

Solitary Bee House

PARTS LIST

- 10 x 150mm lengths of 90mm x 42mm softwood (9 to form the 'stack' and one to cut to make the triangular fill in pieces)
- 210mm length of ridge capping to form the roof
- Quality wood glue
- 2 x Clamps to hold pieces while glue sets
- Drill and drill bits (5/32", 8/32", 10/32" & 13/32" or metric equivalent)
- 4 x 'short' wood screws to attach metal roof (avoid penetrating the bee holes you have drilled in the wood blocks)
- Panel pins to help secure triangular wood pieces
- Piece of baking paper to work on when gluing (glue doesn't stick to it)
- Mounting base to sit house on – merbau or equivalent weather proof – cut slightly smaller than house footprint to avoid rainwater collecting under the bee house
- An angle bracket to mount the base onto – bolts, screws, etc. to attach

METHOD

Cut the tenth piece of softwood in half lengthways

Cut each of these 2 pieces in half again at 45 degrees to form the triangular lengths

Next, I drill each block before gluing because I don't have a drill press. If you have a press you might like to drill after gluing. Try to vary the placement of the holes and remember that the bigger the hole, the more space you need to leave around it (bigger insects seem to require more 'privacy'- so I've been told!).

Drill sizes and depths (approx. guide only) 5/32" drill to 3" (75mm); 8/32" drill to 4" (100mm); 10/32" drill to 5" (125mm); and 13/32" drill to 5½"(approx. 140mm)

Gluing : Base 3 pieces – glue either side of centre piece and push together; glue tops of all 3 base pieces and each side of the second row centre piece and push together; glue the bottoms and inside of the 2 third row pieces and push together; glue the base of the top piece and place on the 'stack'; Clamp pieces (My clamp allows me to grip both bottom blocks on either side pressing those 6 together and I use a second clamp to grip the top block and press down to the bench or you could use a weight.) ALLOW TO DRY; pre drill the 4 triangular pieces for the panel pins so that the pins won't puncture the bee holes; glue these pieces and gently drive the pins home.

Apply paint to all surfaces except the front

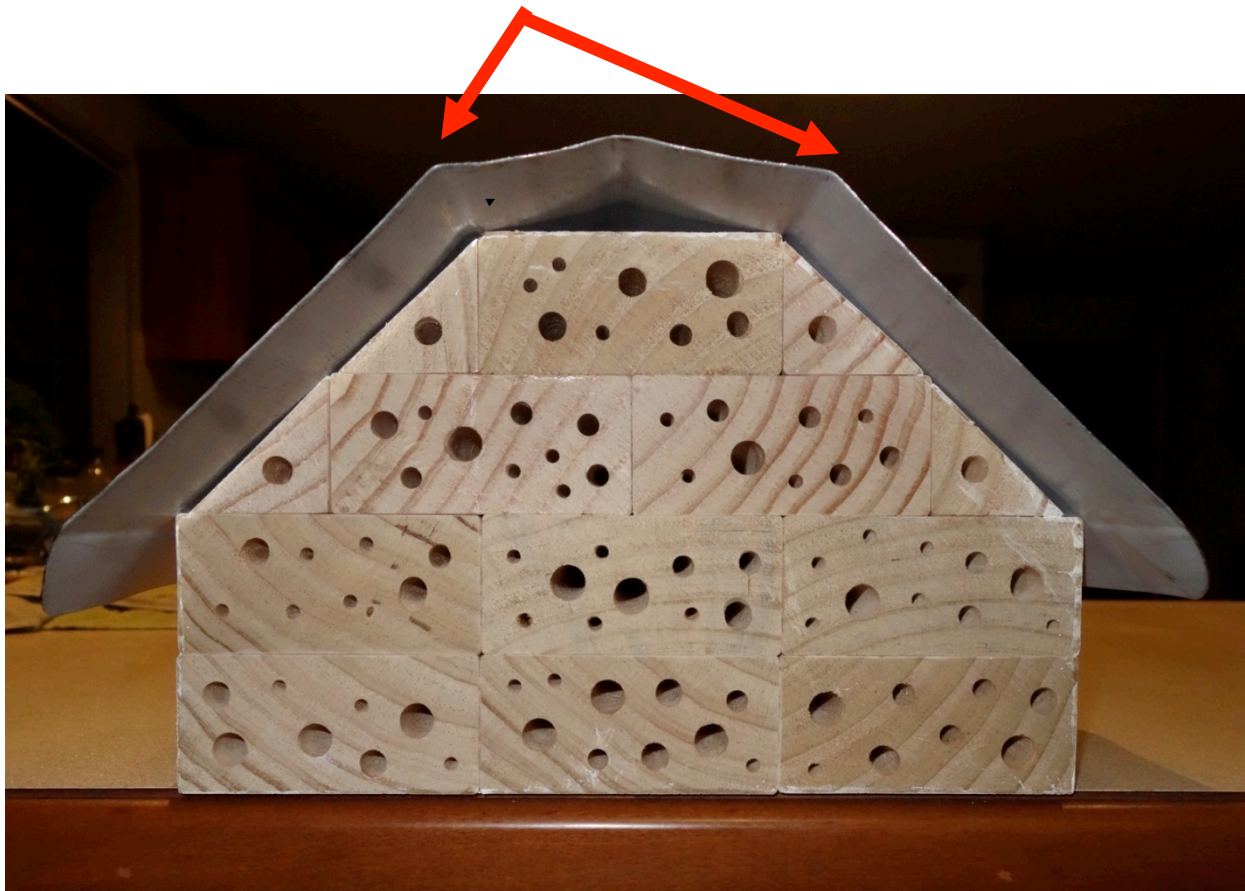
Press ridge capping on so that the roof is level with the back of the house and provides an overhang to protect the front. Mark positions for 4 screws to attach roof (avoiding penetrating the bee holes). Screw on the roof.

Attach angle bracket to mounting base and attach base to a wall or post approx. 1½m from the ground and sit your house on. NORTH FACING IS BEST TO AVOID INCLEMENT WEATHER PENETRATING YOUR BEE HOUSE.

Happy Building

Bill Unicomb

Bend the roof capping at the edge of the top block



Line up the ridge capping with the back of the bee house

and secure with screws

