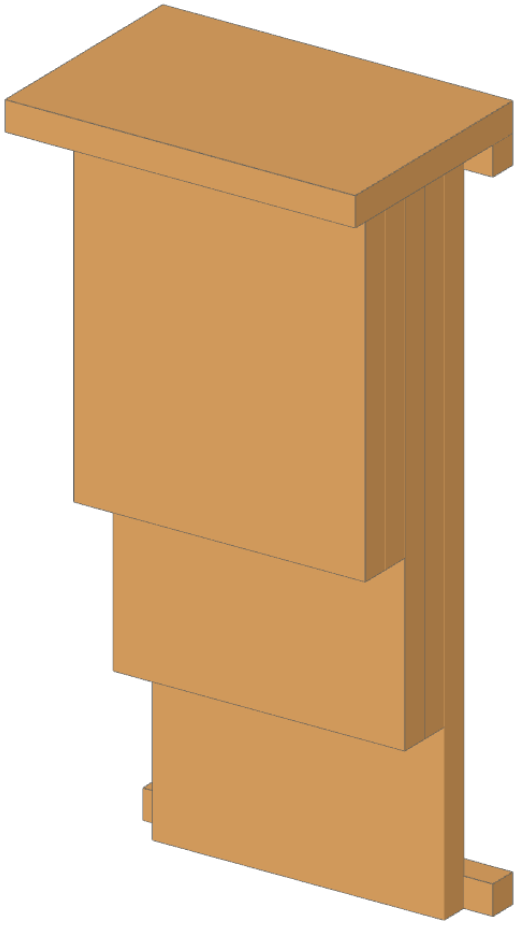
Bat House

An easy-read build plan



1	10	20 mm	14
rough board	parts	crevices	steps

Finished size: 240 wide × 500 high × 160 deep (mm)

At a glance

HOW HARD

3 · Improver

Bevels, rip cuts and a power saw, with more parts to keep square.

HOW LONG

About half a day (3–4 hours)

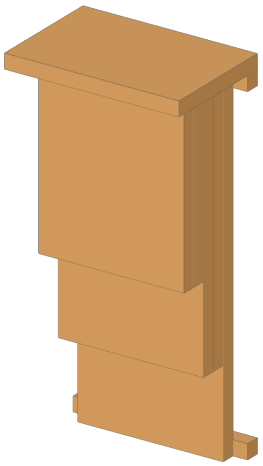
COST

About £12 for one bat house.

TOOLS

11 tools. See the next pages.

Prices checked October 2026. A rough guide, not a quote.



How to use this plan

Do **one step** at a time. Each step has its own page.

GET READY Check the wood and mark it.

CUT Cut the board into 10 parts.

BUILD Fix the parts together.

☐ Tick the **Done** box when a step is finished.

Ask your helper

This badge means: **stop and get your helper.** They help with saws and ladders.

All sizes are in **mm** (millimetres). 10 mm = 1 cm.

Words in this plan

Rough-sawn: wood straight from the saw, not smooth. Bats need it rough so they can grip.

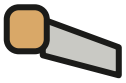
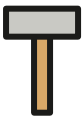
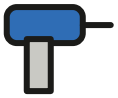
Rip: a cut along the length of a board.

Riser: a thin strip that keeps two boards apart.

Crevice: the 20 mm gap between two boards. Bats sleep in it.

Get ready: tools

Find each tool. Tick the box.

- ☐  Tape measure. For measuring the wood.
- ☐  Pencil and square. For drawing straight lines.
- ☐  Hand saw. For cutting across the board.
- ☐  Power saw. For the long cuts. Your helper uses it.
- ☐  Clamps. To hold the wood still.
- ☐  Hammer. For the nails.
- ☐  Drill. For small holes and screws.
- ☐  Safety glasses. Wear them all the time.
- ☐  Dust mask. For the dusty cuts.
- ☐  Gloves. Rough wood gives splinters.
- ☐  Ladder. Your helper hangs the box.

Shopping list

- [ ] **1 board** of untreated, rough-sawn wood. You need **1300** mm **of it,** 240 mm **wide and** 20 mm **thick.**
- [ ] About **36 nails**, galvanised, **40 mm** long.
- [ ] **2 metal brackets** and **4 outdoor screws**, **30 mm** long.
- [ ] Wall plugs and screws to suit your wall.

No wood stain, paint or preservative. The chemicals can harm bats. Leave the wood bare.

