

## **Snell / Potter Side Mount Top / Front Open Bluebird Nest Box**

### **The Snell / Potter Side Mount Top / Front Open Bluebird Nest Box allows:**

- Viewing through the top.
- Clean out through the front.
- Side mounting on fence posts to allow fledglings to fly to next post on first flight.
- Easy access without tools.

### **The Snell / Potter Side Mount Top / Front Open Bluebird Nest Box is designed so:**

- There is a gap between roof and sides for ventilation.
- The 2\*6 floor is an integral part keeping the whole nest box together.
- The ¼” plywood roof is spring loaded: it is slid under catch board on peak; is bent over two screws on sides; and held in place along the eave by a nail and pipe strap.
- The entrance hole piece is plywood (other boards may crack and catch a bird’s leg).
- Uses guidelines set out in Donald and Lillian Stokes’ book “The Bluebird Book”.
- Uses ¾” board material for insulation from the heat and the cold.

### **Build one nest box first to familiarize yourself then cut all parts remembering to:**

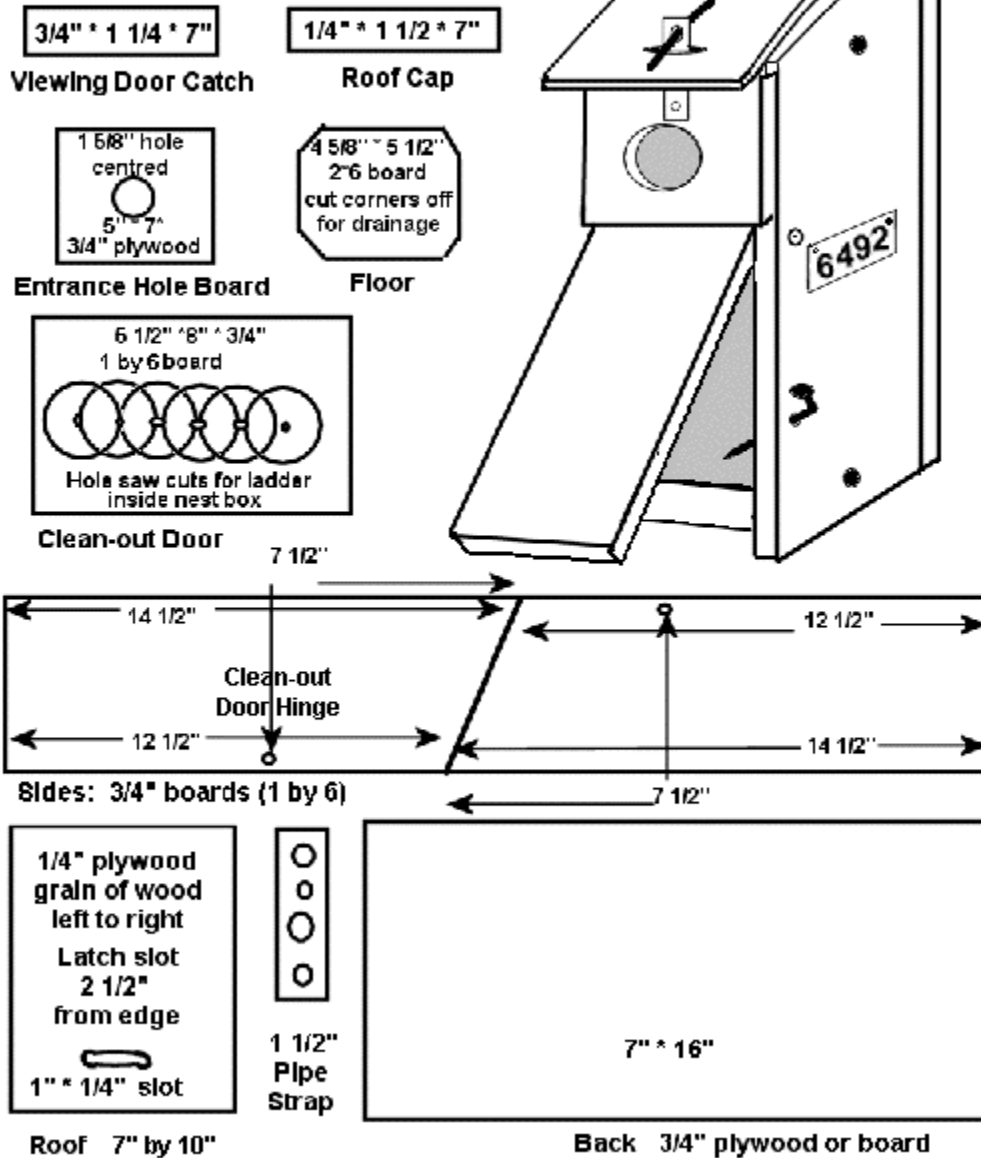
- Pre-drill all holes with a countersink bit to prevent splitting in boards.
- Make saw cuts for ladder on inside of door with a hole saw on a drill press (safer).
- Make holes in each side for installing the door. Use a square to measure 7 1/2” from top of long side. Mark the short side. Make straight holes by pre-drilling a 5/32” hole on each short side using a drill press and a jig board clamped to platform (See diagram of sides).

