

Squirrel Den Boxes

In immature woodlands that have mast producing trees but no squirrel denning sites—stands usually 30 to 60 years old—erection of two or three den boxes per acre will often increase squirrel numbers. Den boxes can also be important in scattered farm woodlots in fox squirrel country. The use of rot resistant or treated wood (creosote should be avoided) enhances durability. Use nonferrous nails to fasten the wooden nest box to a tree trunk, with the entrance near a limb.

For gray squirrels, the nest box should be placed 18 to 20 feet high in a tree without existing cavities, and with the entrance facing away from prevailing winds.

A nest box for breeding age female fox squirrels must be carefully placed: It should be high in the tree canopy (35 to 40 feet), away from prevailing winds, close to a field edge, and with a tree limb close by. Subadults of both sexes and adult males will use boxes placed below the canopy and throughout the stand, not just along the edge.

Nest box design for both species should follow Fig. 1. Dens made from rubber tires also have been used by gray squirrels; instructions are given in Fig. 2.

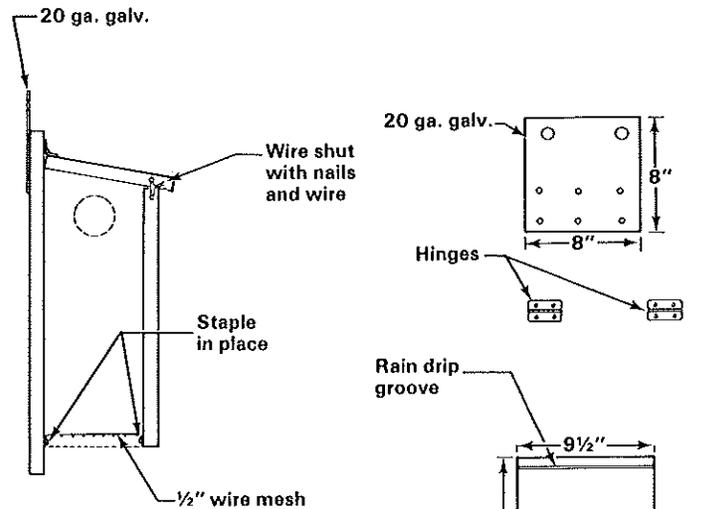
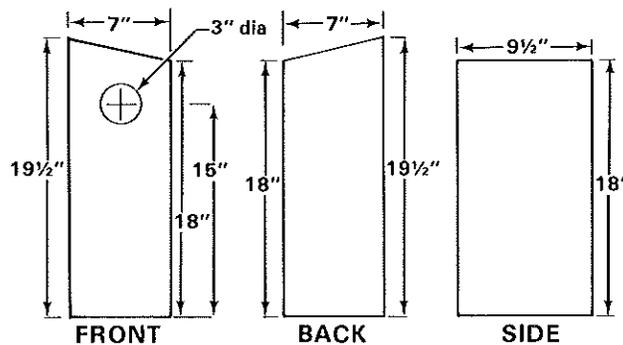
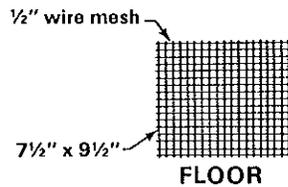
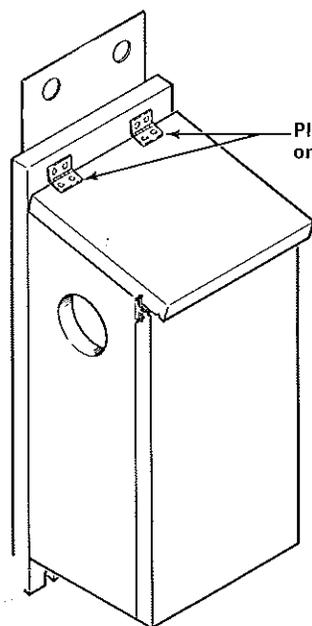


Fig. 1. Wooden nest box for tree squirrels. (Modified from *Wildlife Management Techniques Manual*, © The Wildlife Society, 1980.)

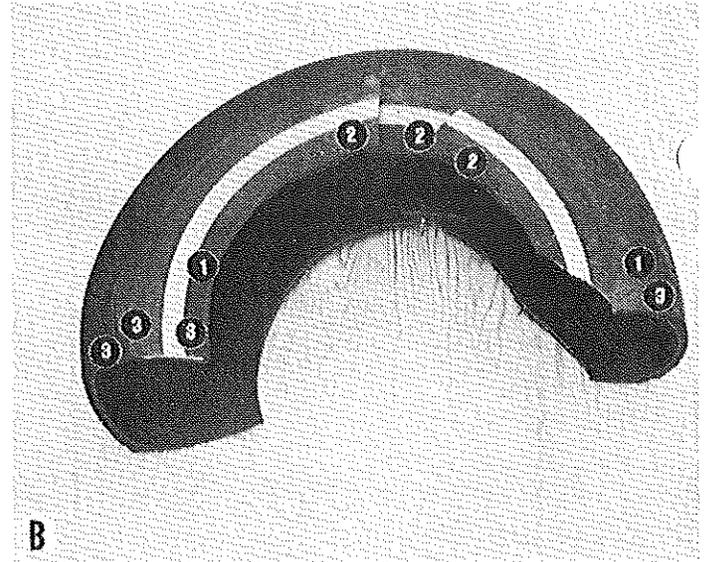
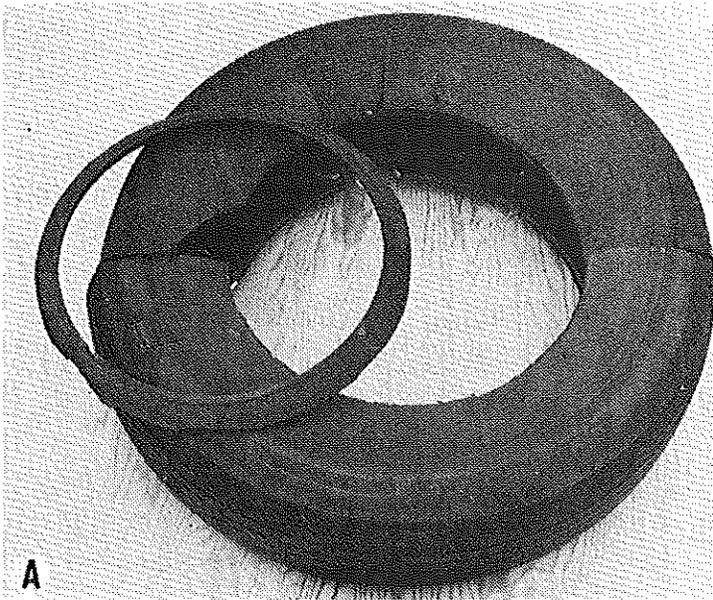


Fig. 2

Tire nest for tree squirrels. To construct: (A) Remove steel bead from inner rim. (B) Cut tire in half, and cut "ears" off both sides at one end. Cut 3-in. slits in middle on each side. (C) Fold tire and attach no. 1 holes by inserting roofing nail from inside on both sides. Insert roofing nails in no. 2 holes on each side. (D) Squeeze top two edges of tire together and insert roofing nails in no. 3 holes. Cut 3-in. slits in outside edges of tire; make sure upper side overlaps to keep out rain. (E) Insert steel rod or heavy wire 2½ in. from end of tire. Hang tire nest with throat towards tree trunk at least 15 ft. from ground. (From *Wildlife Management Techniques Manual*, © The Wildlife Society, 1980.)

