

Build a Bottle Bird Feeder - Instructions

You will need the following ...

	Quantity	Part No	Description
Rear Panel	1	1	150 mm 410 mm
Roof	1	2a	150 mm x 150 mm
Roof	1	2b	150 mm x 131 mm
Base	1	3a	150 mm x 112 mm
Base	1	3b	188 mm x 40 mm
Base	2	3c	131 mm x 40 mm
Bottle Arms	2	4	100 mm x 40 mm
Dowel	1	5	8mm (Diam) x 140mm
Plastic Clip	1	6	40 mm pipe clip.
Nails	-	7	50 mm galvanised wire nails.
Screws	2	8	4 mm x 16 mm
Screws	2	9	3.5 mm x 40 mm
Wood Glue	n/a	10	Exterior wood glue

This project requires pressure treated (tanalised) rough sawn timber 150mm x 19mm. Using another size of timber will require a recalculation of the sizes given in the table above.

Instructions.

This project is best tackled in 4 steps...

- a. Connect the 2 roof panels together.
- b. Connect all the elements of the base together.
- c. Connect the roof and the base to the rear panel.
- d. Attach the bottle arms and pipe clip to the rear panel.

The finished item ...

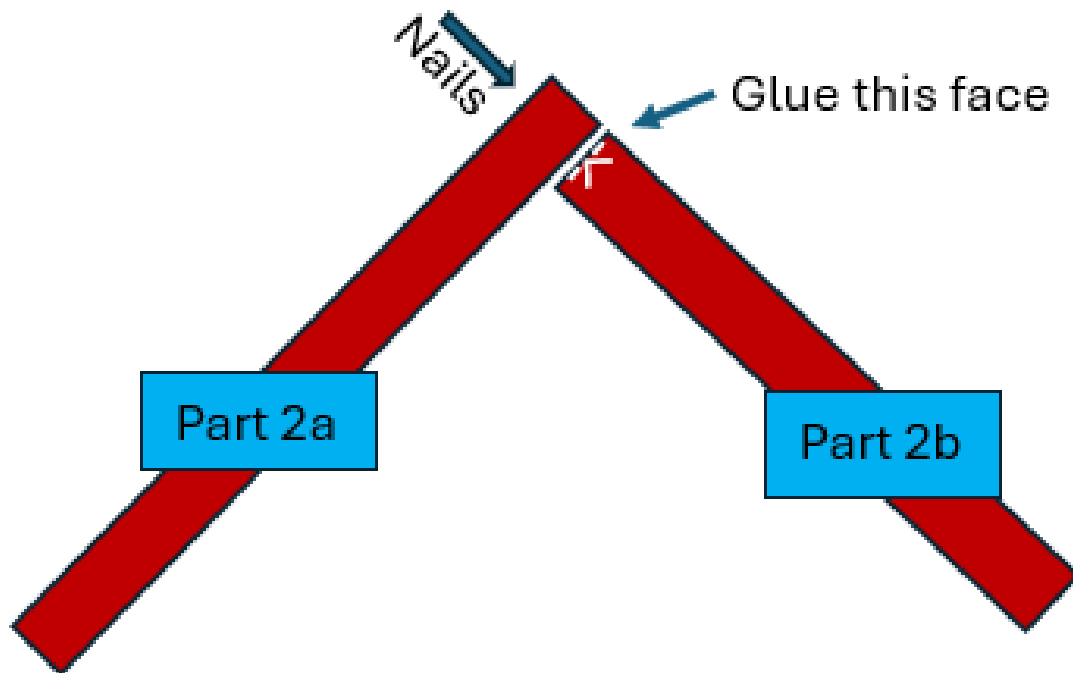


As you work your way through these instructions, use these images to refer to back to check that you are building the feeder correctly.

