



TG3D Pardalote box assembly instructions

The TG3D possum box is a strong, robust home for Spotted Pardalotes.

The box is constructed of “C/D” grade 12mm plywood. The “C” side (the better quality side) is on the outside of the box to simplify painting. Also birds don’t seem to care about surface finish. There will be marks and occasional top surface knots on the material which will not affect the functionality or durability of the box. Plywood is dimensionally stable and the box should slot together however a tiny bit of “encouragement” might be needed. The CNC cut is designed to be tight to assist in excluding water from the joints..

The box is machine cut using a “Computer Numeric Control” (CNC) router. This provides accurate joins and makes the boxes simple to assemble. It is screwed, not nailed, for strength, durability and water resistance. The screw holes are pre-drilled.

The kit is supplied with sufficient screws to assemble the box. You will need to supply mounting screws however the box and its potential occupants is lightweight so the screws would not need to be too long to hold it in a tree etc.

The box can be assembled with the “tunnel” at the top or the bottom of the box. If you would prefer the tunnel on the bottom, you can the front panel so the bird carving it up the “right way” You can also choose to place the bird carving on the inside of the box if required.

Tools required.

- #2 Phillips head screwdriver. A power screwdriver will make this job faster however make sure you turn the torque settings down. This also allows you to “set” the screws more accurately. Flush with the top surface is sufficient.
- Sandpaper. 80 grit should be sufficient. Use this to sand the completed box prior to painting. A small orbital sander works well if you have one but hand sanding won’t take long. I give the external surfaces a basic sand before dispatch.

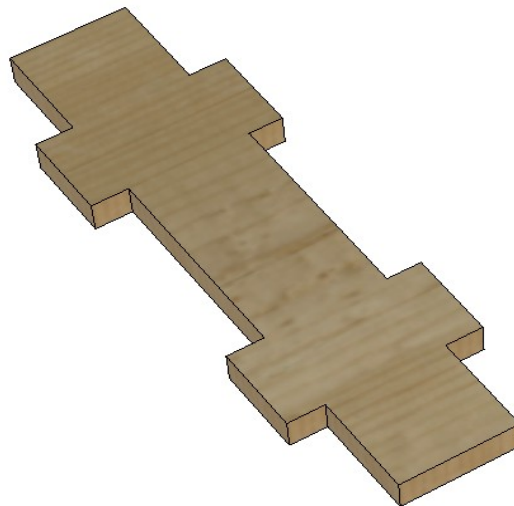
Parts

The box is supplied with the following parts

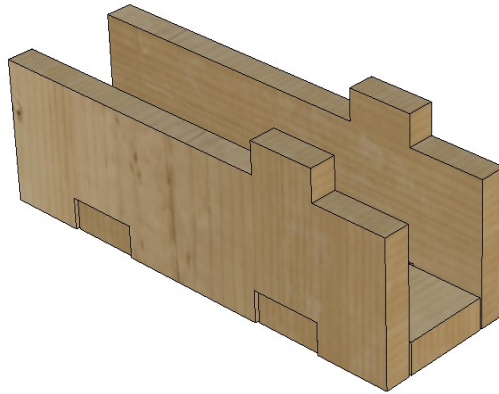
- Front - identified by the Pardalote bird carving
- Top – this piece has an extended length for the top of the tunnel
- Back – this has 2 “wings” that serve as mountings
- 2 ends – one is a smaller and fills in the around the tunnel.
- Tunnel bottom
- 2 tunnel sides
- 35 6G x 20mm screws

Assembly

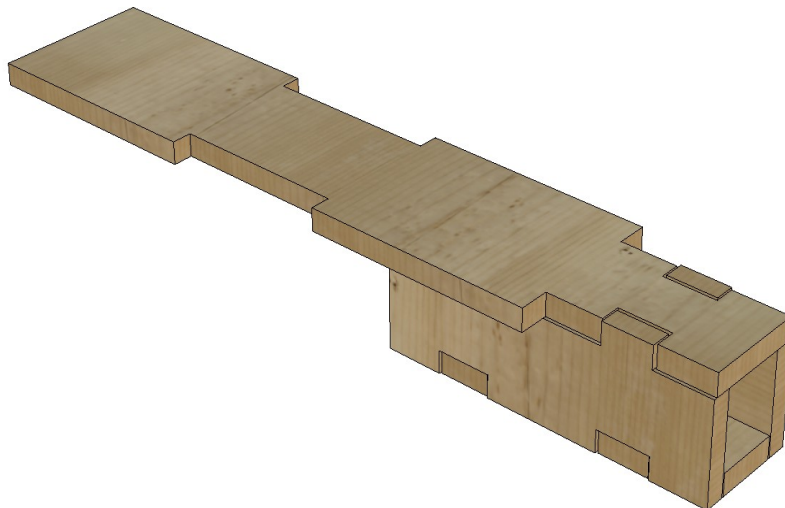
Start with the tunnel base.



