



## Recycled Fat Ball Feeder



Good for the birds and good for the environment. Instead of buying a new fat ball feeder why not re-use single use plastic bottles?! This will save you money, reduce the amount of new plastic needed to make a new fat ball feeders and recycles some of your waste plastic in the home. Win, win and win!

This simple design uses the body of one bottle with round 4cm holes cut into it to give the birds access to the fat balls and the top of a bigger bottle to create the roof. The string keeps everything together and is great for hanging.

Get creative and decorate your feeder roof for more garden

No Glue, no mess, just recycling fun!

# Recycled Fat Ball Feeder

Let's get started!



## What you will need

### The Fat Ball Feeder

- A small plastic bottle (500ml works well)
- A larger plastic bottle (750ml works well)
- 2 x Lengths of string

### Tools

- A Pin
- A pair of scissors (nail scissors work well)

## The Base

1



- Turn the bottle upside down
- Use the pin to make a hole in the bottom
- Wiggle it around to increase the size
- Not too much
- This will allow any dampness to run out
- Repeat several times

2



- Use the pin to make a hole in the bottle just where the bottle starts to narrow

3



- Wiggle the scissors in using the hole
- Cut around the bottle to remove the top

4



- Test that you can fit a fat ball in

5



- Use the pin to make a hole approx. 4 cm above the bottom of the bottle

6



- Use the scissors to cut out a hole 3 – 4 cm round
- Don't worry about it being perfectly round, the birdies won't judge you!

7



- Repeat the process on the opposite side of the bottle
- Use the pin to make a hole approx. 4 cm above the bottom of the bottle
- Use the scissors to cut out a hole 3 – 4 cm across

8



- Now rotate the bottle so that the first hole is facing you
- Using the pin, make a hole on the side of the bottle approx. 4cm higher up than the bottom hole
- Use the scissors to cut out a hole 3 – 4 cm across

9



- Repeat the process on the opposite side of the bottle
- You will now have 4 large holes in the bottle
- The birds will use these to get to the fat balls

10



- Use the pin to make a hole approx. 1cm below the rim of the base

11



- Use the scissors to widen the hole

12



- Make another hole opposite the first
- Use the scissors to widen the hole
- Make another hole between the 2 holes (and widen it with the scissors)
- Make a final hole opposite (and widen it with the scissors)

13



- Using one of your pieces of strings
- Thread the ends through 2 of the opposite holes
- Tie securely

14



- Using the second piece of string
- Thread the ends through the remaining 2 of holes
- Tie securely

## The Roof

1



- Take the second bottle
- It should be larger than the first

2



- Using the pin make a hole in the bottle
- This should be 1cm below where the neck narrows
- (you can always trim it later if there is too much overhang)

3



- Using the scissors
- Cut around the bottle to remove the top

4



- Use the pin to make a hole as close to the centre of the bottle top as possible
- This might be difficult as the plastic can be thicker in the middle
- Use the scissors to make the whole large enough to feed your strings through

5



- Feed the end of the 2 pieces of string through the hole and out of the neck of the bottle

6



- Feed the string through the hole in the top of your bottle

7



- Now slide the roof down the string
- It should sit snugly against the base
- It should have at least a 1cm – 2cm overhang
- If there is too much overhang on the roof you can trim some off

8



- If one string is longer than the other
- Tie a knot so that the base stays level
- Use the longer piece of string as your hook

9



- To put your balls in
- Slide the roof up
- Slot the balls between the strings
- Slide the roof back down again



## Now Go Wild!

### Personalise your feeder house!

- I've used a vinyl wrap (this is harder than it looks!)
- You can use acrylic paint to paint your roof!
- You could even stick on some buttons!
- I fancy a fairy mushroom house next with a red roof with white spots!
- The possibilities are endless!

### Top Tips

- Do be careful of any sharp edges when you are cutting plastic. We don't want any damaged fingers
- If you have some sharp edges and are worried about the birds you can cover them with a bit of Sellotape (other brands of tape are available) or rub them with the edge of a candle, the wax should smooth them out

Happy Feeding Wildlife Warriors!