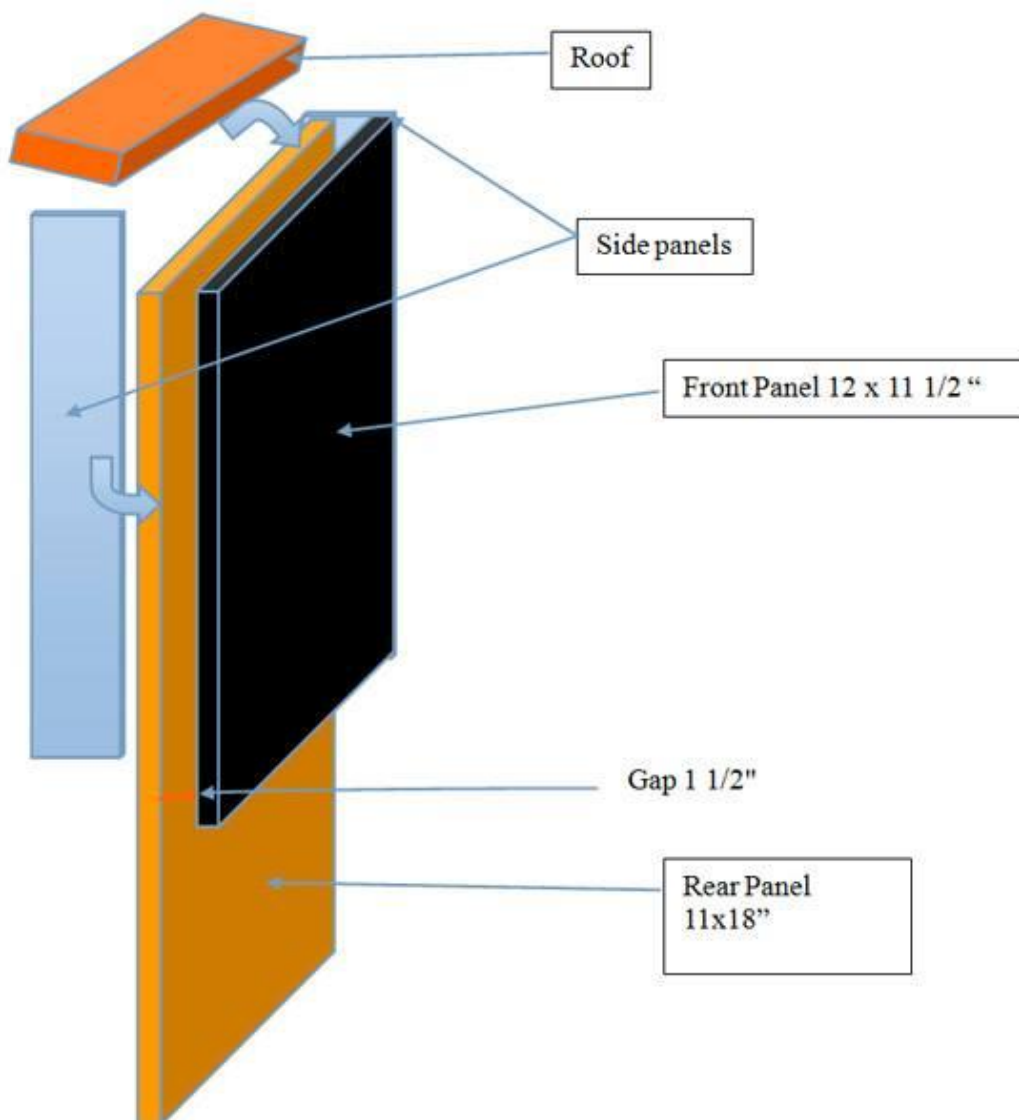


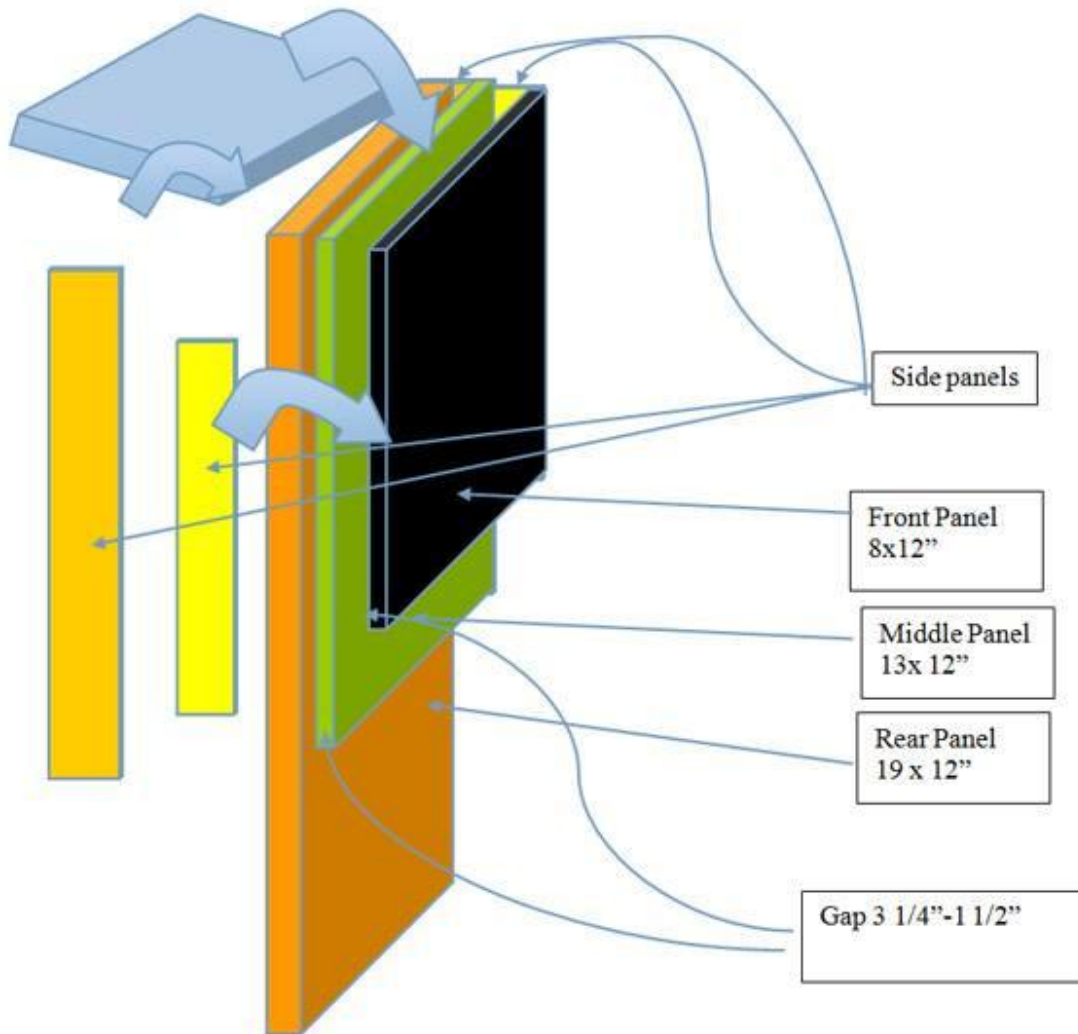
How to Build a Bat House

There are many simple methods which can be used to build a bat house ranging from wedge-shaped to large boxes with parallel slats and a narrow opening.

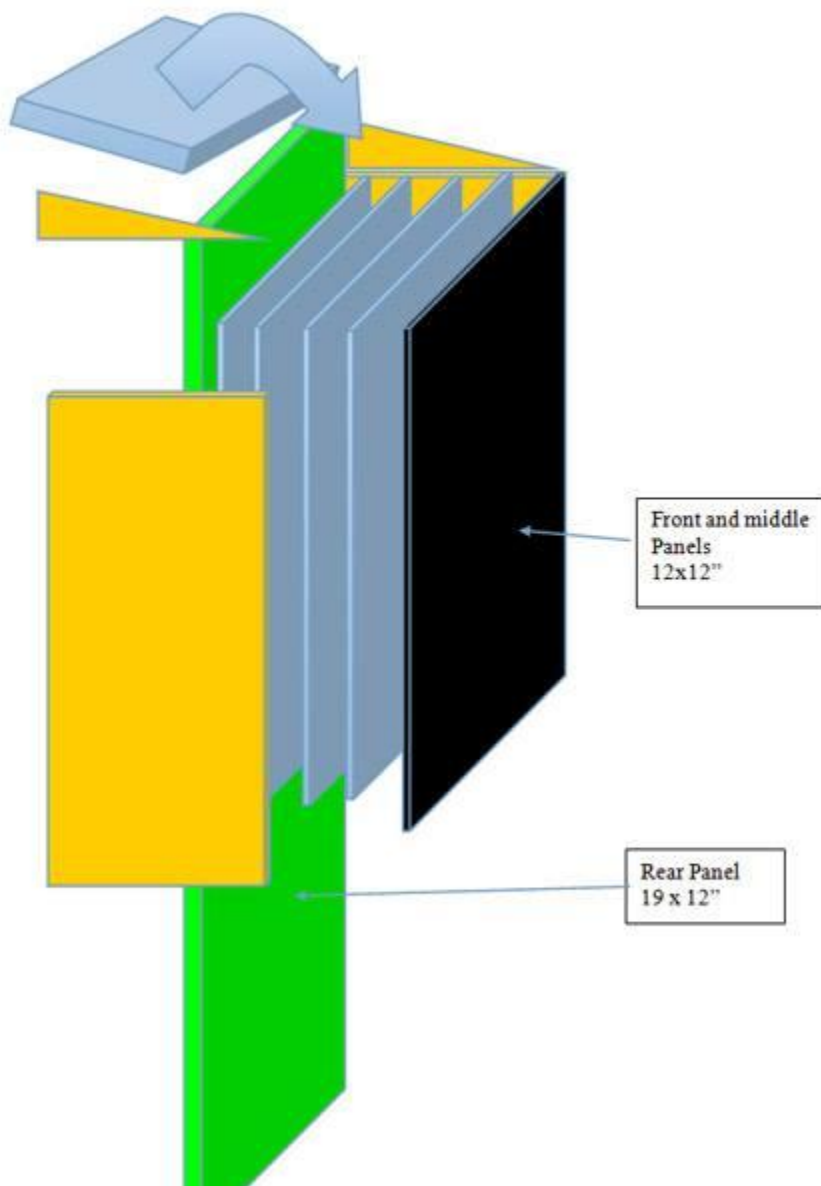
The Dilmah Conservation Sustainable Agricultural Research Centre (DCSARC) has utilised the following designs to attract the smaller members of the bat family which comprises of many insectivorous species. While precise dimensions are not essential, the entrance and cavities inside the box must be about $3/4$ - $1\ 1/2$ inches wide and the back panel should extend downwards by about 6 inches to allow the bat to crawl into the cavity.



A simple single or double tier design can also be made simply.



A multi tiered unit can also be built as below.



A taller box provides a greater temperature variation so that the resident bats are able to move to a suitable area comfortably. Further, the roof of the bat box is covered with a tar sheet to prevent water from seeping in. Optimally, the wooden panels used should be slightly roughened so that bats are able to grip onto the surface when crawling in, as such carving horizontal grooves on the inner surfaces of the panels could be helpful.