Hazel Dormouse Box

people's trust for endangered species

PTES do not promote the use of any preservative for nestboxes. Some softwood timbers grown in this country (such as larch, red cedar and Douglas fir) have excellent durability as exterior boards. PTES promote the use of locally grown timber which encourages good woodland management practices.

Dormouse boxes made by HM prison (above). These have been in place in Briddlesford wood on the Isle of Wight for three years. They have been manufactured from planks of Red cedar (left) and Larch (right), the wood is showing no evidence of splitting and the boxes are showing few signs of weathering.

A similar box design made by Kent Mammal Group (below) out of birch ply. This wood can be more accurately machined than sawn planks but some plywood can delaminate over time. These boxes are also three years old.

Notes from a wood miller:

- Larch is one of the most durable untreated timbers, although it is very prone to bending hence its use in Larch Lap panel fencing and also boat building
- Ideally the boards should be kept outside, with weights or heavy timber on top and then the planks turned into boxes in one go. After construction leave them outside. If kept inside the boards warp very quickly.
- Holes should be pre drilled for the boxes before nailing them or to use a nail gun to reduce splitting

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The Habitat Regulations provide protection for certain species and habitats and are based on the European Habitats Directive. It is an offence to damage or destroy dormouse breeding sites and resting places (even unintentionally) or to deliberately disturb, capture or kill dormice. This means it is illegal to check dormouse boxes without a Natural England licence if there is a possibility that dormice might be using them.

Board Specifications for dormouse nest boxes

Material supplies for 1,000 boxes:

500no. planks for 2 boxes @ 72” x 5” x 5/8”

200no. planks for 5 lids @ 48” x 5 ¾” x 5/8”

200no. battens for 5 boxes @ 48” x 1”x ¾”

7 x 1mm x30m PVC coated garden wire

3 x 5 ltr waterproof PVA glue

6 x 200 10x 1” quicksilver screws

4 boxes BeA 18 Guage Brads galvanised

4 boxes BeA Staples galvanised resin coated

Timber material supplies for single box:

A 1 planks for 1 boxes @ 36” x 5” x 5/8” (914mm x 127mm x 16mm)

B 1 planks for 1 lid @ 9.5” x 5 ¾” x 5/8” (241 mm x 146 mm x 16 mm)

C 2 battens for 1 boxes @ (2 x 48” x 1”x ¾” (2 x 120mm x 25 mm x 19mm)

The cause of a hedgehog poisoning has been investigated and it appears the wood used for this Hedgehog Box was pre-treated (Tanalised) wood, which apparently contains Arsenic.

If the timber is pre-treated, tanalised, protim treated or contains the acronym C.C.A (Copper/ Chrome/Arsenic) in the product name, then it is potentially poisonous to most animals (wild or domestic) and it shouldn't be used for bird or mammal boxes.

Hazel Dormouse Nest Box Specification

(Part A and B) All panels to be cut from 12-16mm thick planking of larch/red cedar as supplied

(Part C) 2 x battens 25mm x 19mm and 110mm long (these must not be longer than the width of the box)

(Part A) 1 x batten 20mm x 16 and 145mm long (cut from supplied board)

