

Dear Customer:

Thank you for purchasing a Barn Owl Box Company product!

Installing the Post Model of the Barn Owl Box

When you first unpack your Post Model, make sure you have all of the following parts:

- a. White outer box
- b. Dark inner box
- c. Upper half of faceplate
- d. Lower half of faceplate
- e. Two white plastic, weatherproof vents
- f. Galvanized metal mounting bracket
- g. Composite wooden perch
- h. Hardware (Illustration 1)
- i. Viewing window with acrylic pane, rubber shade, and 3 nylon snap rivets (Illustration 2)

Illustration 1



* Hex bolts can be 1 OR 1.5" in length. We occasionally run out of one, and they are interchangeable.



If you are missing any parts please call 1-877-NESTBOX.

Before beginning, please review all installation directions including the Exploded View.

The installation kit contains all the hardware you will need for mounting the Post Model to a wooden 4 x 4, 6 x 6, or a metal flange on a metal pole. (see flange illustration).

Tools needed for installation

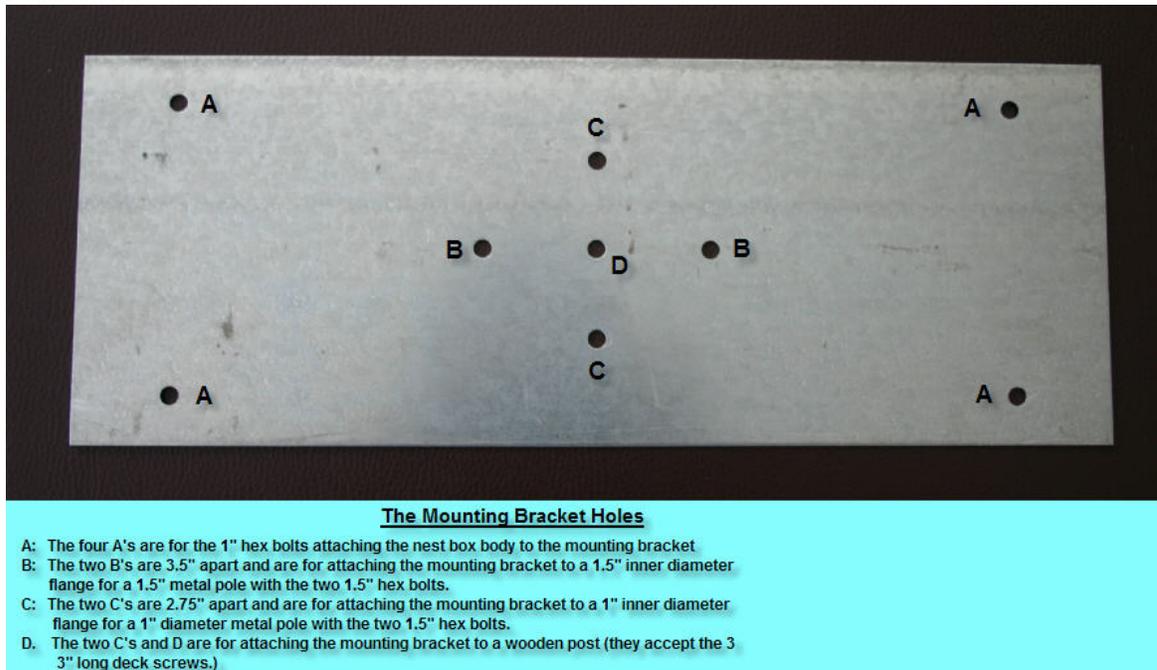
- a. Ladder
- b. Drill
- c. Phillips drive
- d. 1/8" pilot bit
- e. 7/16" crescent wrench or socket
- f. Phillips screw driver

Caution: When working on ladders and with power tools, use recommended standard safety precautions.

**** Note: Whether mounting box on wooden post, metal pole, tree, or outbuilding, make sure that the box feels sturdy to a moving barn owl. It should not wobble.***

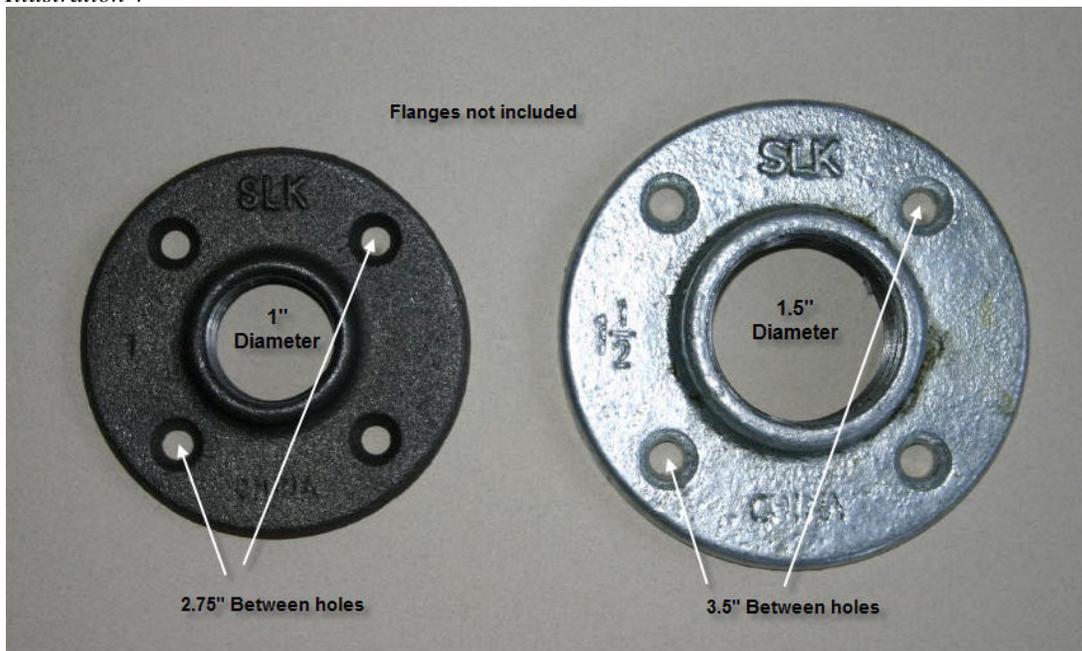
1. First, install a wooden post or metal pole in the ground using standard, accepted methods. The height above ground should be a minimum of eight feet. For creative ideas about making posts or poles that either pivot to the ground or are collapsible, email us at info@barnowlbox.com
2. If using a wooden post, center the bracket on the post, and mark the three middle holes (see bracket, Illustration 3). Using the 1/8" pilot bit, pre-drill the three holes in the post. Then mount the bracket to the post by driving the three 3" *deck screws* firmly through the three proper holes in the middle of the bracket and into the top of the post. For a 4 x 4, use the C and D holes. For a 6 x 6, use the B and D holes.

