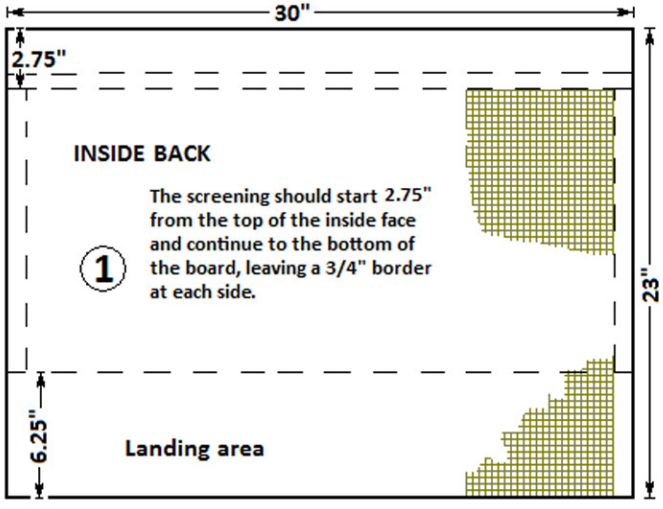
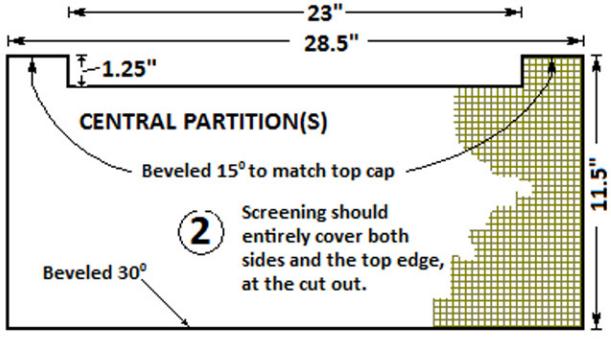
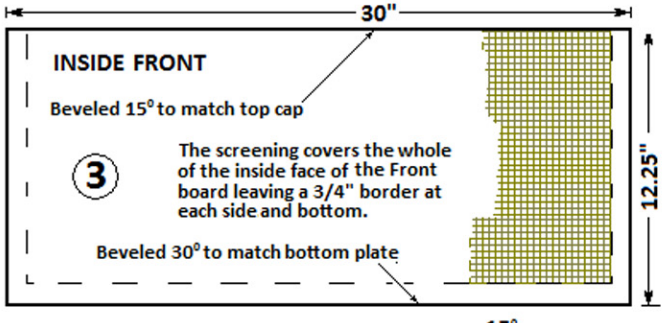
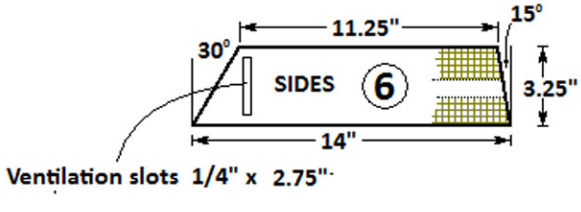
Bat World Sanctuary