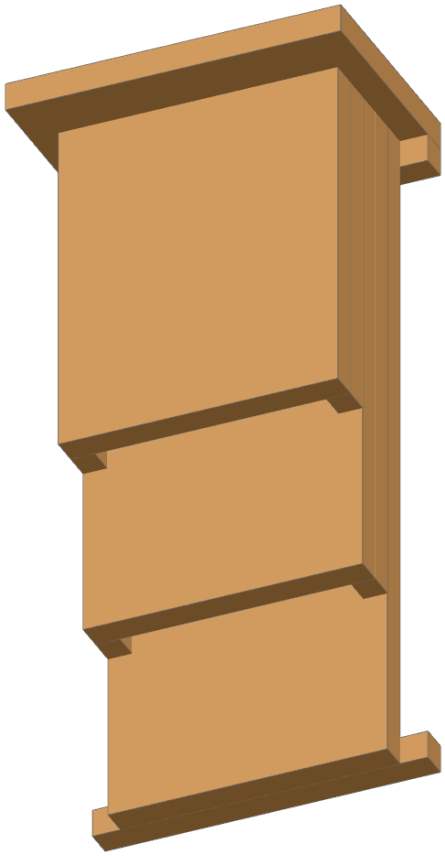
Looking after bats

Bats are **protected by law**. It is against the law to disturb them without a licence.

Once the box is up, **do not open it or look inside**.

To see if bats have moved in, look for **droppings on the** ground **below the box.**

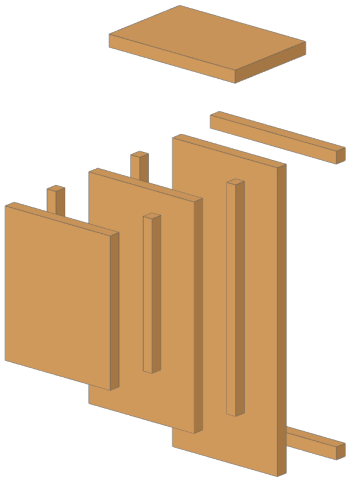
Bats crawl in from **underneath**. Keep the space below the box clear.



The 10 parts

Every part is **20 mm** thick.

No	Part	Size (mm)	How many
01	Back board	**480 × 200**	1
02	Middle board	**360 × 200**	1
03	Front board	**240 × 200**	1
04	Long riser	**360 × 17**	2
05	Short riser	**240 × 17**	2
06	Back bar	**240 × 20**	2
07	Roof	**240 × 160**	1



Step 1 of 14

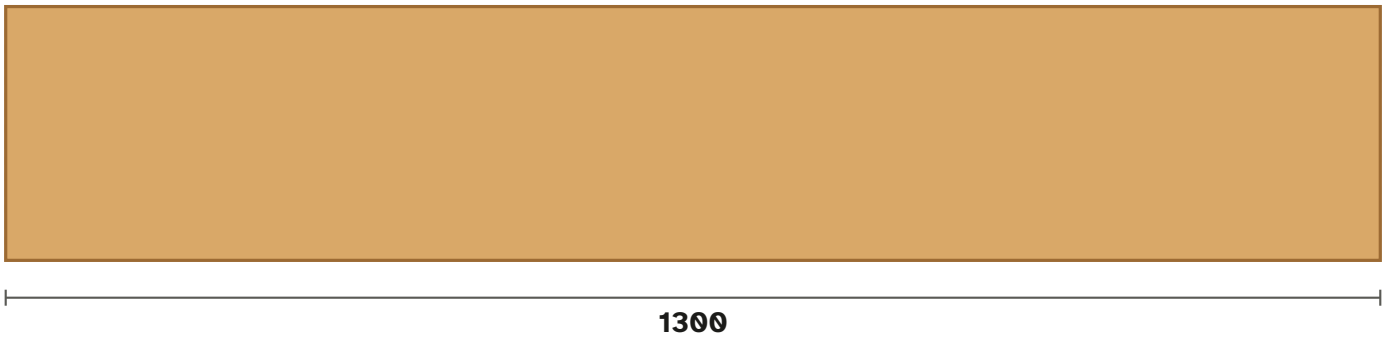
Check your board

Done

Your board is **1300** mm long, **240** mm wide and **20** mm thick.

It must be **rough** and **untreated**. No paint, no stain.

