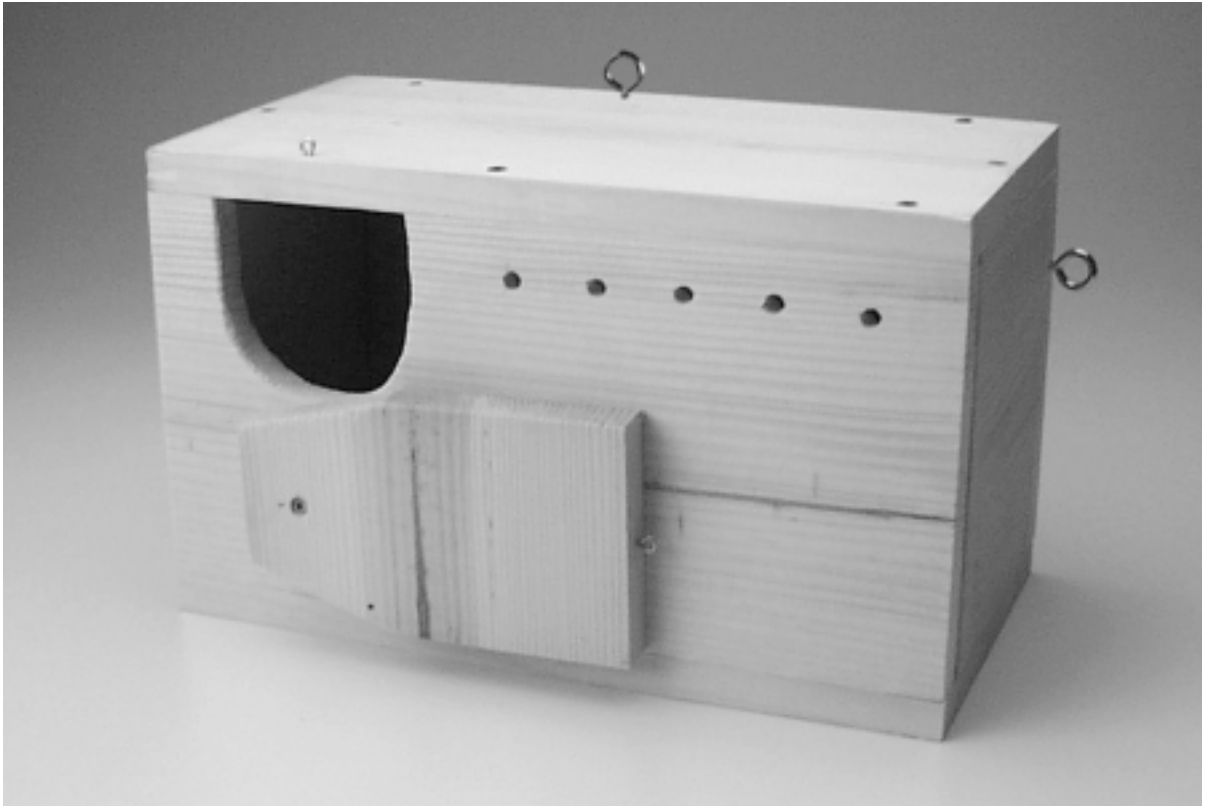
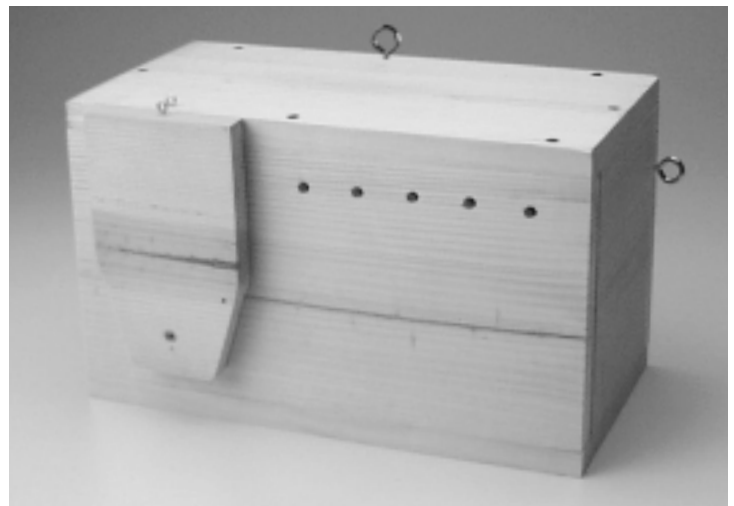