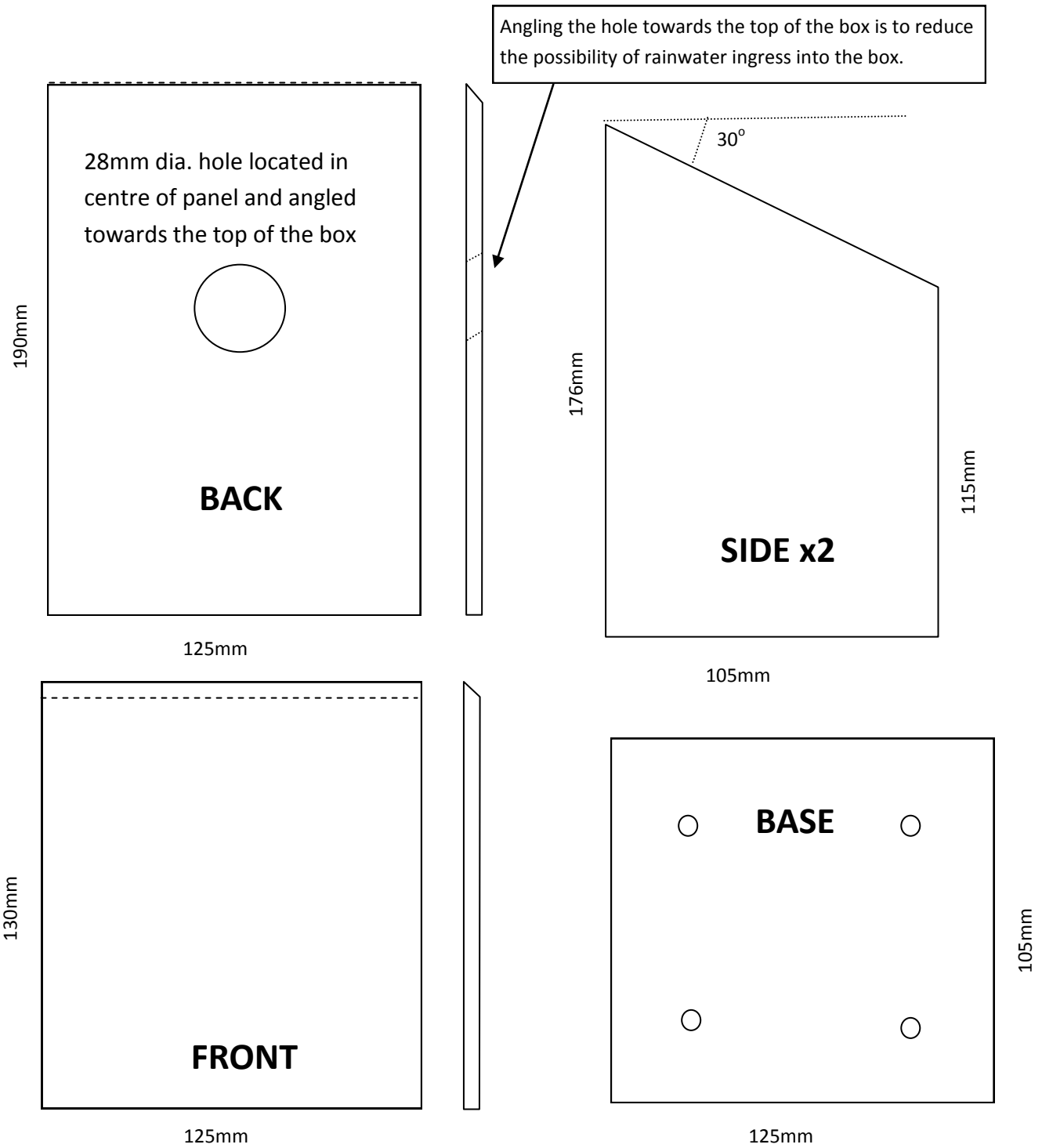
Medium garden wire for holding roof

1 x 25mm No10. screw

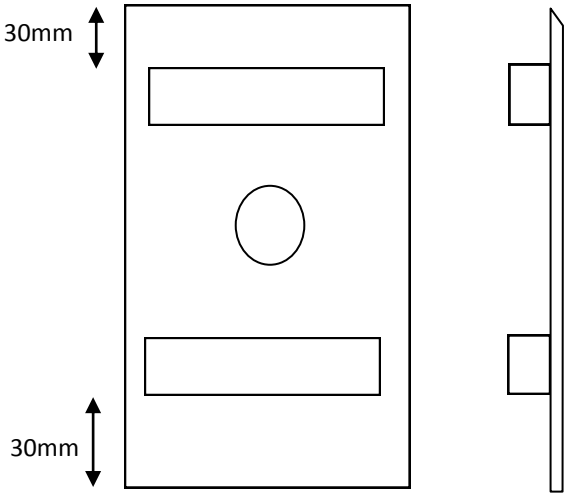
Use 20mm panel pins or similar for joining panels

Use 25mm panel pins or similar for attaching battens

All joints to be pinned and glued with exterior wood glue; all joints should be tight and weather-proof



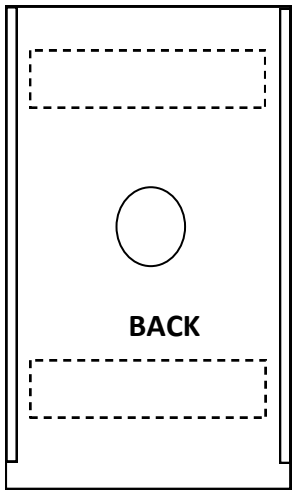
Putting the box together:

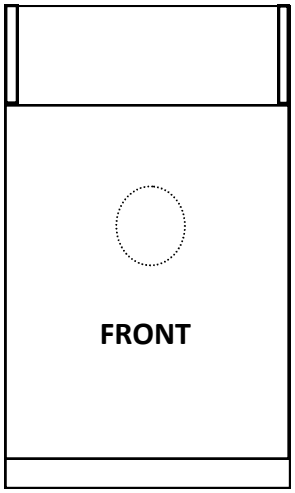


1. Cut panels to size and drill holes in BACK panel and BASE, sizes as specified
2. Fix 2 battens on the back panel (ensure you fit them to the correct side) approximately 30mm from the top and bottom of the panel.

