



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 are lightweight so the screws would not need to be too long to hold it in a tree.

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. Note, the box is made from plywood made from softwoods so don’t go berserk tightening the screws.
- 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

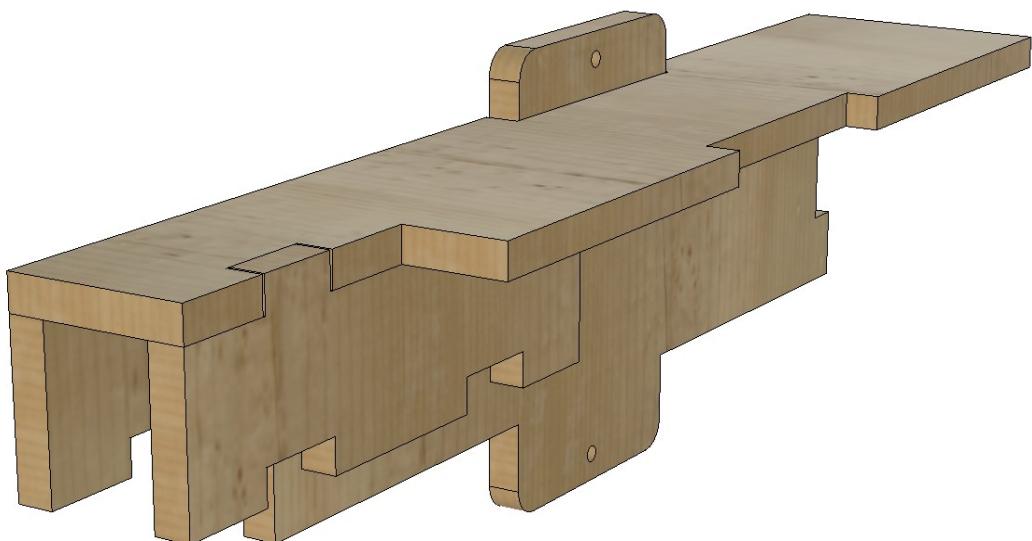
- Front - identified by the Pardalote bird carving
- Top – this piece has an extended length for the top of the tunnel
- Back – this has 2 “wings” that serve as mountings and is also the same length as the top
- 2 ends – one is a smaller and fills in around the tunnel.
- Tunnel bottom
- 1 tunnel end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

Assembly

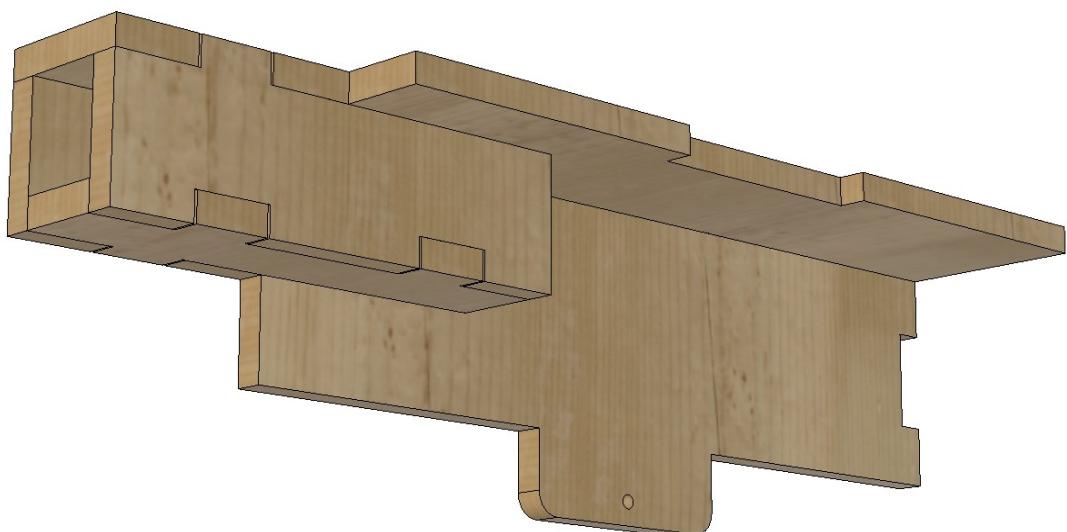
We start with the back and top. These are the 2 longest pieces of the box and also form part of the entrance tunnel. The back has small tabs which are used to screw the box to its mounts. Connect the two pieces as shown using a couple of screws from the top to the back. When you are starting, hold the pieces together and attempt to align the sides as close as possible. Don't worry about getting all the screws in or tightening them – just enough to get the parts connected will do.