Squirrel Nest Box Plans

Plans for Nest Boxes for Orphaned Squirrels

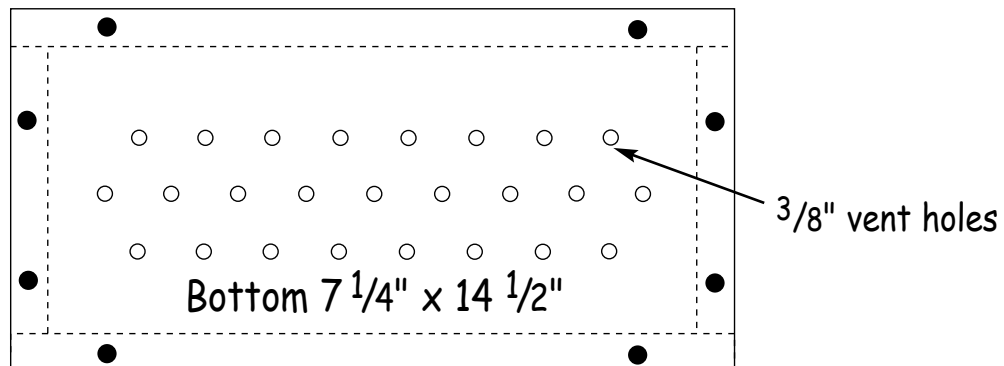
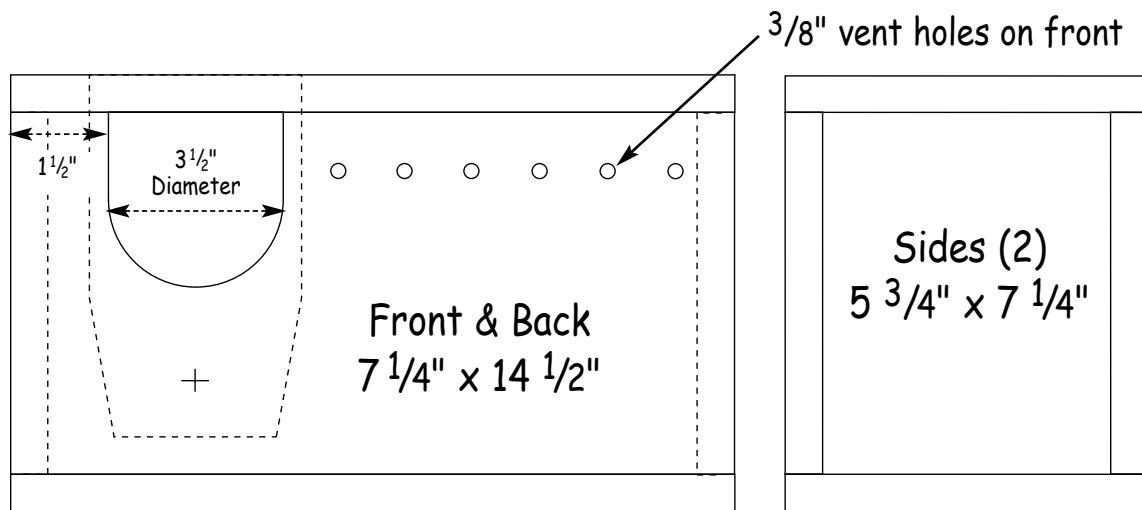
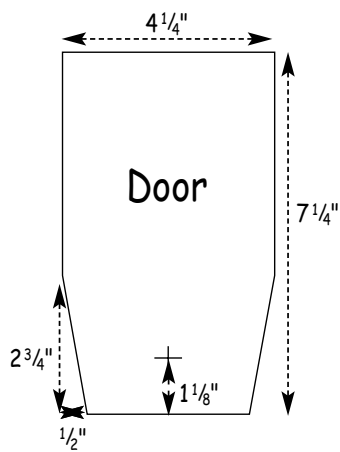
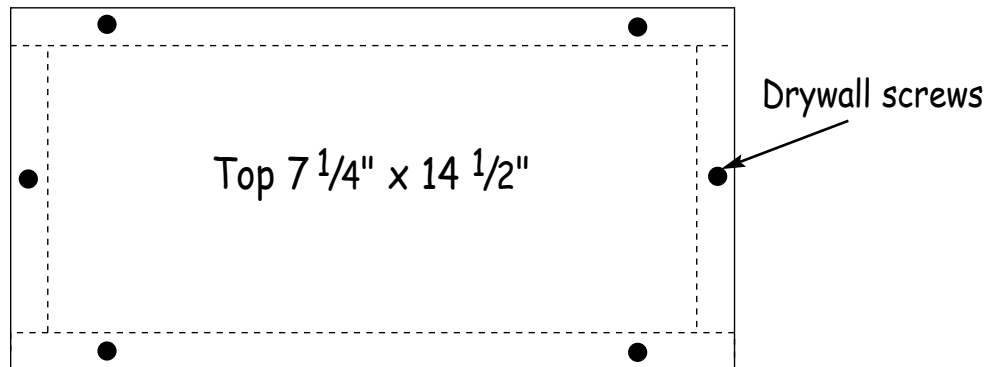