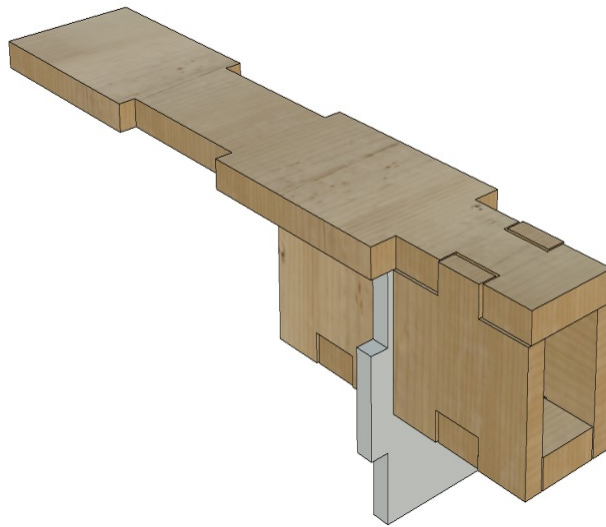
Slot in the 2 tunnel sides. Place the 4 screws in the tunnel base and tighten. Note, the box is made from plywood made from softwoods so don't go berserk tightening the screws. Flushing with the part is sufficient.



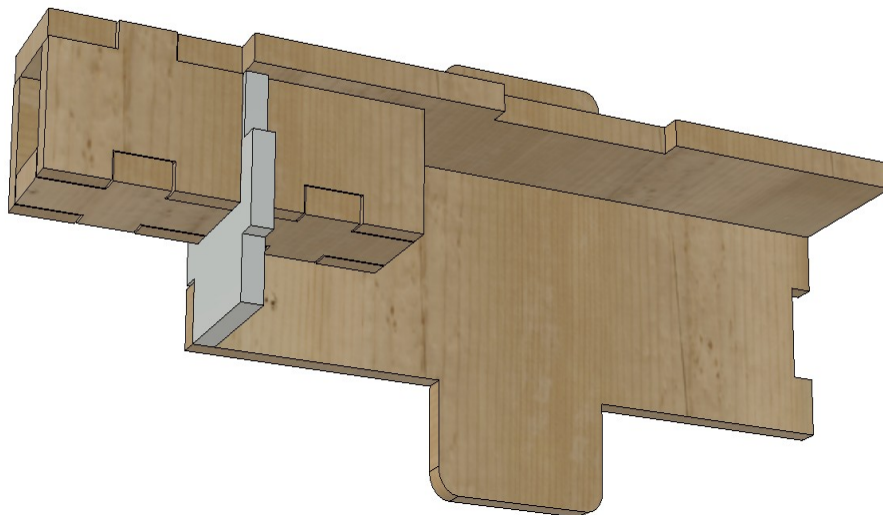
The next step is to add the top of the box/tunnel top like this. Put the 2 screws in the tabs on the tunnel sides in to hold everything in place,



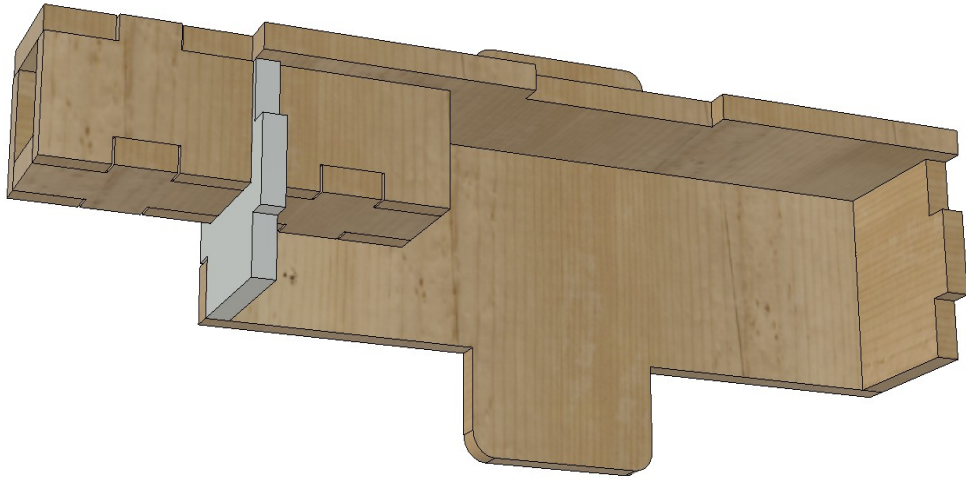
Follow this up by adding the box end. It isn't screwed in at this point. I've shown it in a different colour to show where it fits.