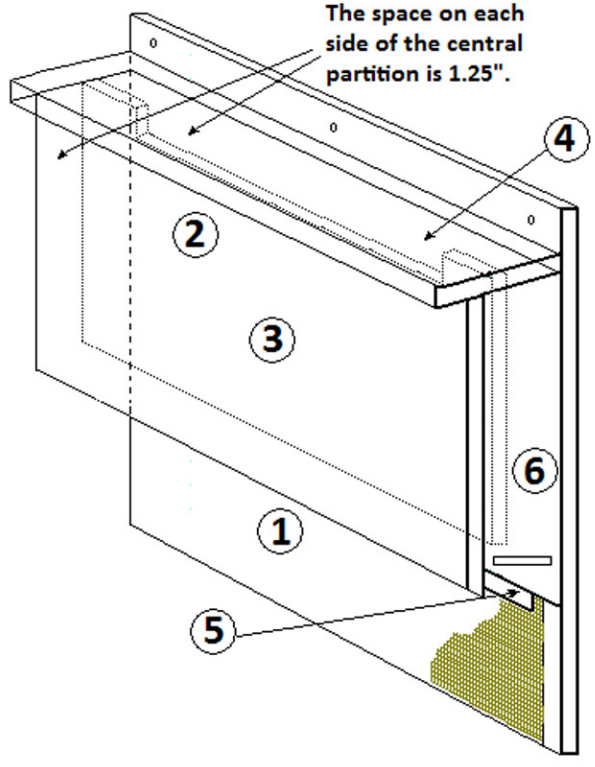
Bat House Plans











This bat house can be made in various sizes. The one in the drawing is 30 " wide for 600 - 800 bats, One can make the house smaller for less bats or deeper and with more partitions for more bats. For each additional partition simply add the thickness of the partitions plus the number of additional spaces to the overall depth and make adjustment to the overall height of the box to allow about 6" for the landing area.

The bat house can be constructed using 3/4" outdoor grade plywood, or Western Cedar/Spruce.

The latter usually will come in 12" width and must therefore be joined using a joiner/planer and biscuit joiner.

The front and back of the TOP CAP and the top edges of the FRONT and CENTRAL partition(s) have 15° miters.

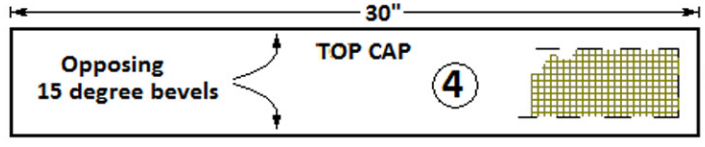
The bottom of the FRONT panel, the CENTRAL partition(s) and both front and back of the BOTTOM panel are set at 30°.

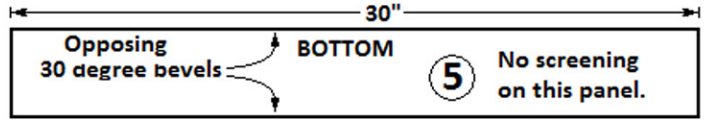
The top slope of the side pieces is set at 15° and the bottom slope is set at 30°.

Line all inside surfaces with plastic window screening, including the ceiling, back panel (which includes the landing area), both sides of the inside partition(s), front panel and bottom panel, also the inside of both side panels.

Leave the gluing/screwing areas free for a tight fit when putting the panels of the bat house together.

Ventilation slots are cut in both side panels as shown in drawing. In place of the window screening, horizontal grooves can be cut into the panels using a fine saw. Space grooves 1/4" to 1/2" apart and about 1/32" to 1/16" deep.





This bat house was originally designed for Mexican Freetail bats (Tadarida brasiliensis Mexicana) but has proved successful for other crevice-dwelling species throughout the continental U.S.A., including Big Brown and Little Brown bats.

Although the spacing between partitians is shown as 1.25", spaces of 1" and 3'4" have been used with considerable success. It rather depends on the variations of temperature that may be found where the bat house is situated. The wider spacing is more suitable for hotter, variable temperatures and the narrower spacing for cooler climates.

Apply two coats of dark, water-based stain to all inside surfaces including the landing area, before assembly. Do not use paint. The house may be screwed together or glued and pinned. If glueing, ensure the TOP CAP is screwed on so that it may be removed for cleaning. When construction is complete, seal all seams with silicon mastic to make the house draft free. The only opening must be the bottom entry from the landing area and the ventilation slots.

If using the plastic screening, it should be affixed to the panels using small staples, taking care to not leave any sharp points that could harm the bats.

The whole outside of the bat house may be painted for protection against the weather, starting with a water based primer, followed by two or three coats of low gloss latex paint. It is recommended that a light color paint be used in warm/hot climates and a darker color in the cool climates.

JHH 11/11