Squirrel Nest Boxes are used to provide shelter for orphaned or rehabilitated squirrels when they're released back into the wild



Materials

- (1) 1" x 8" x 7' Pine board (actual dimensions are $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $7\frac{1}{4}$ " x 7'). You can use a 6' board, if you have additional scrap material for the door- $4\frac{1}{4}$ " x $7\frac{1}{4}$ "
- 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " drywall screws (these are inexpensive and rust-proof)
- (3) 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ " screw eyes (or similar size)
- (2) $\frac{1}{4}$ " screw eyes (or similar size) for door

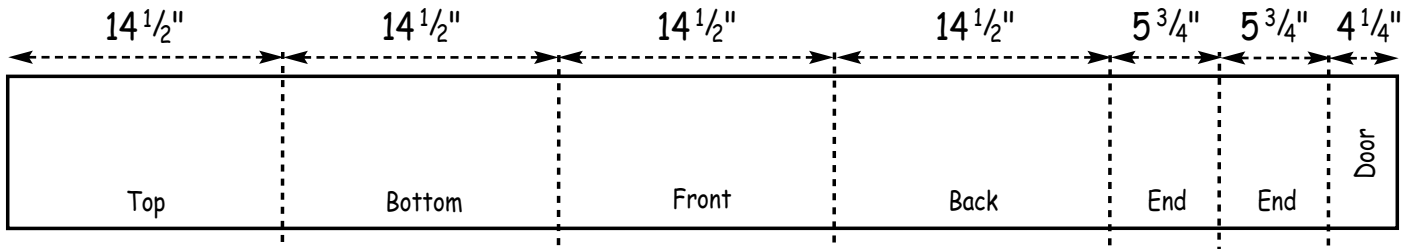


Instructions

Step 1:

Cut the top, bottom, front, back and sides from the pine board.