Next put the tunnel side in. It has a single “tab” on top which holds it into the top side. Put a screw through the hole in the tab and screw into the top. It should look like this

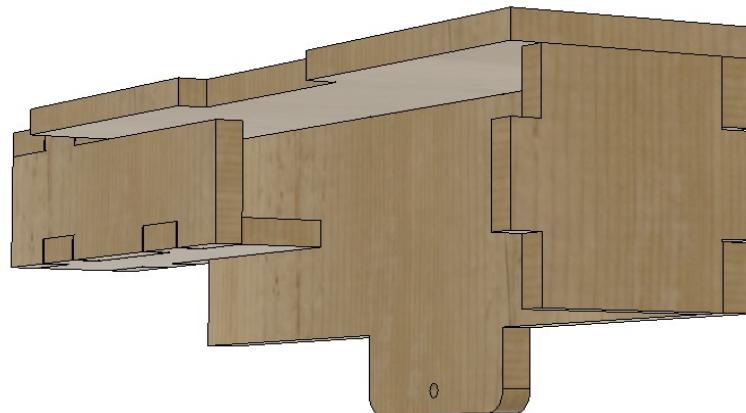


Next piece is the tunnel bottom. It has 2 tabs on one side and a single tab on the other. It should look like this



At this point you can put all the screws related to the tunnel in. Look for where there is a gap between the parts and tighten the screw(s) closest to the gap. The box is a bit “over-engineered” so missing a screw or two won’t make the box fall apart.

Next part is the right hand end. Put one screw through the tab into the back and another from the top into the end. You can tighten these.



Ok, now add the base of the box. You can screw the base to the back and right hand end. Don't completely tighten the screws at this point.

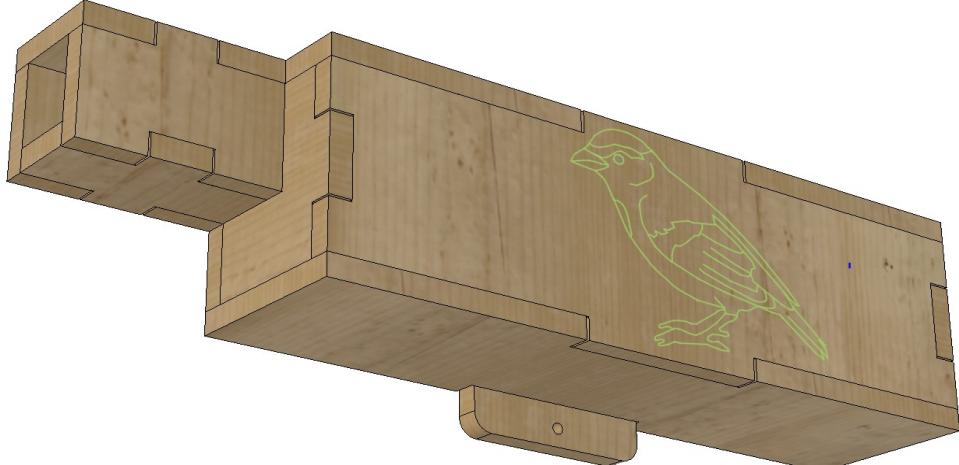
The next step is to mate the front (with the bird) and left hand end of the box as below.



Just

put a single screw in the tab of the left hand side.

You are now ready to complete the assembly. Offer the front / Left hand end into the rest of the box and put the screws in the tabs on the front into the top and base.



Final step is to put all the rest of the screws, almost everywhere you see a hole. Tighten them gradually to bring all the parts into alignment. Again, don't go crazy with a power screwdriver, the screws only need to be flush with the timber.

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 36 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. I 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 well 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 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 or maybe a few photos to tony@tg3d.com.au, if possible, as well.

Thanks in advance,

Tony