and energy, loved by many birds and less mess than whole seeds.

- High in energy and easy to eat
- No husks, less waste

LOVED BY:

Tits
Finches
Nuthatches
Woodpeckers
Robins



PEANUTS

High in protein and fat – great for energy, especially in colder months.

- Feed whole peanuts (not salted)
- Can be chopped for smaller birds

LOVED BY:

Great Tits
Blue Tits
Woodpeckers
Nuthatches
Jays



SUET PELLETS

Fat-rich food that provides essential energy, especially in winter.

- Easy to store and use
- High energy for colder weather

LOVED BY:

Tits
Starlings
Woodpeckers
Robins
Wrens



MEALWORMS & INSECTS

High in protein – ideal during spring and summer, especially for nestlings.

- Live, dried or as part of a mix
- Great for encouraging insect-eating birds

LOVED BY:

Robins
Wrens
Blackbirds
Tits
Song Thrushes



FRUIT & BERRIES

A tasty natural treat full of vitamins and fibre.

- Offer raisins, currants, chopped apple (no seeds), berries
- Feed in moderation

LOVED BY:

Blackbirds
Thrushes
Waxwings
Starlings
Robins



NYJER (THISTLE) SEEDS

Tiny seeds that are high in oil and perfect for small-beaked birds.

- Use in special nyjer feeders
- Very nutritious

LOVED BY:

Goldfinches
Siskins
Redpolls
Linnets



TOP TIP!

Always provide fresh, clean food and water. Keep feeders clean and topped up. Food can go mouldy – check regularly.



BEST PLACES TO PUT YOUR BIRD FEEDER



NEAR COVER BUT NOT TOO CLOSE

Place your feeder near trees or shrubs so birds can escape if needed, but not right next to cover where predators could hide.



VISIBLE FROM INSIDE

Position the feeder where you can see it from a window. This lets you enjoy watching the birds and check the feeder easily.



SHELTERED FROM BAD WEATHER

Choose a spot that provides some shelter from wind, rain and strong sun. This keeps the food dry and birds comfortable.



SAFE FROM CATS AND PREDATORS

Keep feeders at least 2 metres away from places cats can jump from, such as fences, walls and tree branches.



NEAR WATER SOURCE

Birds need water for drinking and bathing. Having a bird bath or natural water source nearby will attract more visitors.



IN A QUIET AREA

Place your feeder in a calm part of the garden, away from heavy foot traffic, loud noises or disturbance.



AT THE RIGHT HEIGHT

Hang or mount your feeder about 1.5–2 metres above the ground for safety and easy viewing.



GOOD SPACE TO FLY IN AND OUT

Ensure there is enough open space around the feeder for birds to approach, land and leave safely.



DID YOU KNOW?

Different birds visit at different times of the day. Be patient, keep your feeder stocked, and enjoy your garden wildlife all year round!



FEED THEM WELL, THEY WILL COME!



BIRDS YOU CAN FIND IN UK GARDENS



Your garden can be a haven for wildlife! Here are 15 common birds you might see, along with some interesting facts about each one.

1 Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*)



- Small, colourful and very active.
- ✂ Loves peanuts, seeds and fat balls.
- 🏠 Nests in holes in trees, walls or nest boxes.

2 Great Tit (*Parus major*)



- The largest of our tit birds.
- ✂ Eats insects in summer and seeds in winter.
- 🏠 Nests in tree holes and nest boxes.

3 Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*)



- Friendly and curious, often follows you in the garden.
- ✂ Eats insects, worms and berries.
- 🏠 Nests low down in hedges, bushes or sheds.

4 Blackbird (*Turdus merula*)



- Melodious singer and very common.
- ✂ Eats worms, insects and soft fruits.
- 🏠 Nests in bushes, trees or on walls.

5 House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)



- Social birds that live in groups.
- ✂ Eats seeds, crumbs and insects.
- 🏠 Nests in holes in buildings, ivy or nest boxes.

6 Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)



- Clever mimic with beautiful glossy feathers.
- ✂ Eats insects, fruit and seeds.
- 🏠 Nests in holes in trees or buildings.

7 Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*)



- Common finch with a gentle song.
- ✂ Eats seeds, buds and insects.
- 🏠 Nests in bushes and small trees.

8 Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)



- Striking bird with red face and yellow wing bars.
- ✂ Loves thistle seeds and niger seeds.
- 🏠 Nests high in trees and hedges.

9 Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*)



- Tiny, fluffy and often seen in groups.
- ✂ Eats insects and spiders.
- 🏠 Nests in trees or dense hedges.

10 Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*)



- Shy but common, often on the ground.
- Eats insects, seeds and berries.
- 🏠 Nests low down in bushes and hedges.

11 Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)



- Calm dove with a soft cooing call.
- ✂ Eats seeds and grains.
- 🏠 Nests in trees, conifers or bushes.

12 Magpie (*Pica pica*)



- Intelligent and curious bird.
- ✂ Eats almost anything!
- 🏠 Nests high in trees.

13 Woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*)



- Our largest and most common pigeon.
- ✂ Eats seeds, buds and berries.
- 🏠 Nests in trees.

14 Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)



- Very small but loud singer!
- ✂ Eats insects and spiders.
- 🏠 Nests in holes, rockeries or nest boxes.

15 Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)



- Bright and beautiful bird.
- ✂ Stores acorns and nuts.
- 🏠 Nests high in trees.

HELP BIRDS IN YOUR GARDEN

- ✓ Put out fresh water every day.
- ✓ Offer a variety of foods all year round.
- ✓ Keep feeders and bird baths clean.
- ✓ Plant native trees, shrubs and flowers.
- ✓ Provide nest boxes and safe places to hide.



DID YOU KNOW?

Birds provide natural pest control by eating garden insects, they help pollinate plants and spread seeds. A healthy garden is a garden full of birds!



SCAN TO FIND
OUT MORE
ABOUT MAKE
& GROW!



BUILD IT. HANG IT. HELP WILDLIFE!



RISK ASSESSMENT



Hazard	Who is at Risk	Risk	Control Measures	Residual Risk
Sharp hand tools (saws, knives, chisels)	Learners, staff	Medium	Demonstrate correct use before starting. Use age-appropriate tools. Maintain a safe working distance. Adult supervision required at all times. Store tools safely when not in use.	Low
Drills and power tools	Learners, staff	Medium/High	Only competent users operate power tools. Learners supervised. Secure timber before drilling. Wear eye protection. Tie back long hair.	Low
Flying wood chips and dust	Learners, staff	Medium	Wear safety glasses. Sand in well-ventilated area. Sweep work area regularly.	Low
Splinters	Learners	Low	Inspect timber before use. Sand rough edges. Wear gloves when appropriate. Remove splinters immediately.	Low
Timber movement while cutting	Learners	Medium	Clamp timber securely. Never hold timber by hand whilst sawing or drilling.	Low
Manual handling of timber	Learners, staff	Low	Use appropriately sized timber. Lift correctly. Seek assistance with larger pieces.	Low
Trips and slips	Everyone	Medium	Keep walkways clear. Store tools and timber safely. Clean up sawdust and offcuts regularly.	Low
Glue contact	Learners	Low	Use non-toxic wood glue where possible. Wash hands after use. Avoid contact with eyes.	Low
Screws, nails and fixings	Learners	Low	Store in containers. Pick up dropped fixings immediately. Use correct screwdriver size.	Low
Noise from cutting or drilling	Learners, staff	Low	Keep exposure short. H	



Below is a **generic** risk assessment.
As the facilitator/teacher, you will need to adapt it to your area and learners.