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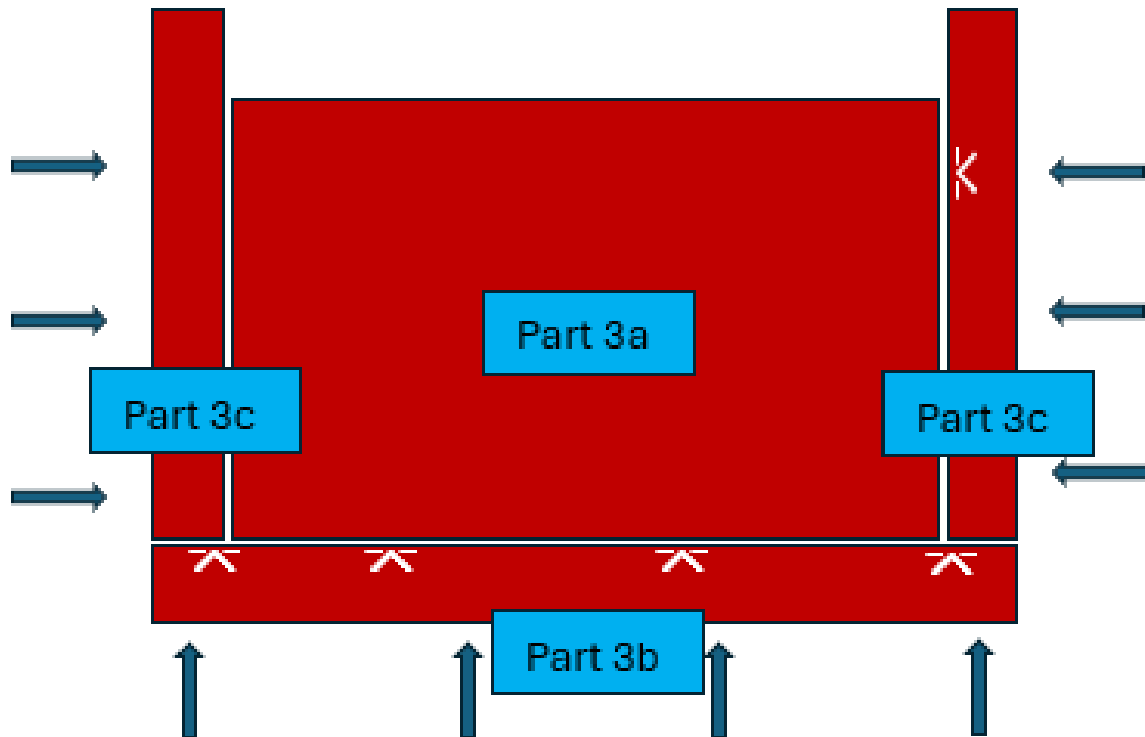


1. Connect the roof panels together.



Place a bead of wood glue along the narrow face of Part No. 2b (marked \times) so that Part No. 2a. and Part No. 2b will be glued together. Take care to do this the right way around. Part No. 2b is the shorter of the 2 pieces (see image above). Carefully nail Part No. 2a to Part No. 2b, taking care to make sure that the nails go into the wood in such a way that they go in straight. If they go in at an angle, you may find the sharp end of the nail emerging from the side of Part No. 2b. Carefully wipe of any excess glue.

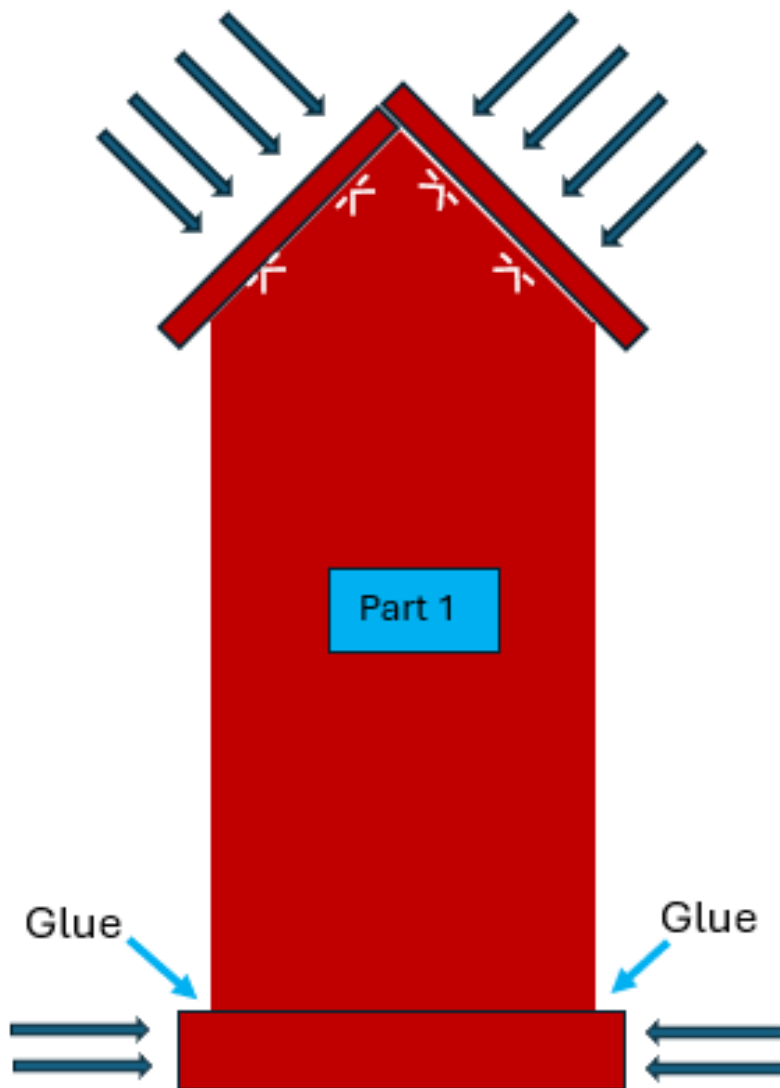
2. Connect all the elements of the base together.



