

Bird Feeder Using a Plastic Pop Bottle

This bird feeder is built around a plastic soda bottle. They are lots of fun to make in the spring.

Materials needed:

Feeder is made using western cedar fence staves. These do not rot and are inexpensive. They are usually 6' long x 3 1/2" (or 3 3/8") wide.

1. One 16 oz. plastic pop or water bottle.
2. 2 sides, 3 1/2" x 6 8 1/4" cut with 45 deg. slope (see drawing below).
3. Bottom, 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" square.
4. Front and rear lower sides - 2 - 1 1/2" x 5 1/2" wood.
5. Center support for bottle - 1 5/8" x 3 1/2" wood, with a 1 1/8" hole in center.
6. Top insert - 3/4" x 3/4" x 3 1/2" wood.
7. Top (2 pieces): front piece - 7" x 2 5/8" wood.
rear piece - 7" x 3 1/2" wood.
8. 24" of galvanized, 20 gauge wire for hanging.
9. Two small screw eyes (for attaching hanging wire).
10. Misc. small nails for assembly.



Before the meeting:

1. Cut wood as per sizes above.
2. Assemble roof using 1 1/2" staples with an air stapler (this is too difficult for boys to do).
3. Drill 2 - 1/8" holes in roof for wire hanger (see photos).
4. Use an air stapler to attach bottom floor between uprights (see photo, right). Then staple the bottle support (with hole), 3/4" above the bottom, centered on the walls (see photo, right). This gives a good rigid start that the boys can complete with a hammer and nails.



Assembly at the meeting:

1. Cut 5 1/2" off the top of a plastic pop or water bottle (used to hold the bird seed).
2. Insert the threaded end of the bottle into the 1 1/8" hole in the bottle support.
3. Place the top 3/4" x 3/4" x 3 1/2" wood piece on top of the bottle (see photo below).
4. Push down on the wood piece (so bottle is tight) and nail the piece with a nail on each side.
5. Lay the assembly on its side and nail the front lower side using 4 nails (3 p finish nails).
6. Turn the assembly on its other side and nail on the other lower side board (4 nails).
7. Insert the small eye screws on opposite sides of the upright boards (see photo, right).
8. Attach the galvanized wire on both sides to form a loop for hanging.

Notice that the lid can be raised to add bird seed, then it is held in place by the wire hanger.