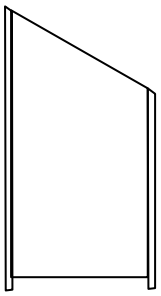
   Battens should be attached by gluing and nailing through the back panel into the batten

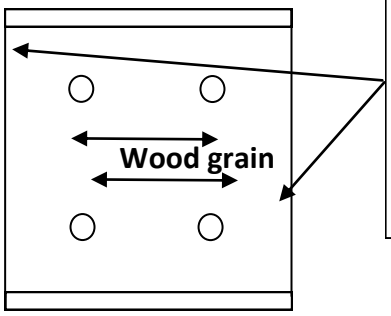
   Ensure the battens do not extend beyond the width of the panel.





3. Attach SIDE panels to BACK (pin and glue)
4. Attach FRONT panel to SIDES (pin and glue)

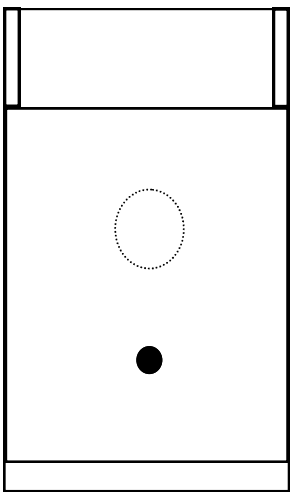




Base glued and pinned into the sides.

Grain must run at right angles to sides so that if wood splits the base does not fall out

5. Attach BASE to SIDES (pin and glue)
6. Put 10x25mm screw in the front panel on the vertical centre line, 1/3 of the distance from the bottom of the panel and 2/3rd of the distance from the top. Ensure so it is secure but does not go through the wood.



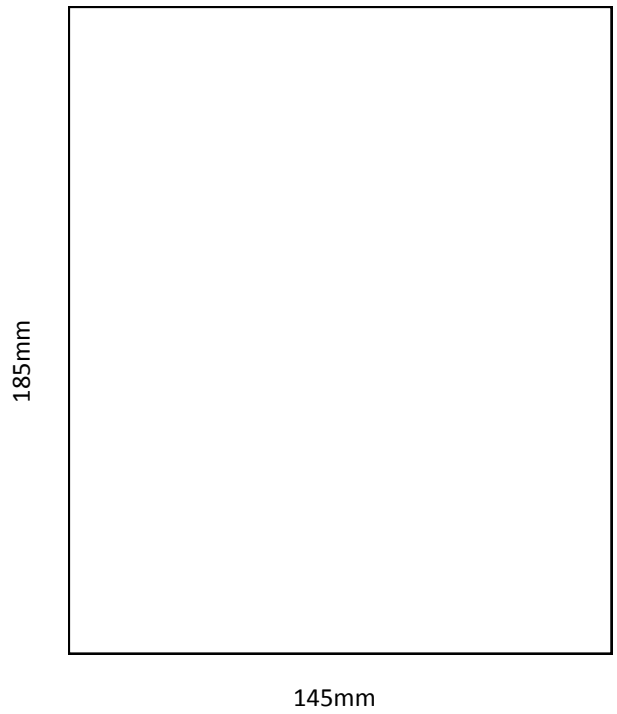
Cutting and fixing the lid:

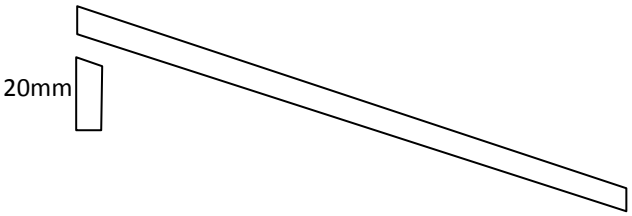
1. The lid should overlap the sides of the box by 10 mm; 15mm at the back and approximately 20mm at the front.

2. From the thickness of the wood used to make the lid cut a batten approximately 20 high with an angled top. This angle must be appropriate so that when the lid is placed on the box, it lies parallel to the back of the box as shown. Fix by nailing and gluing.

   Ensure the batten does not extend beyond the width of the lid nor beyond the depth of the battens on the back of the box

3. Secure the lid to the box by attaching a wire to the underside of the lid with a staple and securing it to the screw on the front of the box





The thickness of the lid batten must be less that the thickness of the battens at the back of the box to ensure it is possible to remove the lid when the box is attached to a tree