Using glue between all the faces to be nailed together, nail Parts No. 3b and 3c to Part No. 3a so that they form the 'tray' of the bottle bird feeder. Remember to refer back to the photos on page 2 of these instructions if you are unsure about how they go together.

At the corners, use additional nails to nail Part No. 3b to both the 'sides' (Parts No. 3c). Again, take care to ensure that all nails go in straight, and take care to line up all the pieces of wood properly before nailing them. Carefully remove any excess glue.

3. Connect the roof and the base to the rear panel



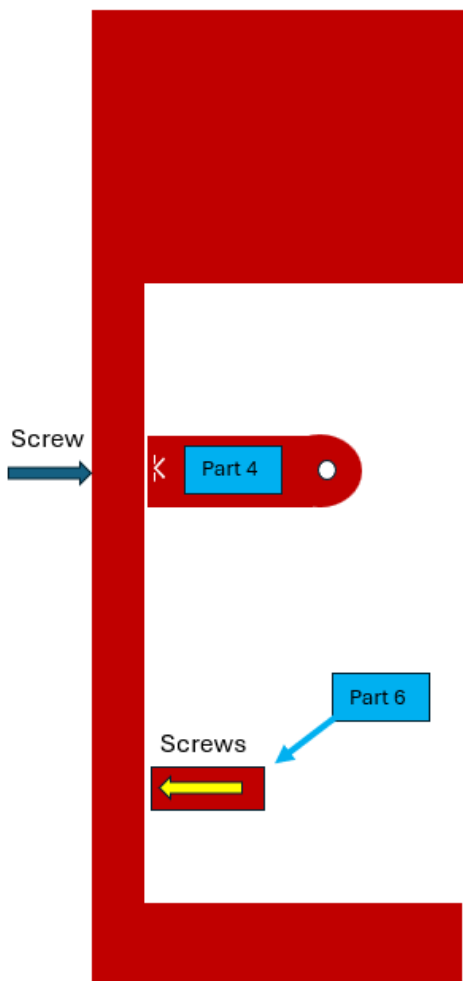
Important - The back side of the rear panel has the 'countersunk' holes in it.

Using glue as before, nail the roof to the rear panel (Part No. 1), and, again using glue, slot the rear panel into the rear of the base 'tray' so that it fits snugly, and nail Parts No. 3c to the rear panel as shown.

From the side, the feeder should now look similar to the image shown to the right. Refer back to the images on page 2 if you feel that it is not going as it should !



4. Attach the bottle arms and pipe clip to the rear panel.



Using glue as indicated, screw part 4 (x2) as shown below to the rear panel using the 50mm screws.

There are 2 countersunk holes in the rear panel, and holes in the 'glue face' of Part No. 4, so the screws should present only minimal resistance. **DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN THESE SCREWS.**

Prior to attaching the plastic clip to the face of the rear panel, hold the bottle in place, and then arrange the clip so that the hole at the top of the bottle will be held about 1 cm (10mm) from the base plate.

The final position of the plastic clip will depend on the bottle used. The clip requires 2 screws (16mm) to fix it in place. **DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN THESE SCREWS.**

Once in place, carefully place the bottle neck into the pipe clip, and use the dowel (Part No. 5) to hold the bottle in place between the bottle arms. The dowel is designed to be a loose fit.

Note that the glue will take around 8 hours to dry, but once dry, the bird feeder should be very resilient. Until this time, the feeder should be handled with care.

Setting up the Bottle Bird Feeder.

1. The rear panel has a hole drilled through it. This can be used to hang the feeder from a nail, or, alternatively, the feeder could be screwed to a fence or wall. Ideally it would be best positioned so that it is not facing into the prevailing wind. This is just to minimise the risk of the seed becoming damp when it rains.
2. Using a funnel, fill the bottle with seed. It is best to avoid peanuts as ...
 - They can 'jam' in the bottle neck, and...
 - Small birds can choke on peanuts.

It is also best to avoid suet, as it quickly 'clogs up' the neck of the bottle if it gets damp.

3. Holding your thumb over the bottle neck, invert the bottle, and slip the neck into the plastic clip, and then slide the provided dowel rod into the holes on the bottle arms. Some seed will 'spill' out, but once the pile of seed reaches the bottle neck, it will stop.
4. Clean the seed tray regularly, as damp seed will eventually build up.
5. Enjoy watching the birds !