Your board, seen from above



Step 2 of 14

Mark the cuts

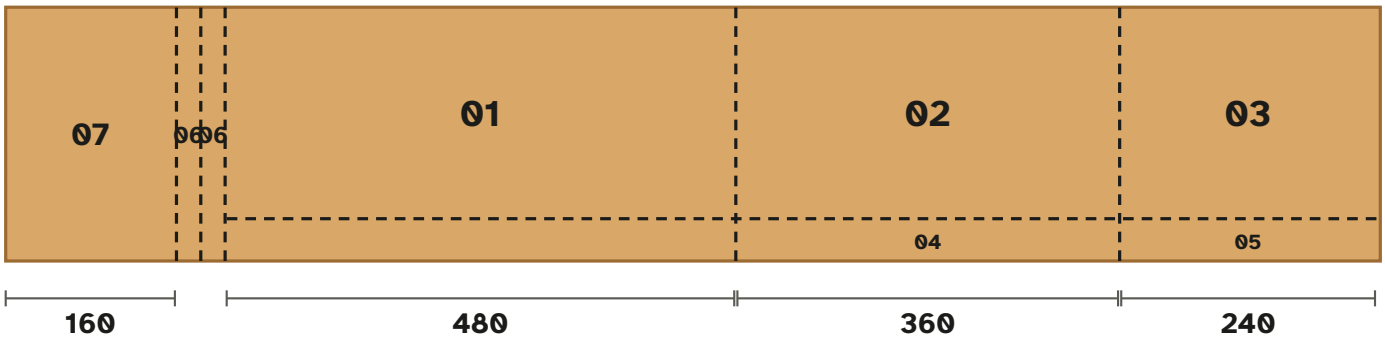
Done

Measure from one end. Mark **160**, then **20**, then **20**.

Then mark **480**, **360** and **240**.

Draw one long line **200** mm from the edge, from the back bars to the end.

Pencil lines. Leave a saw-width (3 mm) between parts.



Step 3 of 14

Cut the roof

Done

Ask your helper

Cut across the board at **160** mm.

This piece is the **roof (07)**.



wood on the bench cut now

Step 4 of 14

Cut two back bars

Done

Ask your helper

Cut **20** mm, then **20** mm again.

These are the two **back bars (06)**.



wood on the bench cut now

Step 5 of 14

Rip the long piece

Done

Ask your helper

Cut **along** the long piece, **200** mm from the edge.

This is a long cut. Go slowly.

Tip: Clamp the board down first. Your helper may use a table saw or a circular saw.



wood on the bench cut now

Step 6 of 14

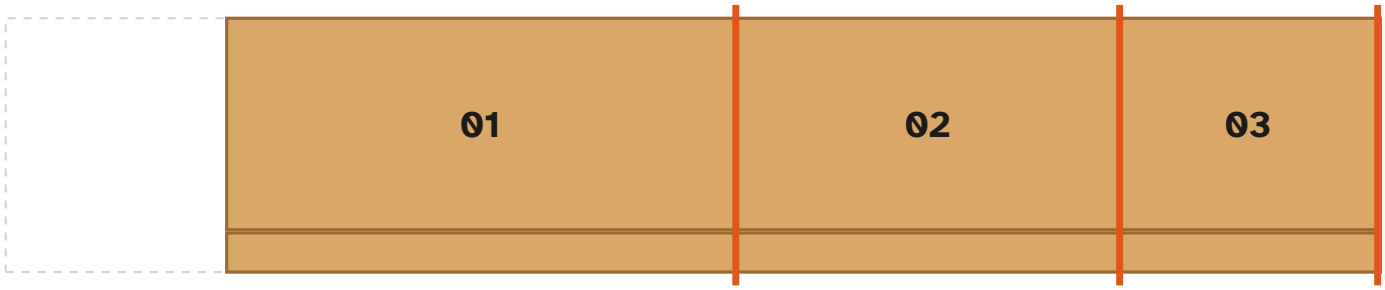
Cut the three boards

Done

Ask your helper

Cut across at **480** and **360**. Trim the end to **240**.

You now have the **back (01)**, **middle (02)** and **front (03)** boards, and three thin strips.



wood on the bench cut now

Step 7 of 14

Make the four risers

Done

Ask your helper

Rip the **360** and **240** strips down the middle.

Each riser is **17** mm wide.

You get two **long risers (04)** and two **short risers (05)**.

The **480** strip is spare.

