

BAT CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL'S OFFICIAL BAT HOUSE

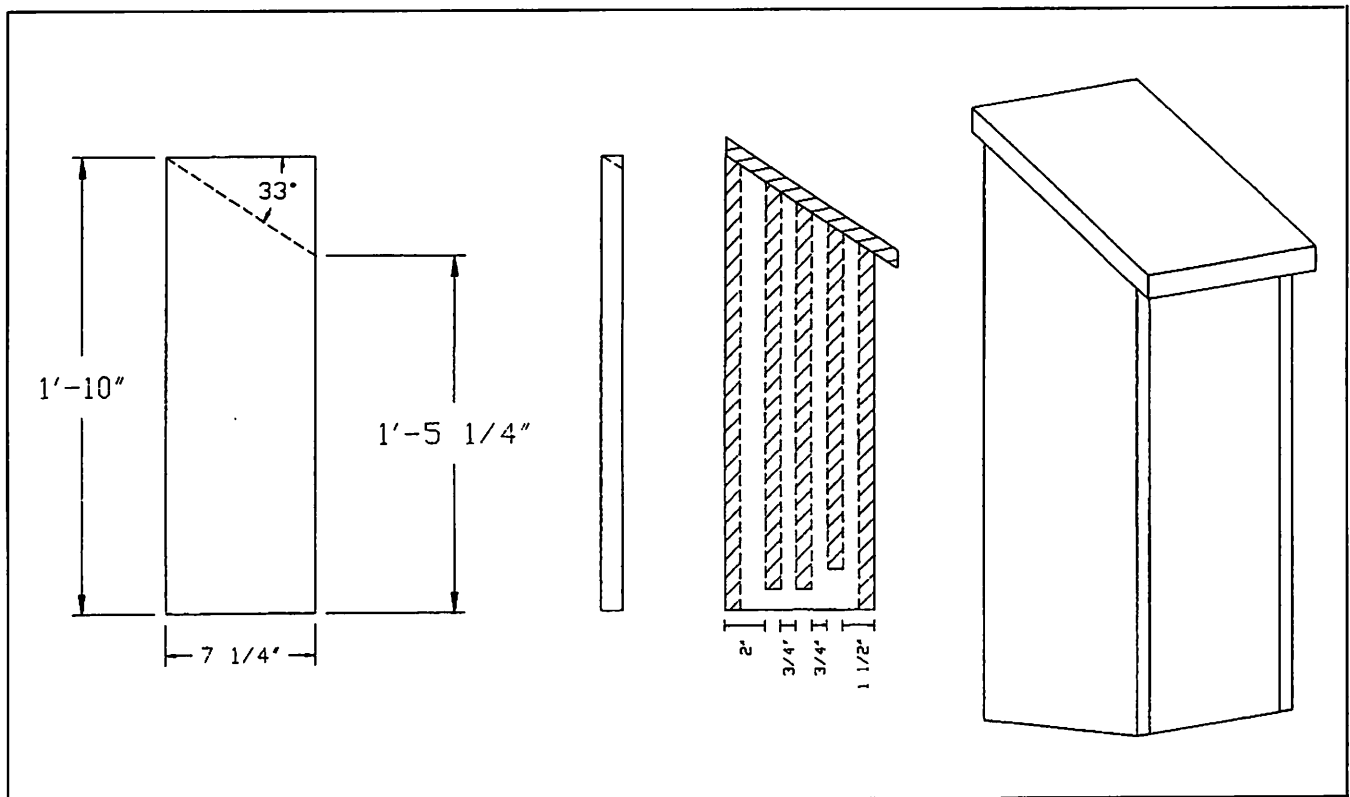
More and more people are requesting information about bats and how to attract them. We hope this reflects a better public understanding of bats and bat ecology.

Bats respond to man-made housing in much the same way as birds. Unfortunately, they also respond to our houses and other buildings if access is available. The result is often an unwanted bat "infestation". If this is your problem, a bat house probably won't lure them away from your attic or barn. Bat proofing is the answer. For more information obtain UW-Extension Bulletin G3096, *Bats: Information for Wisconsin Homeowners*. Although a bat house will not solve a bat problem, it can attract bats to your yard where you can enjoy their magnificent flying skills and benefit from their insectivorous appetites.

The following design and instructions were provided by Bat Conservation International, a large conservation group dedicated to bats and worldwide bat conservation. If you want more information on bats and the activities of Bat Conservation International, write to BCI at PO Box 162603, Austin, Texas 78716.

The Little Brown Bat and the Big Brown Bat are most likely to use a bat house in Wisconsin.

To maximize your chances of attracting them, place your bat house 12' to 15' above the ground, and firmly attach it to the side of a building or a convenient tree. Sites near water are the most attractive. Try to shelter the bat house from prevailing winds. Bats are very temperature-sensitive and generally select stable temperatures between 80 and 100 degrees F. In our climate a sunny exposure will help maintain warm temperatures. A black roof on the house will also help.



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MATERIALS

- 1 piece 1 x 8 (about 3/4" x 7 1/4") x 12' untreated, rough-sided cedar
- 1 piece 1 x 10 (about 3/4" x 9 1/4") x 11' untreated, rough-sided cedar for the top
- about 20 6d galvanized nails

Tools:

Skil saw with crosscut blade
hammer
ruler
tape measure
pencil

NOTES

1. Do not paint the sides or interior—the odor might repel bats.
2. Bats need a rough surface to secure a foothold. Be sure that all surfaces, especially those on the interior, are rough. If rough-sawn cedar is unavailable, roughen the boards by hand.
3. Some types of lumber split easily. You can avoid this by drilling small holes for the nails.

CONSTRUCTION

1. Cut the 12-foot cedar board into the following lengths:
 - a) 3 pieces 22" (for two sides and the back)
 - b) 1 piece 17 1/4" (for the front)
 - c) 2 pieces 13" (for two of the three partitions)
 - d) 1 piece 11" (for the final partition)
2. Take two of the 22" pieces and measure off 17 1/4" on one side of each piece. Make a pencil mark at this point.
3. Draw a diagonal line from the mark to the closest corner on the other side of the board.
4. Repeat Step 3 on the second piece.
5. Using a Skil saw, cut along the diagonal lines. Set these pieces aside for the moment (these will be the sides).

6. Adjust your Skil saw to a 33 degree angle. Take the third 22" board (the one you didn't mark a diagonal line on) and angle off one of the ends. This piece will be the back of the box. Repeat the same for the front piece, top piece and the two partitions.
7. Take the two side pieces from Step 5 and, using a ruler and pencil, mark both pieces according to the measurements shown in this figure. Mark both sides of both boards.
8. You're ready to start building. Take the two sides, the 22" back, and the 17 1/4" front and nail them together as illustrated, angled ends up.

*Note that the side pieces fit over the ends of the front and back pieces.

9. Insert the partitions. Lay the partially completed house on its side. Take the 13" internal partition and slide it into the box, *centering* it along the set of pencil lines closest to the back of the box. Position the partition so that it is flush with the tops of the sides.
10. Nail the partition in place from the outside. Use the outside lines as a guide for nail placement.
11. Follow the same procedure to nail both of the shorter partitions along the other two sets of lines near the front of the box.
12. Place the 10-inch 1 x 10 board on top so that its back edge is flush with the back of the box and creates an overhang in the front and on the sides. Hold firmly and nail the top to the main frame. The completed house should look like the drawing on the left.