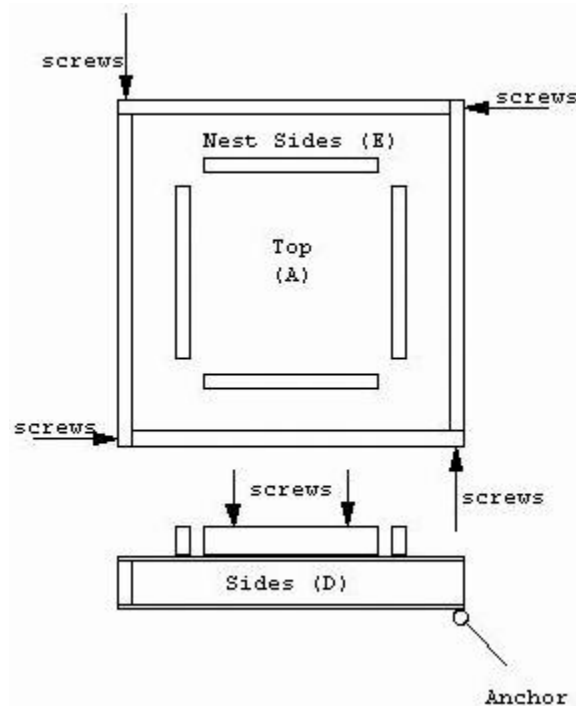


Floating Nest

A floating nest is simple and easy to build. It costs less than \$10. The float provides waterfowl with a safe place to nest. The float is a flat 4" (10 cm) high enclosed box filled with foam floatation.



Gathering the materials.

You will find a list of materials at the bottom of this text. All the materials can be found at a lumber yard or home improvement center.

Building the box.

Start by assembling the sides (D) of the box (4 - (5/8" to 1") x 4" boards 1/2" long). Overlap the boards (D) as shown above.

Secure the boards by driving a screw from one board (D) into the end grain of another. Use an electric screw driver and two 1-5/8" (40 mm) galvanized self-tapping screws at each corner. Initially, assemble the box upside down.

Place the plywood (A) on top of the box (D) (Top and Bottom: 2 - 24" x 24" 1/4" to 3/8" CDX plywood).

Make certain that the sides (4 - (5/8" to 1") 4" boards 15" long) are square to the plywood and that the small overhang is distributed equally all around.

Secure the plywood (A) to the sides (D) with 1 1/4" (35 mm) galvanized self-taping screws every 6" (15 cm). There should be 16 screws in all, four in each side.

Floatation.

The platform is supported by polystyrene foam.

Lay the enough of the 21" x 21" (53 cm x 53 cm) sheets of foam (G) inside the box to build up a layer that is approximately 2" (5 cm) thick.

If you find the that foam is too large to fit neatly inside the box, trim it with a "hot knife", a soldering gun or a table saw so the edge does not crumble.

Make certain that the foam does not fill the box to the very top. There should be an air gap between the top of the foam and the underside of the top (A). The air gap helps prevent the plywood from rotting. In addition, the spacers between the foam and the plywood (A) support the top and keep the foam pressed against the bottom of the box.

Place the spacers on top of the foam. Ensure that the spacers will hold the foam firmly against the bottom of the box. If this is not the case, add additional spacing material.

Secure the top (A) with 1 1/4" (35 mm) screws spaced every 6" (15 cm). There should be 16 screws.

The Anchor eye

The anchor rope will be tied to an screw eye (N) on the bottom edge of the box. Screw the eye into the edge of the box into one of the sides (D). To prevent the sides from splitting when you screw in the eye, drill the hole. Select a drill that is approximately 2/3rds the diameter of the threaded end of the screw (N). Drill a pilot hole through the bottom into one of the sides (D).

Screw the eye (N) into the hole. If the side (D) cracks, the screw eye (N) and drill another hole on one of the three remaining sides.

The Nest Site.

The nest site consists of an enclosed area on top of the float filled with nesting material.

Drill two holes through the nest sides (E) as shown above.

Secure the nest sides (E) to the top of the float with two self-tapping screws that protrude out the bottom of the board by approximately 1/2" (12 mm).

Gather some nesting material, twiggs, small sticks or palms secure them to the top of the float inside the nest site.