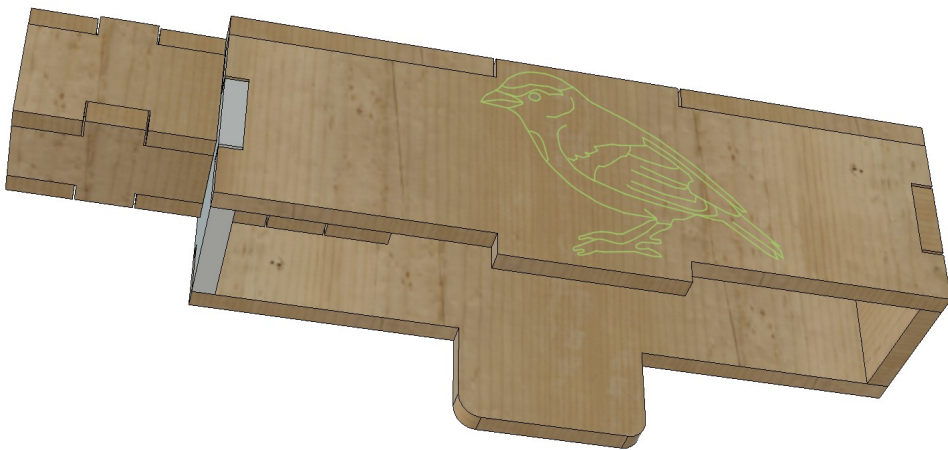
Now place the top/tunnel into the back, as below. The back has a single which engages into the top. Add the 4 screws in the top that engage into the back. Add the single screw in the entrance/end that screws it into the back. The joints should start to be closing up.



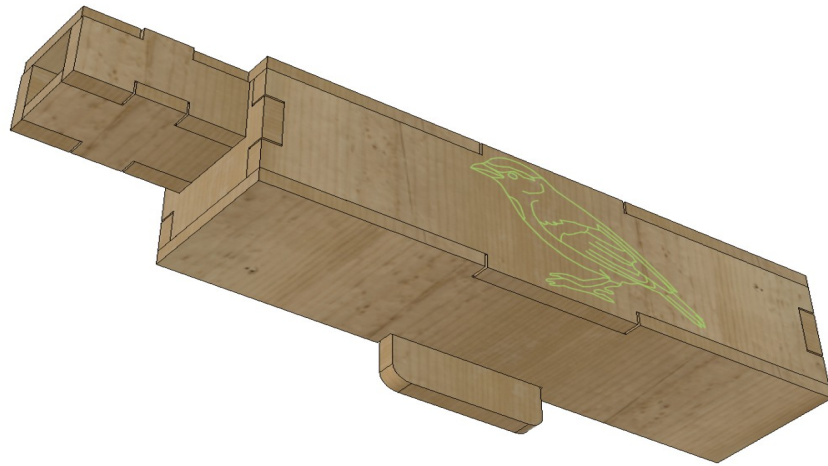
The next piece is the other end. back. There is a screw from the end into the back and one from the top into the end.



Almost there.... Now add the front. The front has a single screw that connects it to the top. There are also 4 screws in the top that holds the top to the front and one in each of the ends.



The final step is bottom of the box. I has 10 screws that secure it to the back, front and 2 ends. You can now put the screws in the front and back that secure them to the base.



At this point the box is assembled. Congratulations! Check all the sides for missing screws, there are 34 of them! I include a few extra screws so don't be concerned about having some extra.

Finishing

Give the box a light sand and paint it in your desired colour. 2 coats of quality exterior grade paint to all outside surfaces will prolong the life of the box. We recommend "Dulux Weathershield". Check with your Pardalote on colour preferences. Paint the box once assembled. Do not paint the inside. Pardalotes aren't super fussy about interior decor however they probably shouldn't be living on the paint.

Mounting

Locate the box as high as you can safely in a shaded area that doesn't receive full sun in summer. An east to south orientation is best. North and west means the birds may abandon the box during summer as it gets too hot.

Use a 2 screws into the back "wings" to mount the box. It would also be possible to use rope around a tree/post pulling the box tight against its mounting point.

If you or your Pardalote enjoyed making or living in this box, please give me a like or follow at

<https://facebook.com/tg3ddesign>

I'd appreciate a review, if possible, as well.

Thanks,

Tony