Illustration 3



3. If using a metal pole, attach the bracket to the metal flange through the two proper holes in the metal flange using two 1.5" bolts, two regular nut and washer assemblies. (See metal flange, Illustration 4) These types of metal flanges thread onto 1" and 1.5" diameter metal poles respectively. For a 1" flange, use the C holes. For a 1.5" flange, use the B holes.

Illustration 4



4. Remove the two *weatherproof vents* from their packaging, peel away the protective backing, position them over the precut rectangles in the roof of the white outer box and press firmly into place. (when you first apply them, the adhesive on the back of the vents needs to be room temperature or greater.)

5. Attach the viewing window assembly to the rear of the box: Removed paper backing from acrylic window. Push snap rivets first through the holes in the rubber shade, the top two holes in the acrylic window, and then through the holes in the rear of the box until they snap. Finish by pushing the last rivet through the bottom hole in the acrylic window, then through the hole in the box.
6. Attach the composite perch: Position the wooden perch with predrilled holes face-down to line up with predrilled holes in plastic landing ledge. Get the two $\frac{3}{4}$ " wood screws started into the wood by reaching into the hollow of the landing ledge to turn them. Once started, insert Phillips screwdriver into the larger holes on the bottom of the landing ledge, and turn screws until tight.
7. Push four 1" bolts first through four fender-washers, then through the four holes in the floor of the white outer box.
8. On the exterior, tightly push on the four push-nuts to hold the bolts securely in place.
9. Position the box on top of the mounting bracket until the four bolts line up with the four holes in the bracket and drop through.
10. Tighten the four washer and nut assemblies securely to the bolts.
11. Slide dark inner box in as far as it will go.
12. Place approximately two inches of mulch (preferably hardwood) in the interior of the dark box.
13. Thread the six plastic bolts through the back of the flange that runs around the perimeter of the box.
14. Attach the bottom half of the faceplate by placing it over the two lower and two middle bolts; Hand tighten plastic thumb-nuts onto the two lower bolts only. Don't over-tighten.
15. Attach the top half of the faceplate by placing it over the two upper and two middle bolts. Hand tighten the remaining four nuts. The middle nuts may need a little pressure to get started.

You are now ready for prospective tenants!

If you are concerned about bees:

Spray the inside of both inner and outer box with a solution of water and soap prior to each season. This has been shown to help repel swarming bees. Repeat every season if bees persist.

If Great Horned Owls become a problem

Great horned owls will sometimes attempt to grab young and even adults from nest boxes. The Barn Owl Box has been created so that the deep end of the box is farthest away from the entrance hole, reducing the risk. But if predation does happen, remove the composite wooden perch. The result slick, slanted surface of the plastic will further reduce the ability of a great-horned owl to land.

Maintenance of the Barn Owl Box

Because the Barn Owl Box is made of molded plastic, it never needs painted or weatherproofed.

Although barn owls never clean their own nesting sites, it does not hurt to throw out their old mulch and replace it every year or two. Wait until after breeding season to do this. *Note: Always use a surgical mask and gloves when cleaning out a bird nest.*

Observing your birds

Barn owls are naturally attracted to dark cavities, and the dark entrance hole is all the advertising they need to become interested in your nest box. Either the male or female will first inspect the site. Sometimes they will begin using the box as a roost, sleeping in it during the day, and hunting in the local area. Once they begin using the box as a breeding site, they will spend more and more time in it.

Sooner or later, you are going to wonder whether owls are residing in your box. If you have not actually seen or heard them, it does not mean they are not there! Placing a ladder behind the box and carefully lifting the rubber shade and peering in through the viewing window with a flashlight should not disturb

them too much. But remember that the owls can be caused to abandon the nest, so keep such inspections to a minimum until you are sure they have set up house and have young. Once the young are born (approximately 35 days after the eggs are laid) the pair should remain faithful to the nest and observations can be made more frequently.

Also, never peer in through the open entrance! Barn owls are fierce nest protectors and have powerful talons.

You can also observe your owls at dusk and dawn (two favorite hunting times) by positioning yourself within view of the flight path to the box. Watching a barn owl flapping slowly over a field in search of prey is a beautiful sight. And you should be able to hear them call as well. While raising young they may hunt during broad daylight.

Once the eggs hatch (and they hatch every two days so that the oldest bird is often twice the size of the youngest), the birds make their first flights from the nest at around 8 weeks old.

For any further information or if you have any questions, do not hesitate to go to our website at www.barnowlbox.com, email us at info@barnowlbox.com, or call 1-877-NESTBOX. We will be happy to help you.

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