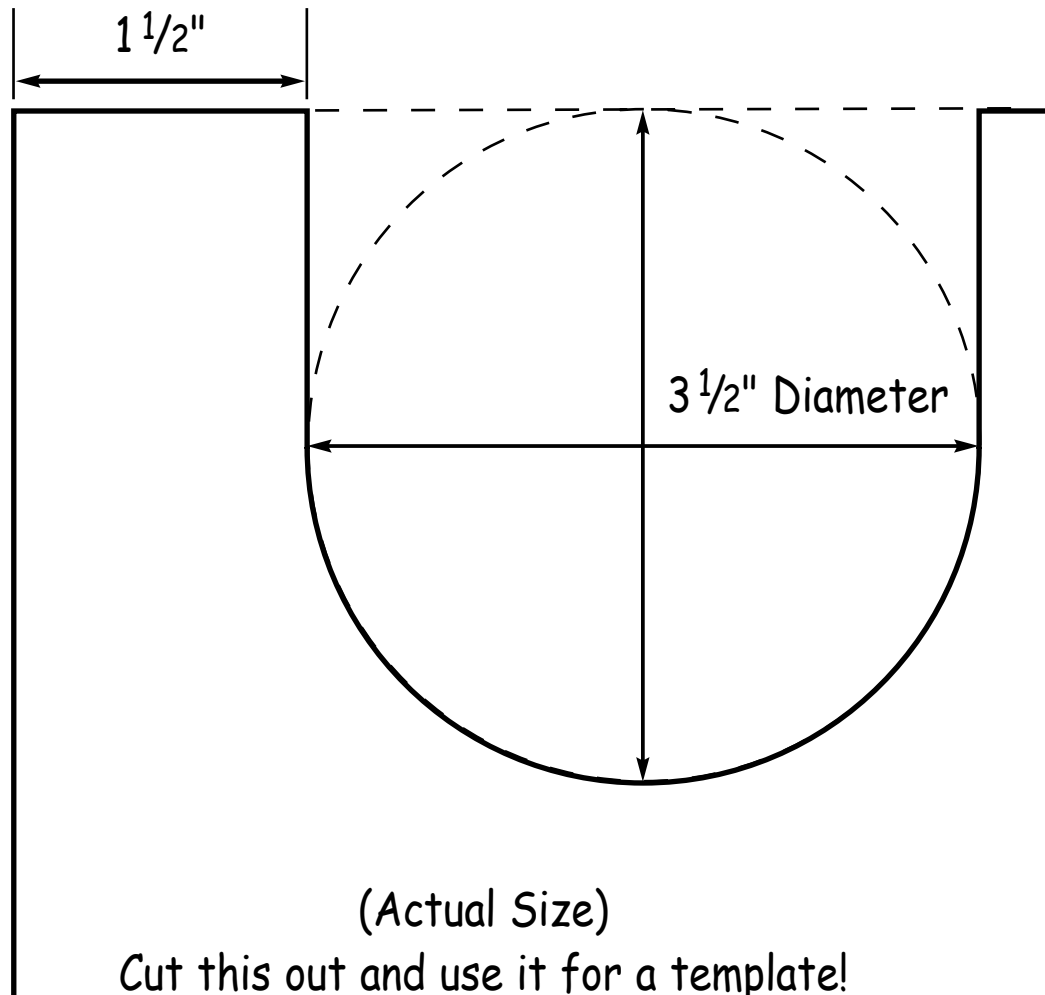
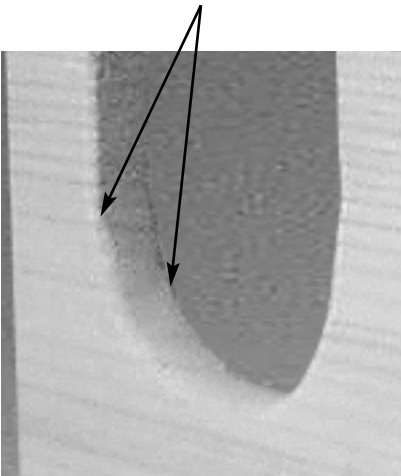
The top, bottom, front and back panels are all the same dimensions.



Step 2:

