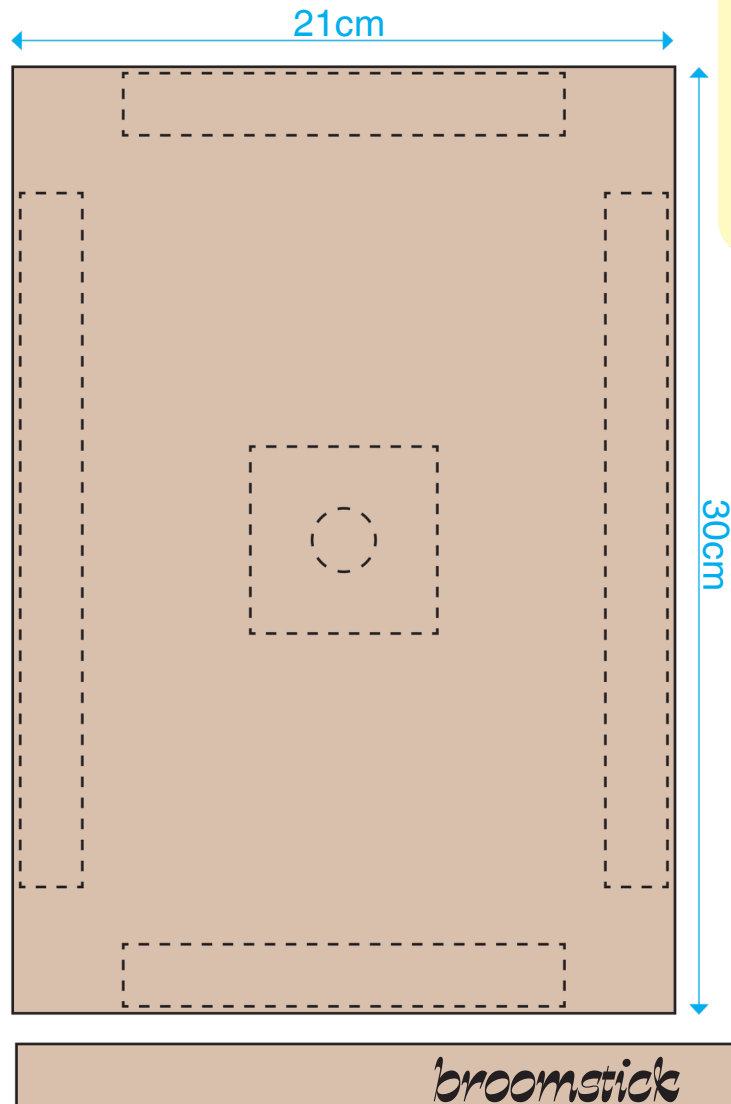


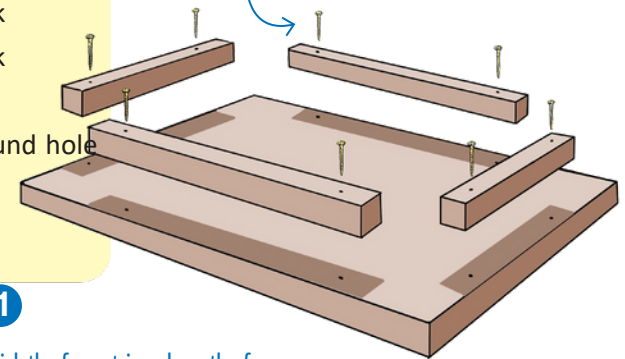
Let's make a bird table



You will need

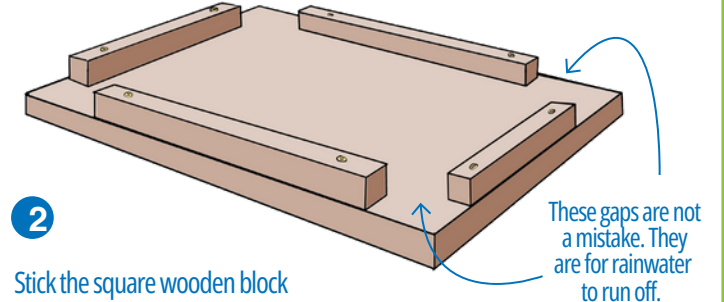
- 1 marine plywood board 30 x 21cm, about 1.5cm thick
- 2 wooden strips 24 x 1.5 cm, about 1.5cm thick
- 2 wooden strips 15 x 1.5 cm, about 1.5cm thick
- 1 wooden broomstick, pointed at one end
- 1 wooden block about 7.5 x 5 x 4cm, with round hole in the middle (to fit broomstick in)
- Screws, nails, wood glue

Use screws or nails. A little wood glue helps too.



