

Wren House

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This is a great little house you can build from small pieces of scrap wood as none of the pieces are that big. It's also a great way to recycle any old license plates you may have lying around the house. For this example, we've used pine, but you can use any untreated lumber.

What you will need:

- 2 – pieces of pine measuring $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick x 4-1/2" wide x 4-1/2" long
- 1 – piece of thin wood or plywood measuring $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick x 4-1/4" wide x 4" long
- 1 – piece of thin wood or plywood measuring $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick x 4" wide x 4" long
- 1 – piece of pine wood measuring $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick x $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide x 7" long
- 1 – license plate
- 12 – $\frac{1}{4}$ " brad nails or small siding nails
- 4 – 1" pan head screws or 1" roofing nails
- 2 – $\frac{1}{4}$ " screw eyes
- 1 – piece of chain measuring 12" long
- Wood glue
- $\frac{1}{4}$ " drill bit
- $\frac{1}{8}$ " drill bit
- 1-1/8" hole saw
- Primer (Optional)
- Outdoor Acrylic Paint (Optional)

Recommended Tools:

- Saw
- Hammer
- Drill
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Needle Nose Pliers



Instructions:

1. Cut two pieces of $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick pine into a square that measures 4-1/2" x 4-1/2". These will be the front and back of the birdhouse.
2. Take a ruler and mark off a $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{3}{4}$ " square on one of the corners of each block of wood. Use a small hand saw to cut these corners out.
3. With the notched out corner at the top, use the $\frac{1}{4}$ " drill bit to drill two air holes, about an inch apart, just under the notched out portion on one of the blocks of wood. This will be the back of the birdhouse.
4. On the other block of wood, measure approximately 2-1/2" down from the notch. This will be where you will drill the entrance hole using a 1-1/8" hole saw.
5. Taking a piece of $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick wood, cut two pieces. One that is 4-1/4" wide x 4" long and one that is 4" wide x 4" long.

6. Place the back of the birdhouse, which contains the air holes, flat on your work surface, and place a small bead of glue along the two bottom edges. Attach the thinner pieces of wood, finishing off the piece with the front of the birdhouse containing the entrance hole.
7. After the glue has had time to set up, you can hammer in some brad nails. Four on each side should secure it nicely.
8. Take the $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 7" long piece of wood and center it over the notched out corners. This will be a support for the roof as well as a place to put the screw eyes for hanging.
9. Secure this piece with a little wood glue and a couple of nails on each side.
10. Once the glue is completely dry, you can prime and paint your birdhouse. Just be careful not to get any paint inside the birdhouse as it could be harmful to the birds.
11. Find the center of your license plate and bend it to a 90 degree angle and center it over the roof support on the house.
12. Using a pencil, mark where the holes of the license plate will be on the edge of the birdhouse. Pre-drill the holes for the pan-head screws or roofing nails. If you don't pre-drill, you run the risk of splitting the wood. If you don't have pan head screws, find a screw or nail that has a large enough head to secure the license plate you are using.
13. Place the license plate back on top of the birdhouse and attach with the pan head screws using the holes you pre-drilled.
14. About $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the edge of the roof support, attach a screw eye, one on each end. These screw eyes will hold the chain which you will use to hang your birdhouse.
15. Using a pair of needle nose pliers, open a link at each end of the chain and attach it to the screw eyes. Now your birdhouse is ready to hang.

