



How to make a Rosella Nesting Box

Crimson and Eastern Rosellas are hollow nesters and will use nesting boxes in domestic gardens. Indian Mynas may also compete with rosellas for these nesting sites, so householders need to be vigilant and remove any mynas / eggs that occupy the box.

This box design will deter Indian Mynas from getting into the box, by adding a myna proof baffle, and will enable quick removal of nests, by the addition of a trapdoor at the bottom.

There are many recommended designs for rosella nest boxes. This is one example that falls within the recommended guidelines set out by Birdlife Australia. It is important to note that different hollow requiring bird and animal species will require nest boxes with different dimensions, however the anti myna features of this box can be added to any other size box.

Materials

- **Timber** - Marine Ply is the best – optimally 18mm, but 12mm will do the trick – you just have to seal it more often.

You can also use salvaged timber that is not marine ply or construction ply, but this will have to be painted regularly.

A 2.4 x 1.2 sheet will make 4 nest boxes

- 2 brass piano hinges or 4 small hinges
- PVA glue
- 18 wood screws
- Pad bolt or latch to secure trap door
- Scrap chicken/cage mesh or wood offcuts/dowel for ladder.



Dimensions

External dimensions will depend on the thickness of the timber used.

Timber is cut at 20cm wide, 20cm deep and 45 cm tall.

Roof 40cm long (20 cm overhang) baffle 20 cm deep.

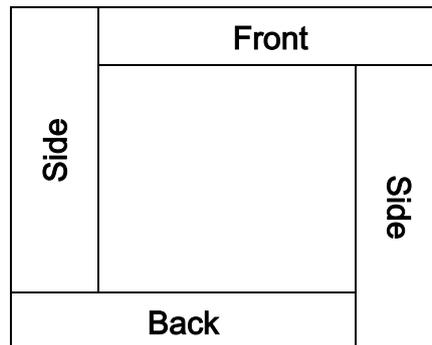
Ladder

A ladder needs to be secured to the inside of the box to allow the birds to climb out (they can't fly inside the box!).

You can use some wire mesh stapled to the inside, or glue some off cuts on, or chisel out some horizontal grooves.

Step 3. Screw & glue

Glue the front, back and sides together, using a staggered alignment (see picture), and clamp.



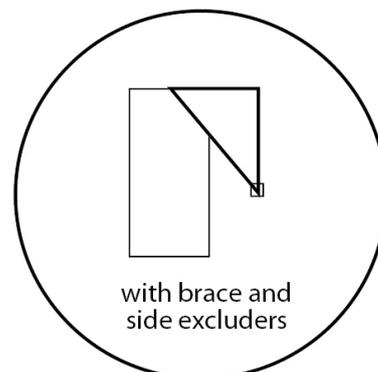
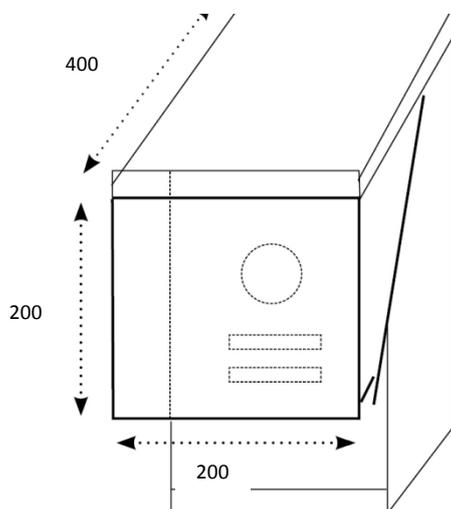
Use 3 screws on each edge approx. 2 cm from top and bottom and one in the middle.

Step 4. Roof & baffle

Glue and clamp the roof and baffle pieces together as per picture.

Screw each side baffle piece using 3 screws. One

Hinge the back of the roof onto the back side piece using screws provided with hinge.



Step 5. Floor

Drill a few drainage holes in the floor of the nestbox.

Attach to the body of the box using hinges.

Put in place pad bolt to secure bottom.

Step 6. Seal

If you have used marine ply the box will be more durable with a coat of exterior estapol.

If you have used other timber, you will need to paint the box. Use a sympathetic colour to the tree trunks in your area.

Step 7. Add comfort

Add wood shavings to the bottom of the nest box for extra comfort.

Securing to tree

Nest boxes should be placed above the ground at the height recommended by Birdlife Australia.

You may wish to supply a method of attaching the box to the tree.

It may be attached by drilling two holes in the rear wall of the box up near the top and passing a length of plastic coated wire (such as that used in clothes lines) and then passed around the tree. This method helps to preserve the tree, the only downside being that the holes may add an unwanted draft to the box, depending on how you position it.

Alternatively the box can be attached direct to the tree trunk (or branch) itself. This is best achieved by attaching a mounting piece to the rear of the box that extends approx. 500mm either end of the box with a keyhole cut out. The mounting piece can then be screwed or nailed to the tree with hexagonal head coach screws which poke through the keyhole. (see image).