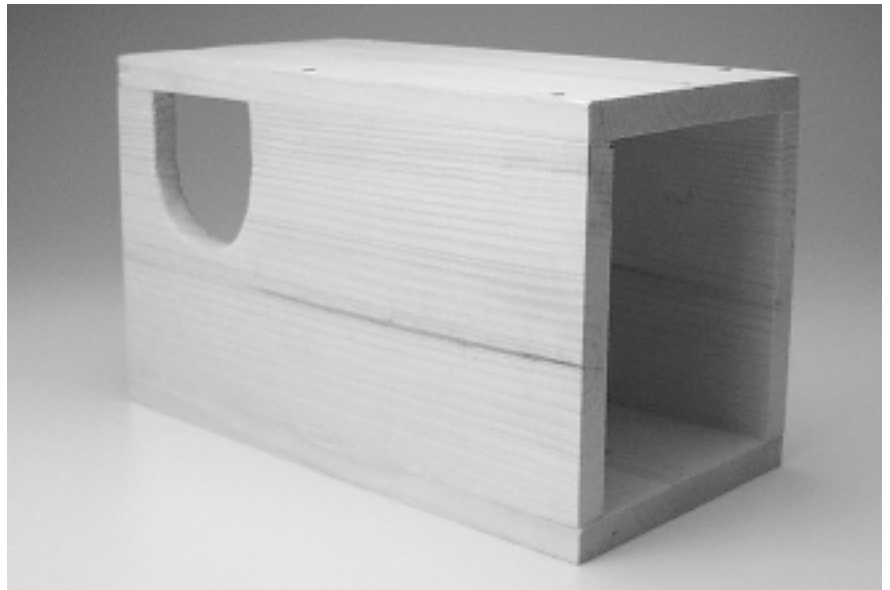
Cut the 3 1/2" door opening in the front panel as shown. A rounded opening is preferred, but you can also make a square hole if it's easier.

Use a coarse wood file to round off the inside edges of the hole as shown.



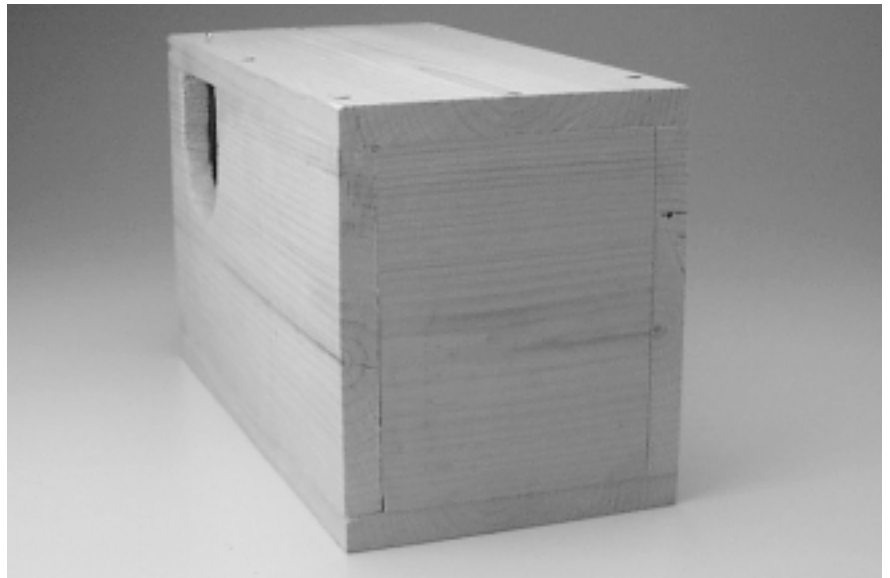
Step 3:

Assemble the top, bottom and sides as shown, using 1 1/4" drywall screws. Front and back panels sit on top of the bottom panel. Drill small pilot holes to avoid splitting the wood.