Tip: Thin rips are hard by hand. You can use 20 × 20 mm batten instead.



wood on the bench — cut now

The two thin strips, seen from above (close-up)

Step 8 of 14

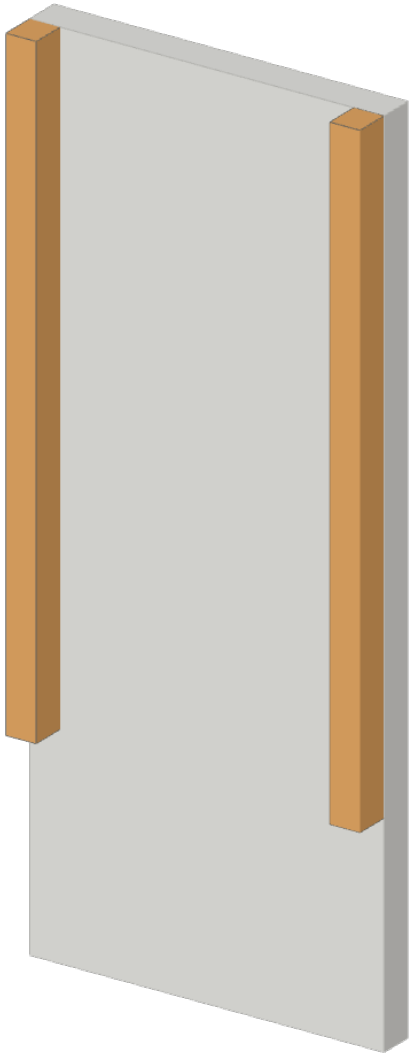
Long risers on the back

Done

Lay the **back board (01)** flat.

Stand a **long riser (04)** on its edge along each long side, **level** with the top**.**

Nail each one: **3** nails.



Step 9 of 14

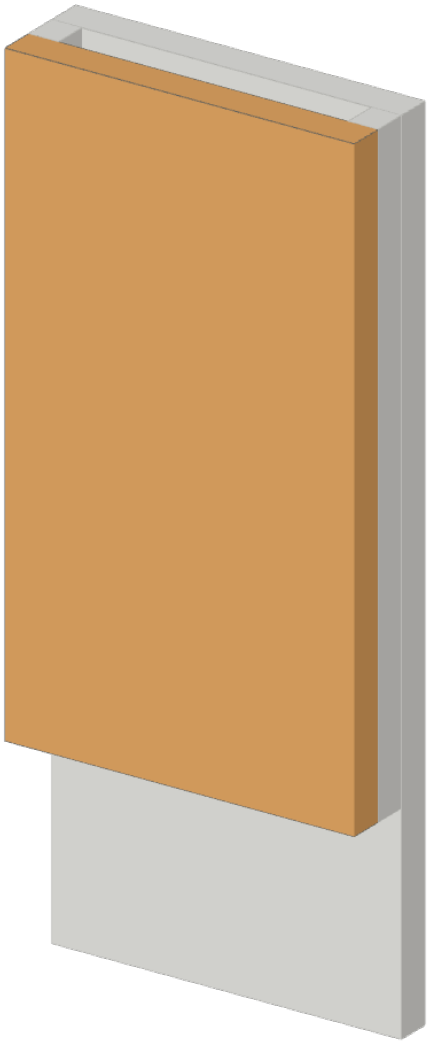
Add the middle board

Done

Lay the **middle board (02)** on the long risers.

Keep the **tops level**.

Nail into each riser: **3** nails a side.



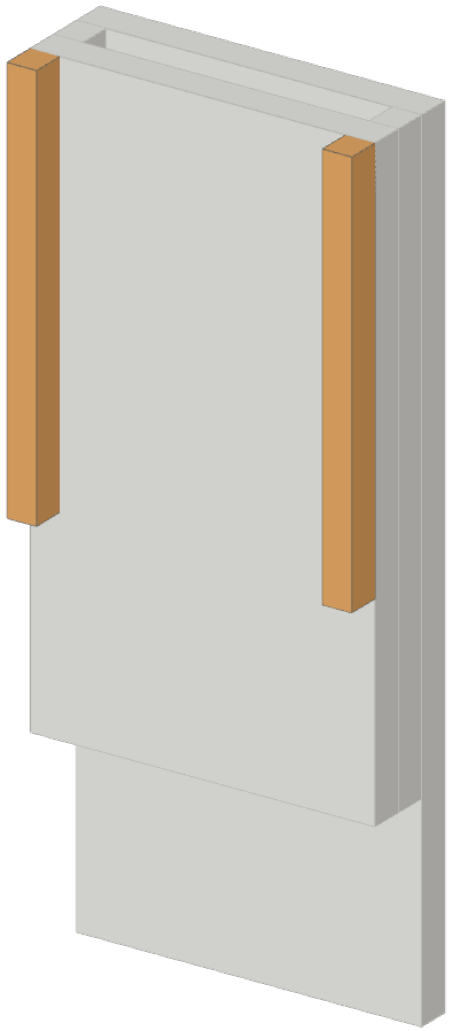
Step 10 of 14

Short risers

Done

Stand a **short riser (05)** along each side of the middle board, **level with the top**.

