

How to Build a Chickadee House

For your bird house you will need:

- An 8-10" long log about 6" in diameter (preferably a cedar or redwood log note: I didn't have any available)
- An old corn bristle broom
- A 13" x 13" cedar board
- A hard wood scrape at least 20" long and 5" wide
- A large (9x13) disposable aluminum foil pan
- A branch about 1 1/4" in diameter (this may vary)
- A water proof wood sealer (Minwax Helmsman Spar Urethane is a good sealer option)
- A drill
- A 1 1/4" drill bit that is at least 2" longer than your log (10-12")
- A hand saw a thin blade
- A 1 1/4" hole saw bit
- Nails or screws
- A butterfly bit at least a 1 1/4"
- A chisel and hammer
- A tape measure
- A straight edge
- A rotary saw
- A hacksaw blade (you don't need hacksaw)
- A hot glue gun and some glue
- A protractor
- A staple gun (optional)

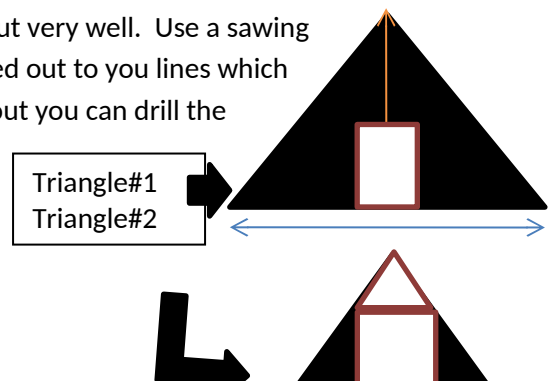


Take your log and mark a square in the center 3 1/4 x 3 1/4". Set your log on a table or stand that has a hole in the center so you can drill the whole way through (a brake rotor works great). Next run your drill bit through the center of the log first. Next run 4 or 5 more holes really close together at the center of the log. Now you should have 6 holes in a group in the center of your log, take your butterfly bit and run it through the center of the holes (if your butterfly bit is too short like mine was you'll need to run it in from both sides). Now that you have the butterfly bit through the log you can stick the hacksaw blade in to the log and begin to saw. This is tedious but there are very few (if any) better ways to hollow out the log. Saw with the hacksaw blade until the hand saw can fit in or you can chisel the hole bigger. You will need to use the hand saw

on the cross grains because a chisel will not chisel that out very well. Use a sawing and chiseling combination until you have the log hollowed out to you lines which are 3 1/4 x 3 1/4". Now that you have the log hollowed out you can drill the hole with your 1 1/4" hole saw bit. You will want the



The log after hole was sawed out.



Triangle#1
Triangle#2

hole 5" of the base of your bird house. Under your birdhouse hole you will drill another hole the size of your branch and insert your branch for a perch. Also screw in four 1" screws down inside the log. Then cut a board 3 1/4 x 3 1/4" to sit on top the screws. Wedge the board into the hole (this is to keep out any water in the case your roof leaks). Now you can begin the roof. The roof is supported by two overlapping triangles. To draw the triangles on your scrape wood begin with the base. The base of the triangle should be 6" long. Put your protractor on one end of the line and draw a mark at 45°, remove the protractor and using the mark draw the line. Do the same on the other side. Now you should have your triangles (the slant height should be 4 1/4) however don't cut them now you need to cut a notch so that they will overlap. Draw a line through the center of your triangle by measuring in 3" from either edge. Take the thickness of your wood (likely 3/4") and divide that in half (3/8" for a 3/4" thick piece). For triangle #1 you will mark from the center of your triangle a mark out half the thickness of your wood and up 2 7/10" so that you will be deleting a rectangular space to fit the other triangle in to. For triangle #2 you will do the same thing only to the peak of your need fastened) and put some hot glue on their bases to hold them in triangle (examine my triangles if you're not sure what I mean, white is what you're cutting out). Stick the 2 triangles together (they don't place on the roof while you predrill the holes for your screws that hold the triangles on. Put the screws (or nails) in and then you are ready for the aluminum foil pan. Cut the pan in to 4 pieces with scissors (remember to fold back the edges so you don't cut yourself) and staple (or hot glue) them to your triangle frame and cut of the extras off. Now that you have the roof made you can layer it with thatch. You get your thatch by taking your corn bristle broom and cutting the bristles of about 10" long. Next you layer these on the roof using hot glue to tack these in place. Keep layering until you have the entire aluminum pan covered and invisible. Now you are ready for the base. Begin by taking you 13 x 13" board and coating it with your sealer. Since this bird house is made to be mounted on a post hinges on the base get in the way so, you will simply take your 13 x 13" cedar board and screw it to the bird house with four screw (to clean it out you will need to unscrew them). Now it is up to you how you would like to decorate your birdhouse enjoy! ~Shannon K. Diller



This is my finished product!