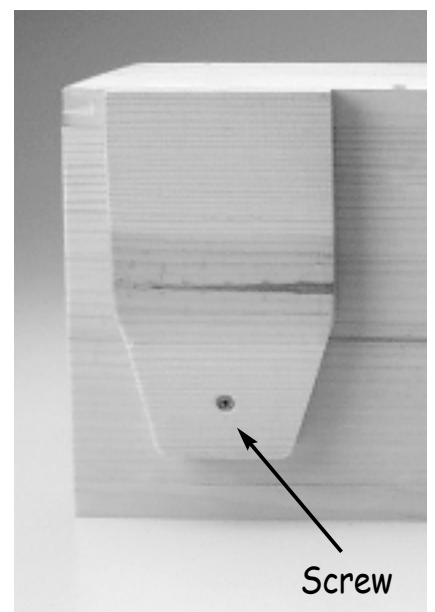
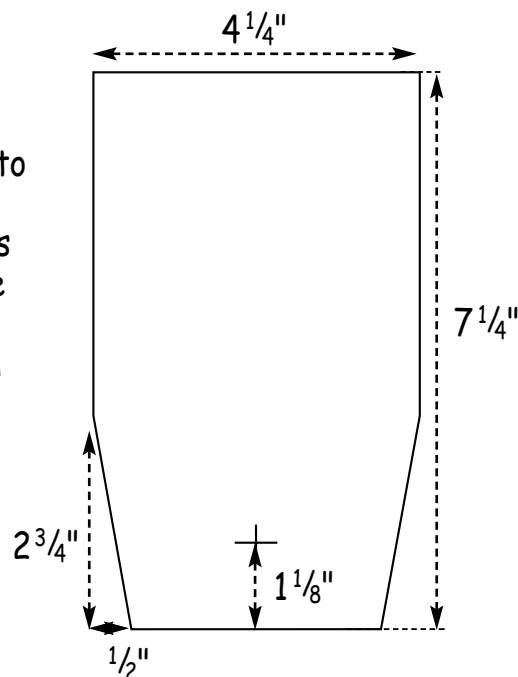
Step 4:

Insert the two end panels, attaching with drywall screws on the top and bottom. Don't worry about any small gaps in the wood between panels (this just allows for more ventilation).



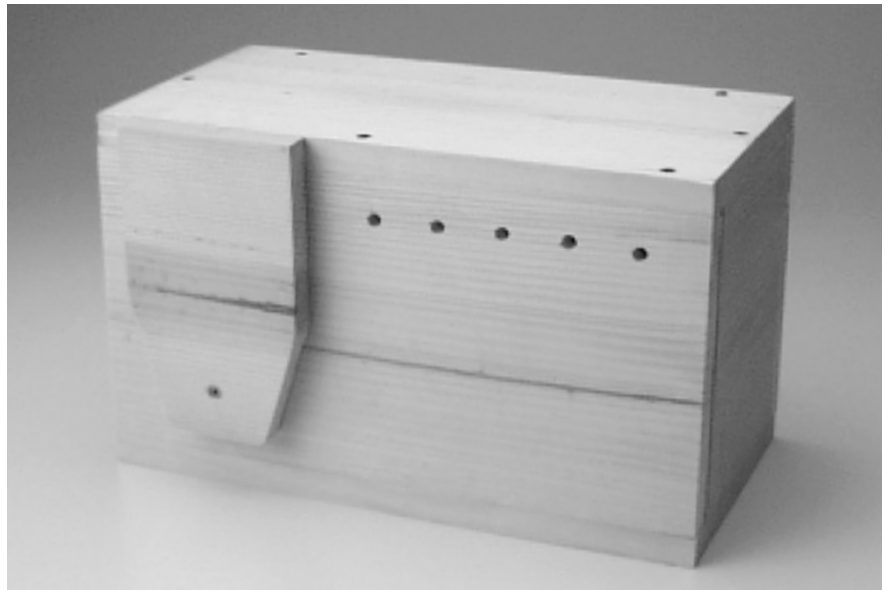
Step 5:

Make the door from a piece of 3/4" pine, cut as shown. Attach to the front of the box over the hole, with one screw centered as indicated. Top of door should be flush with the top of the box. This door will only be used when squirrels are transported.



Step 6:

Drill $\frac{3}{8}$ " vent holes along top of box front, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ " from the top. This provides ventilation while the box is being transported.



Step 7:

Drill $\frac{3}{8}$ " drain/vent holes in the bottom of the box.

