

Owl Box Kit Assembly Instructions

A good time to do the assembly is on a day off when you have ample time to get it right. Attention to detail will get you better results, and checking angles and measurements twice is always advised.

Hardware You Will Need

- 6" x 1-5/8" Exterior deck screws (60)
- Drill with Phillips head bit
- Screwdriver
- Measuring tape
- Pine wood shims
- Metal rasp

Painting Barn Owl Boxes

We recommend painting Barn Owl boxes using this color palette or something similar. For the safety of the animals we don't recommend painting the box other colors. Lighter colors can deter owls because they appear too bright at night, and darker colors can overheat during the day, especially with exposure to sun.

Zero VOC

We recommend using zero VOC (volatile organic compound) paint. Check the label to make sure the paint is completely free of VOCs. Do not purchase "low VOC" or other similarly labeled products. Only truly zero VOC paint is safe.

100% Acrylic Latex, Exterior Flat

It's important to get a paint that uses 100% acrylic latex. Make sure the can identifies the paint as 100% acrylic latex. We recommend exterior flat paint. This paint has a very low sheen and is designed for painting exterior structures such as houses and fences.

Box Body Colors

Light green. We recommend one of the following colors, or something similar if these are not available in your region.

Glidden [Sage Splendor](#), Behr [Sage Brush](#), Benjamin Moore [Saybrook Sage](#), Sherwin Williams [Clary Sage](#), or similar.

Box Top Colors

Light grey. We recommend one of the following light grey colors for the box top, or something similar if the following are not available in your area. Glidden [Cool Slate](#) or similar color will work.

Kit Contents to Label

Wood Pieces

- 9 - 9" x 15" piece (1)
- 11 - 11" x 15" piece with owl front door hole (1)
- 15A - 15" x 17" piece with multiple ½ inch holes (1)
- 15B - 15" x 24" piece (1)
- 18 - 18" x 22" (long edge) angled side walls (2)
- 20 - 20" x 24" piece (1)
- 24 - 24" x 24" piece (1)

Blocks

- 3B - 3" long blocks (4)
- 12B - 12" long block (1)
- 12BA - 12" long block w/ angled side (1)
- 17B - 17" long blocks (2)
- 19BA - 19" long blocks w/ angled tops (2)
- 22BA - 22" long blocks w/ angled tops (2)

Other Kit Contents

- Pack of screw eyes (4)
- Pack of rectangular hinges (2)
- Pack of triangular hinges (2)

Steps to Assemble

1. Unwrap box contents and put the stack on the floor of your workspace

2. Check contents to make sure no pieces are missing
3. Organize, measure, and label each piece using the codes above. Use black sharpie.
4. Put 15A in the center of your workspace on the floor. This is the floor of the box.
5. The front of 15A is the side with no pre-drilled holes for screws along the outer perimeter. If you can't see which edge is which, try looking on the other side.
6. Draw an arrow pointing toward the front.
7. Place both 17B pieces on top of the wood flush along the 17" edges of 15A.
8. Place 12B on top of the wood between both 17B pieces to form a U shape on three sides of 15A. All blocks should be flush with the edge.
9. Use tape to hold them in place and flip 15A, taking care to keep the pieces in the same shape.
10. Adjust as needed to make sure edges line up.
11. Drive screws into all of the predrilled holes along the three sides to hold the blocks in place and remove tape.
12. Get 15B and mark the bottom and top. The bottom is the 15" side that has six predrilled holes on that side. The top has only four.
13. Put 15B up against a flat wall, standing on the floor so it's standing with the top facing the ceiling. This will allow you to align the other blocks.
14. Stand 22BA so that the angled tops are sloping toward the front of the box. The slope should angle down from the top and toward the front. This angle prevents rain from getting inside the hole in the front of the box and keeps the owls safe and warm.
15. Using tape, secure the 22A pieces so the angled tops are flush with the top of 15B.
16. Place the four screws using the predrilled holes on the back of 15B so they hold the taped blocks in place. Remove the tape.
17. Put 15B back in place and turn the box around.
18. Put the remaining bottom four screws in the predrilled holes on the back of 15B to hold the back of the owl box and the bottom together.
19. Put 12BA between both 22BA pieces. It should fit snugly. Make sure the angle aligns at the top with the angle of both 22BA pieces. Place the screws in the back using the predrilled holes.
20. Congratulations! You're halfway there. It starts to move faster from here, now that you're getting the hang of it.
21. Get both 18 pieces and place them against the sides of the box so the slope is going down and toward the front of the box. The edge of the bottom of the ply should touch the ground.
22. Put a screw in the back top of each side of piece 18 and the back bottom of each side.
23. Get the 19BA pieces and place them on top of the 17B blocks standing on end.
24. Place two screws through the predrilled holes on the outside of 18 closest to the bottom front.
25. Mark the front of 20. The front is the 20 inch side with no pre-drilled holes.
26. Place 20 on the top of the box so it's resting on all five sloped blocks. Don't place any screws yet.
27. Place 9 on the front bottom to form the front wall. This will act as a spacer but will need to be a little loose fitting so it can be opened and closed. It's the hinged cleaning flap.
28. Now you're ready to put the front door in!
29. Place 11 on the front top of the box so that the grooves are on the bottom below the hole. The owls will use these for gripping to get into the box.
30. The top of the piece should be flush up against the roof.
31. Carefully place two screws in the top left and top right of 11. Things will start to square up now, so if you need to loosen any other screws to get things perfectly aligned, this is a good time.

32. If you've made any mistakes, don't worry. You can back the screws out and put toothpicks in the hole to close up any mistakes. If you need to re-drill any of the pilot holes this is a good time, since you can probably at this point see what the finished product will look like.
33. Shim as needed.
34. Wiggle the front wall around until it's perfectly flush and put the remaining screws in the 18 side pieces.
35. Put the remaining screws in the 11 front piece.
36. Pre-sink screws into the #20 piece so that the just the screw points protrude from the other side.
37. Press the four #3B blocks centered in the screw tips, pointing toward the front and sink the screws.
38. You're almost there!
39. Place #20 on top again with the blocks facing up.
40. Center it and make the back flush.
41. Temporarily anchor the back two pre-drilled holes so they are relatively centered into the block they butt up against.
42. Paint the entire box a light green color now. Let it dry.
43. Paint the entire #24 piece a light grey color now. Let it dry.
44. After drying, place #24 on top of the blocks on top of the box.
45. Align using the predrilled holes so that the distance from the back of the roof and the back of the shade is two inches.
46. Double check this alignment. Measure the front so that there is an extra overhang of two inches above the front door.
47. Sink all the screws once more to make sure they are about one mm below the surface of the wood. Be careful not to strip the screws.
48. Mount the remaining hinges on the front of the box so the lid flips forward when opened. Put them about an inch from each side on either side with the pointy side down.
49. Back the top back screws out and replace with eye screws. Tighten them by putting a screwdriver or other metal bar in the hole and turning. Don't do it by hand. Do it one at a time so it stays aligned.
50. Put the remaining two eye screws (not with bare hands) on the front bottom of the cleaning flap, which is piece #9. Align them so they grab the blocks on the inside of the box.
51. Check the inside and outside of the box for any splinters or sharp spots and file them down with a metal rasp.
51. You're done!