Building a Two Compartment Bat House

Using two untreated cedar fence planks, cut two 20 inch, four 15 inch, and one 11.25 inch sections. Using animal safe wood glue, affix 20 inch sections side by side to create an 11x20 inch plank. Repeat with 15 inch sections to create two 11x15 planks. Cut an untreated pine 1x2 furring strip into four 15 inch sections plus six 2 inch pieces. To accommodate a slanted roof when assembled, each 11x15 plank and 15 inch pine section will need a 15 degree slope along the TOP edge.

Beginning 2 inches from top edge, glue furring strips to vertical edges of 20 in plank. When dry, using the 11.25 inch roof as a guide to match the 15 degree angle, glue furring strips to vertical edges of ONE 15 inch plank. Using a power multi-tool, slice horizontal lines every ½ inch between furring strips as footholds for the bats.

On each plank with furring strips, evenly space three of the 2x2 pieces down the center and glue to hold in place. Cut notches in the top of the 15 inch plank (the one with furring strips) to accommodate a pass through for the bats from one chamber to the other.

Assemble bat house by stacking the 20 inch plank on the bottom, next the 15 inch plank with notches, and finally the plain 15 inch plank (no furring strips and no horizontal slices) on the top. Make sure layers are stacked in a staggered order to allow for the slanted roof; and apply a thin layer of glue to each layer as you stack. When dry, drill pilot holes through the cedar and pine layers; and then using 2 inch screws, connect the layers with screws along the left edge, the right edge, and straddling the center where the 2x2 blocks are in place inside the box. Repeat with pilot holes and screws through the back as well.

Finish the bat house by placing the slanted roof across the slanted layers and glue in place. Drill pilot holes and use 2 inch screws to affix the roof.