

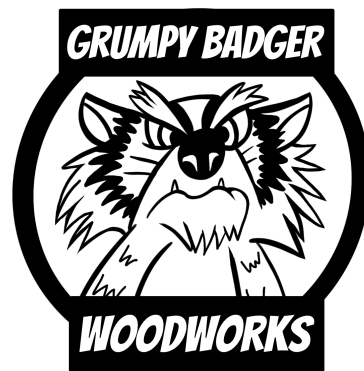
# Two Picket Project: Suet Bird Feeder

Designer: Grumpy Badger

Revision: 1.0

Project Skill: Beginner

Estimated Build Time Less Drying: 1 Hour



## Boring Stuff Before Beginning

A few notes before we dig into the meat of the project. It is highly recommended to read all instructions before beginning. Feel free to make any modifications to the plans as you see fit, but realize the piece may not function as initially intended if you do so.

This guide assumes that you have some basic knowledge of woodworking, but will break most things down to keep the project easy to do with limited tools. In the *Tools Needed* section certain processes may be called out in place of a specific tool. This means you simply need a way to do this process, not a specific tool for it. If anything in this guide is unclear please send a message to the Etsy Shop or email us at [GrumpyBadgerWoodworks@gmail.com](mailto:GrumpyBadgerWoodworks@gmail.com).

The designer of this guide is not responsible for any injuries that occur in the construction of this project or use of this guide. This guide was not designed by a professional engineer, but an enthusiast like yourself. Please use common sense and best judgment for your safety when constructing and using this item. If you do not feel comfortable following the instructions in this guide please do not attempt and seek out professional woodworking help.

Different amounts of wear and tear will happen to the final good as it is used. Please inspect the item for stability and damage before and after each use. If components are damaged or worn, do not use the piece until properly repaired.



## **Materials Needed**

### **Lumber:**

(Qty. 2) Cedar Dogear Fence Pickets 6ft Long (1828.8mm)

### **Hardware:**

Hardware Cloth (1/2" or 1/4" will work fine)

Twine, Rope, or other Hanging Material

Staples

### **Tools Needed:**

Table Saw

Miter Saw/Crosscut Sled/Jig Saw or Circular saw and Square

Titebond III Wood Glue (Or Similar for Exterior Use)

Clamps

Staple Gun

Drill with Drill Bits

Wire Cutter

Scissors

## Section 1: Cutting Up the Pickets

We are going to begin by cutting the pickets to length. Using the dog eared portion of the picket, use your square and pencil to mark and cut the end of each picket off at 12" (304.8mm) long. Then from either scrap piece you will need to cut two more pieces from the picket that are 5 3/4" (146.05mm) long.

## Section 2: Cutting the Foot Holds

Next we are going to cut the grooves that the birds will use to hang from the feeder. These are cut by using the table saw blade tilted to 20 degrees. Once you have the blade tilted you will want to set the total height of the blade to about 1/8" (3.175mm).

You may want to try your first cut on a scrap piece of material. Once you have confirmed that the cut depth is correct now you can begin to make the grooves. The grooves. Start by setting your fence at 5" (127mm) , run the board, and continue to move the fence out in 1/2" (12.7mm) increments until you are all the way to 10" (254mm) as the final pass.



## Section 3: Glue Ups

Now using the piece with the foot holds cut into it you will set the saw fence to  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " (31.75mm). Rip cut each side of the board so that 3 pieces with two sides at  $1\frac{1}{4}$ ".

Then take the middle section and cut it down to  $7\frac{1}{8}$ " (180.975mm). This should put the cut right above the top groove. Then repeat this process for the remaining part. Then you can glue and clamp both sections back together as pictured below.

While these parts are drying we can cut down the inner parts. There are two ways you can do this. You can rip them 2x to eliminate the blade kerf from the material making them the same width as the front and back pieces currently drying. Or you can measure those parts and rip the inner sections to the same width. Because I like the "rough" look of the fence pickets I make two blade passes in the middle of the part to leave the outsides matching the existing material.

Once the first glue up is dried the middle pieces can be sandwiched between the two outer pieces and glued together flush on the sides. Make sure that the center sections are flush with the outer pieces so the suet has a level base to rest on.

Now while these parts are drying we can make the roof for our feeder as well as the rails.

The roof is made from a piece that is ripped to  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " (88.9mm) wide, and crosscut to 8" (203.2mm) long. This piece then gets two sets of holes drilled in it. The first set are done with a larger bit, I used  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (9.525mm). These holes are set in from either side about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6.35mm). This is where the twine will pass through. The next set of holes are further in and are where the twine will knot and hold the roof down. These holes end up being spaces in about 2" (50.8mm). I used a  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3.175mm) bit to drill these, but you should use whatever the smallest size you can easily pass the twine through.

With the roof complete we can make out final pieces. These are the rails that the twine will loop under to hold the roof down while in use. These rails are small parts only  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " (63.5mm) by  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " (31.75mm). Make sure to use good cutting practices with these smaller parts.

Now we can glue the rails to the sides of the main body as pictured below and let the whole assembly dry (ideally overnight).



## Section 4: Final Assembly

The last part we will need to make are the grids that keep the suet in place, but allow the birds beaks to pass through. For this I am using hardware cloth that can be found anywhere garden supplies are sold. Using a wire cutter we will need to cut two sections about 5" (127mm) square. Don't worry if your sections are a bit smaller. There will still be plenty of room to staple them onto the feeder. The two side sections will need to be about 3" (76.2mm) by 2" (50.8mm). They will be a bit lower to allow space for the twine to pass through under the rail. Once you have these cut staple them in place like pictured below.

Lastly we will run the twine. Begin by feeding one end through one of the center two holes in the top plate. Tie two knots, so that the twine stops at this hole. Then feed the twine under the side arm and up through the outside hole. Next the twine will be fed down through the opposite outside hole and under the opposite support arm. Lastly the twine will go through the remaining center hole. Now stretch the top loop of the twine so there is enough length to comfortably hang the feeder from the desired location. Make sure there is enough length to lift the roof so you can refill the suet. Then you can tie the final knots and cut the excess away.

Lastly fill your feeder with Suet and watch as the birds enjoy their tasty treat.