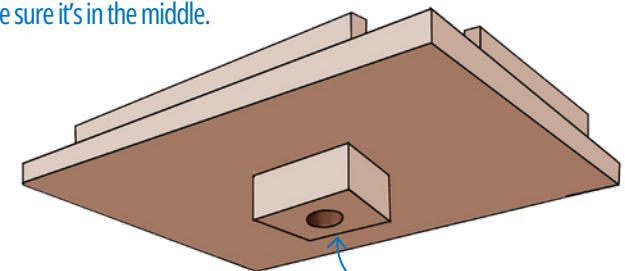
1

Stick the four strips along the four edges (long ones along the long sides, short ones along the short sides).

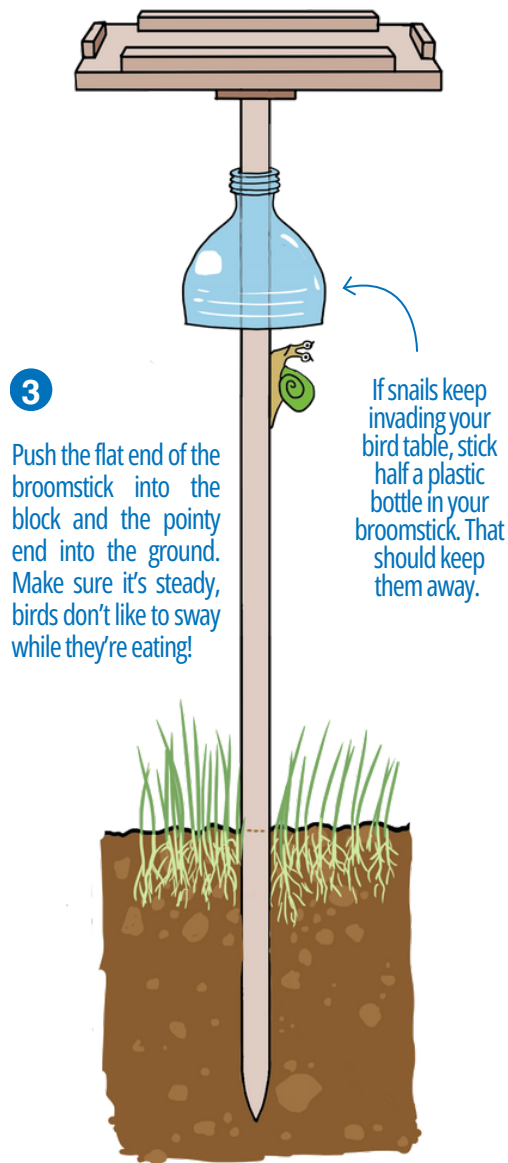


2

Stick the square wooden block to the bottom of the board. Make sure it's in the middle.



Use screws or wood glue to stick the block.



3

Push the flat end of the broomstick into the block and the pointy end into the ground. Make sure it's steady, birds don't like to sway while they're eating!

Where shall we put it?



Special spot?

Is there a spot that birds seem to like a lot? If you can set up the bird table there, the birds will find it more quickly.



Can you see it?

Don't hide your bird table. Set it up where kids can see it from far off, maybe even from their classroom windows.



Somewhere quiet

Don't put it up in a spot that people use a lot, like next to a path, or birds will be disturbed all time.



Somewhere safe

Don't stick the bird table in the middle of a bush, under a tree or near a wall or fence where cats can ambush the poor birds. Set it up in the open where birds can look about and feel safe.



Lookout post

A small bush 2–3m from the bird table gives birds a place where to perch and check for safety before they visit the table. A post or two to perch on are a good idea too, especially when birds are queueing up for lunch!

Do I feed them all year round?

No. In spring and summer birds can find their own food easily from nature. Start putting out food around October, and stop after March. In this way, birds who are nesting can feed their chicks proper natural food like caterpillars and bugs, not cake and biscuits!

Who will visit?



Spanish Sparrow (Ghasfur tal-Bejt)

All year round. You can have a bunch on your bird table at the same time!



Sardinian Warbler (Bufula Sewda)

All year round. Usually a pair, sometimes the male visiting, sometimes his lady!



Robin (Pitirross)

October to March. Always alone, usually the same one all through the season.

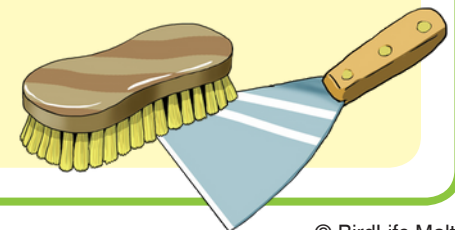


Black Redstart (Fjamma Sewda)

October to March. Alone or a pair, but always visiting the bird table one by one.

A clean table

Make sure you keep your bird table clean or the birds can get sick. A quick scrape and scrub with a wet brush every now and then (especially after sticky food) should do the trick. No need to use washing-up liquid, plain water is enough.



Let's make an even easier bird table!

The simplest bird table can be made by screwing a **plastic flowerpot saucer** onto a broomstick.

Tip 1. Place a metal washer under the screw head so the screw won't go right through the plastic.

Tip 2. Poke one or two small holes around the rim so rainwater can drain away.