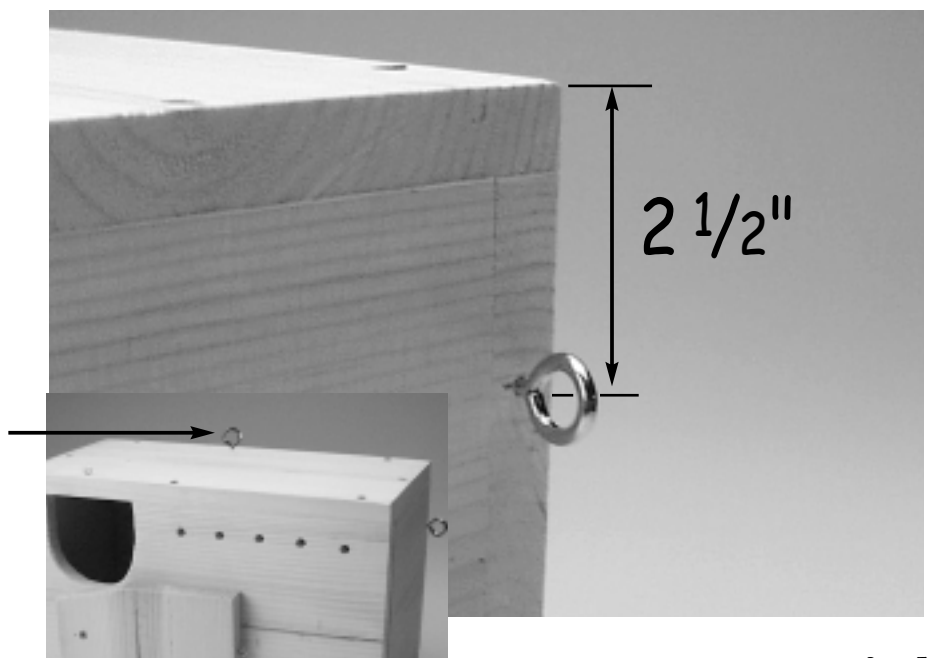
After drilling, run your hand around the bottom INSIDE the box, to check for sharp splinters, and scuff up the floor if any are present. Or, pre-drill the holes before assembling the box.



Step 8:

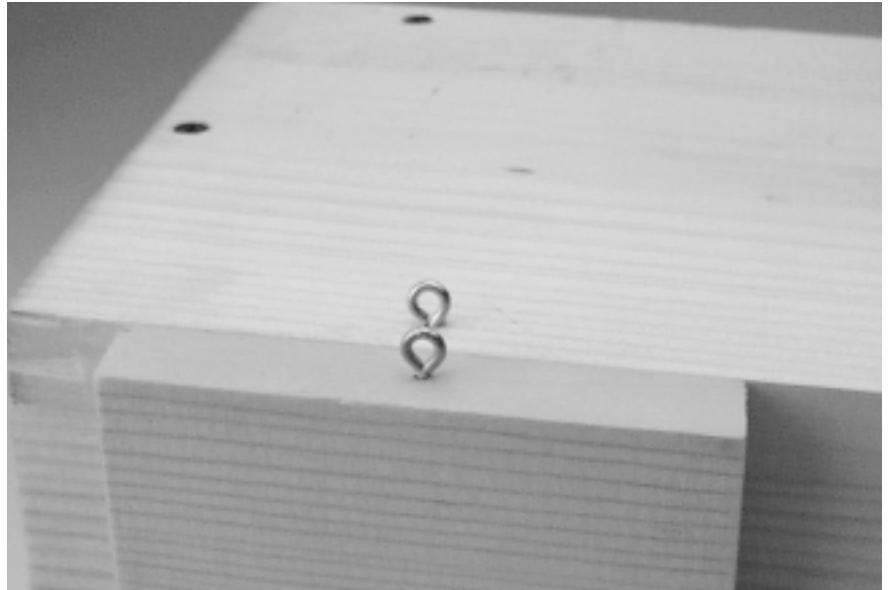
Attach two large screw eyes to sides of box. Bungee cords will be attached to these eyelets and wrapped around the tree to secure the box off the ground.

Attach a third screw eye to the TOP of the box, centered halfway along the back. This will be used to "hang" the box onto the tree.



Step 9:

Attach two small screw eyes to the top of the door and box. These must line up with each other. While transporting, a twist tie is inserted between the two to lock the door closed.



Step 10:

As a final step, double-check that there are no screws protruding on the inside of the box that could scratch a squirrel!

Step 11:

Admire your work! That's all it takes to build a cozy nest box that squirrels will enjoy living in!

