



## Notes for Making Janssen Bluebird Hole or Slot Nest Boxes

(Some notations are also on the drawings.)

### Wood:

- Use 1"x 6" cedar for the sides, back and front; and 1"x 8" for the roof.
- Before starting, check your boards for warping. Use flat boards for the front and back, and warped ones for the sides.
- The rough sides of all the boards should face inward, **except the back**. The rough side of the back should face out, so when you look at a finished box from the front you'll see all smooth boards.
- If making multiple boxes, it's easier to cut all the backs together, all sides together, all fronts together and all roofs together, based on the drawing measurements.
- Because of variability of board dimensions, some of the box measurements will not be precise.

### Roof:

- Make sure that the roofs are cut across the grain to minimize warping.
- For roof placement, measure down on the back board  $1 \frac{1}{2}$ " which will be the placement for the top of the roof. Line up right side board with the bottom of the roof and attach with a screw (only one screw is used on the top of the roof). The left side needs to be kept free on the top so it can swing down to open. Put two screws through the back, into the roof securing it in place.
- Apply a line of clear silicone caulk across the top seam of the box, where the roof joins the back, to help keep the box water resistant. Wipe off excess caulk.

### Door:

- For placement of door hinges measure 1" from the bottom of the door (left side) for placement on the front and back. Also, when looking at the front of the box, the screw for the left-side hinged and the right-side non-hinged should line up. The sides and front should all line up even at the bottom.

### Slot and Hole:

- When making a slot box, make sure that the slot is the correct angle to keep the opening  $1 \frac{1}{8}$ " (to deter house sparrows).
- For consistent and accurate slot spacing, have a piece of wood cut  $1 \frac{1}{8}$ " high with 5° bevels at the top and bottom to use during assembly as a spacer between the roof and the front.
- For a hole box, the hole should be centered and the middle of the hole should measure approximately  $1 \frac{1}{2}$ " from the bottom of the roof.

### Logo:

- For Bluebird Society boxes, the logo should be centered on the front piece, between the last kerf and the bottom, and also centered between both sides. The current style is to recess the logo cutting a 3" circle with a forstner bit.

### Fit & Finish:

- Sand off or erase pen/pencil marks used during assembly.
- Door should open and close easily. Sides of the door might need to be sanded or floor might need to be shortened for the best fit.
- Nail in side of door should be easy to put in and take out.
- All panels should align with their associated panels, top-to-bottom, and side-to-side.

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