



Make your own bird feeder

Design and make your own birdfeeder from household scrap materials.

Making homemade feeders to hold bird food can be interesting and rewarding. Our designs can get you started, but if you have your own ideas, why not try them and see how they work out. Just remember that whatever you design should be hygienic and safe for feeding birds, so either easy enough to keep clean, or cheap and easy enough to replace – and with no sharp edges.

Carton kiosk

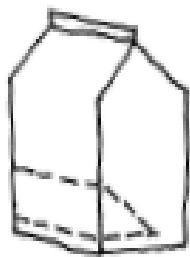
Try making this design from a cleaned-out milk or juice carton. It is very lightweight and blows around in the wind – but works well for smaller agile birds like the tits.

Start by thoroughly washing out the carton.

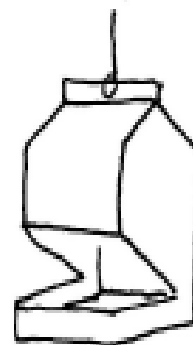
Use scissors to cut a section out using our dotted lines as a guide.

Thread a string through the top, add food to the tray at the bottom, hang it up.

Waxed paper lasts well in dry weather. Once it starts to fall apart, simply bin it (most recyclers will not take waxed paper cartons) and if it has been popular, make a new one.



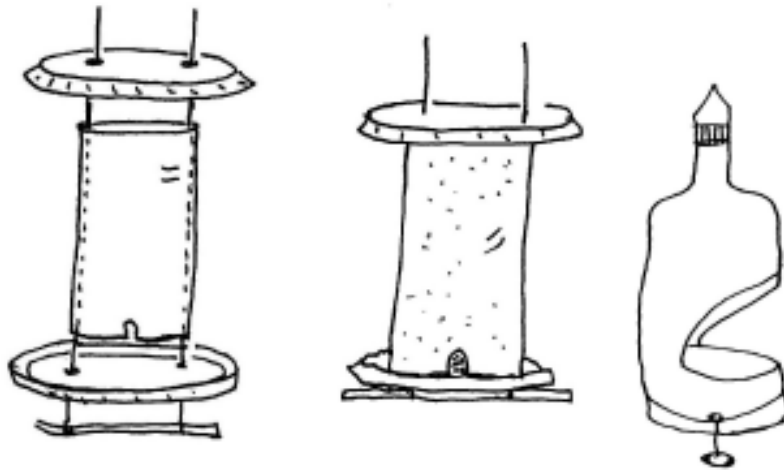
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Bottle feeder

For this design you need:

- a plastic bottle,
- two foil or plastic food dishes a few centimetres wider than the bottle,
- a strong stick longer than the width of the bottle,
- two pieces of string about twice the height of the bottle.



- Cut the top and bottom off the bottle to leave a tube
- Cut one or two small semi-circular notches from one end
- Tie the pieces of string to the stick about the same width apart as the width of the bottle.
- The stick stops everything you thread onto the strings from sliding off.
- Use a pencil to make two small holes in each round tray to thread the strings up through.
- Thread the smaller one on facing upwards. Thread on the bottle, notched end first.
- Thread on the second tray facing downwards. Tie the strings at the top leaving enough of a loop to be able to slide the top tray up and fill up the feeder tube with seed mix.
- Hang up your feeder and await your birdy guests. Alternatively use a bottle with a side section sliced out. This works best if you can pierce the base and use a knotted string
- to hang a stabilising weight below.