Nail each one: **3** nails.



Step 11 of 14

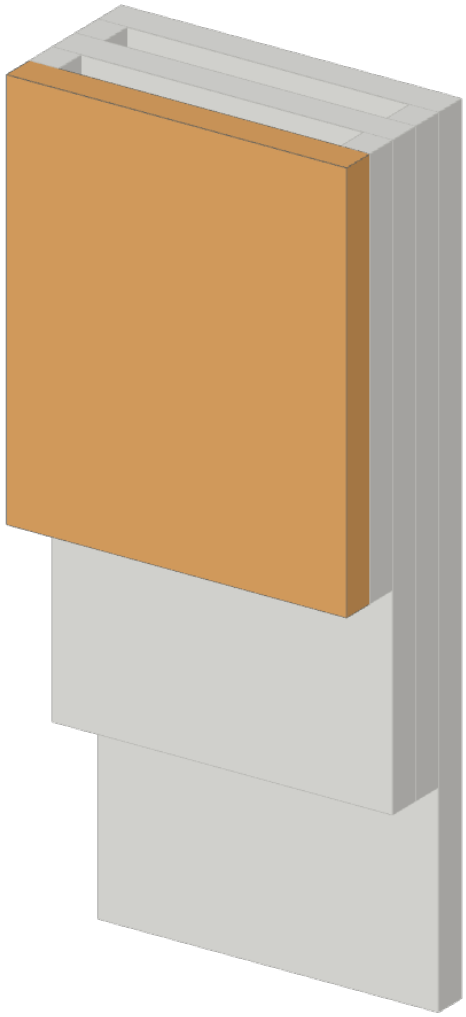
Add the front board

Done

Lay the **front board (03)** on the short risers. **Tops level.**

Nail into each riser: **3** nails a side.

Look underneath: you can see the **two crevices**.



Step 12 of 14

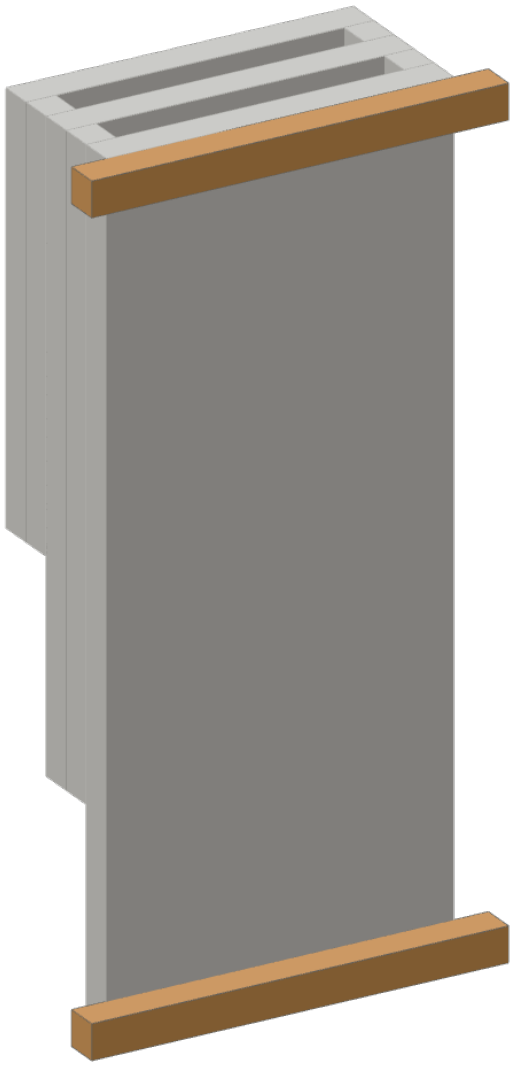
Fix the back bars

Done

Turn the box over.

Nail a **back bar (06)** across the **top** and one across the **bottom**: **3** nails each.

Each bar sticks out **20** mm at both sides.