### **Instructions to assist the builder in constructing nest box:**

- Build a jig to attach floor to sides (Controls width and flushes roof peak of sides).
- Place the sides, long side down, on the jig with top against stopper.
- Attach the 2\*6 floor ¾” from the bottom of the sides with 4-2” screws.
- Clamp the clean-out door in place flush with bottom of sides. Drill a 3/32” hole, through the 5/32” side holes, into clean out door. Use 2 – 2” screws. Secure loosely.
- Align entrance-hole-board with clean-out-door open wide. Secure with 4-2” screws.
- Attach back with 6-2” screws. Two each side and two for floor (can clamp if needed).
- Pre-drill and place a 1 1/2” screw in top edge of each side. Allow screws to protrude ¼” or more to provide a fulcrum to give the roof spring (door latch).
- Attach door (roof) catch with roof in place for guidance. Use 2-1 ¼” screws.
- Attach ridge cap with 2 – ½” nails into back.
- Attach 1 ½” pipe strapping using a ¾” screw about 1” from top of entrance hole.
- Place roof on and check for spring and adjust the two fulcrum screws if necessary.
- Make a 7/32” hole angled down into edge of side and clean out door for 3” nail catch.
- Drill two 7/32” holes centered in each side for 3 to 3 ½” mounting screws. Angle drill through the top of the nest box and angle drill up on bottom of sides.
- If painting use light colors or linseed oil. Birds will not nest in year you paint.
- These plans may need to be adjusted depending on the material you have therefore building one first is a good idea.

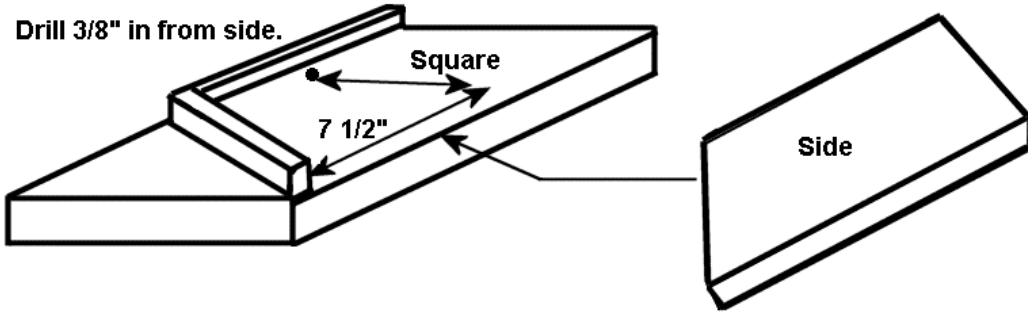
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# Snell / Potter Side Mount, Top & Front Opening Bluebird Nest Box



**Jigs for Snell/Potter Side Mount,  
Top & Front Opening Bluebird Nest Box**

**Clean-Out Door Hinge Hole Jig**



**Aligning Sides Jig**