Step 13 of 14

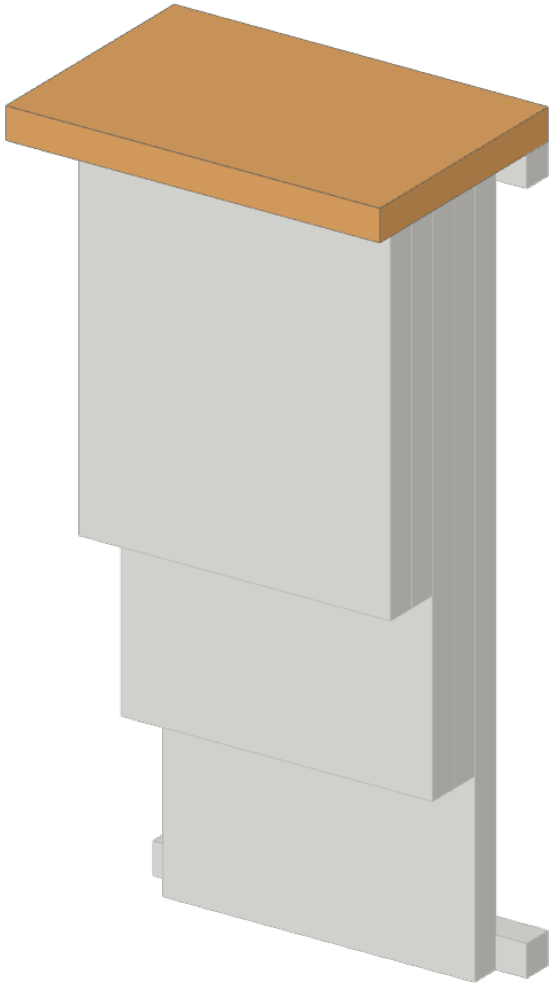
Fix the roof

Done

Put the **roof (07)** on top.

Line it up with the **back of the bars**. It sticks out **40** mm at the front.

Nail it down: **6** nails.



Step 14 of 14

Hang it up

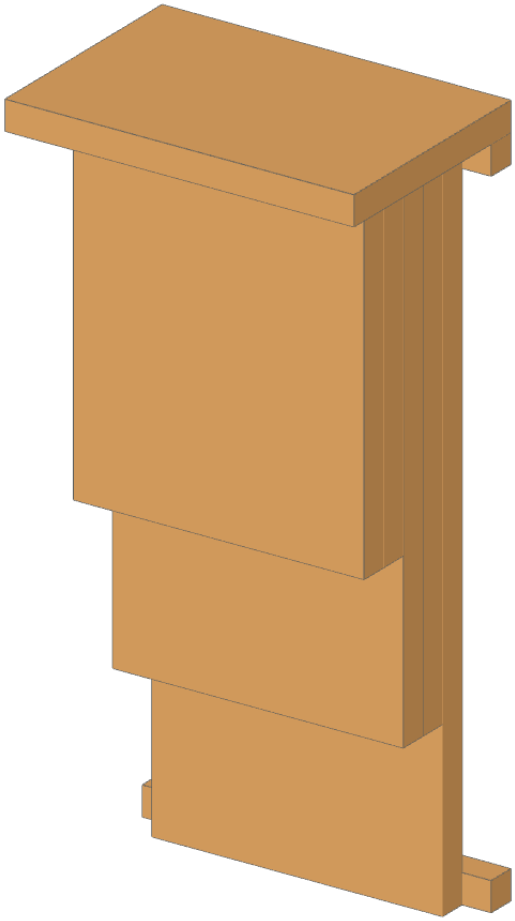
Done

Ask your helper

Screw a **bracket** to the ends of the back bars.

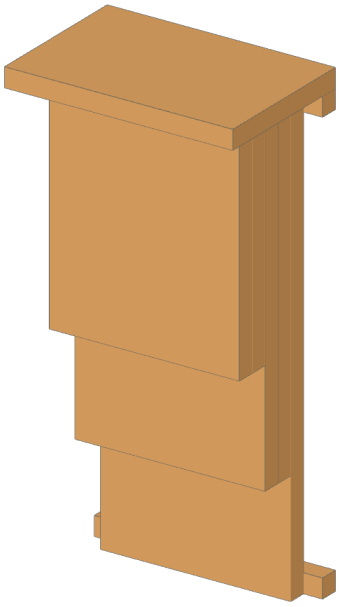
Hang it **as high as you can**, out of the wind, where it gets **sun** for part of the day**.**

Keep the way in and out **clear** for bats.



Well done!

You built a home for bats.



Name _____

Date _____