

Engineering Note:

After all the pieces of the Great Eight Martin Barn are correctly assembled this Barn will become **Very Solid.**



Including
"Purple Martin Basics"
Special Martin Information

Please read all directions before starting assembly.

IF ANY ITEMS ARE DISCOVERED MISSING,
DO NOT RETURN TO STORE

EMAIL US AT CUSTOMERSERVICE@BESTNEST.COM

Parts list:

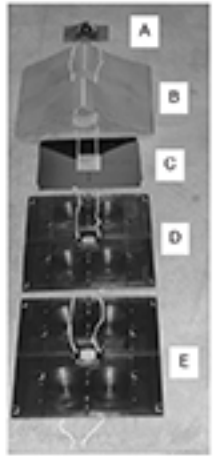
- 1 Roof
- 2 Floors
- 2 Barn Sides
- 4 Door Panels
- 1 Attic Floor
- 4 Wall Dividers
- 4 Door Dividers
- 2 Pillars
- 1 bag of 34 Snaps (white or black)



Wall Divider

Door Divider

The Great Eight Martin Barn is designed for use with the EXRP19 Pole (sold separately). Use the following steps to integrate the pulley system into this home before beginning assembly.



(A) Pull the rope through the pulley top, which is included with the pole.

(B) Keep rope tangle free. Take the two ends of the rope and pull them through the opening atop the roof.

(C) Continue leading the rope through the attic floor.

(D) Ensure the two floor sections face in the same direction. Run one end of the rope through one hole abutting the center seam. **DO NOT PLACE THE ROPE THROUGH THE CORNER SECTIONS.**

(E) Ensure the rope goes through the corresponding hole on the second floor.

(F) Ensure plenty of rope has been pulled through each hole, and separate the two floors. Verify the rope does NOT go through the corner holes on this bracket.

(G) Tie the two ends of rope with double knots below bottom floor.



The instructions for the barn will begin with Step 1.



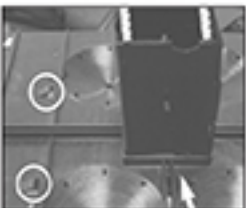
Step 1: Fold the Pillar into a square and lock in place.

NOTE: The "UP" arrow goes on the inside of the Pillar.

Special Note: The ropes need to be inside the Pillar. Wrap the Pillar around the ropes.

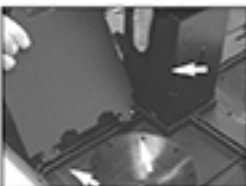


Step 2: Locate the tabs on the bottom of the Pillar that correspond with the center section of the floor.



Step 3: Insert the tabs into the corresponding holes in the floor until they lock into place.

NOTE: The four tabs in the floor on the left and right (see circled items) indicate where the entrances will be.



Step 4: Take a wall divider and locate the bottom tabs as shown and the corresponding holes on the floor and the Pillar.

Separate the door dividers at the perforations.

NOTE: The side with the "UP" marked on it is for Step 5

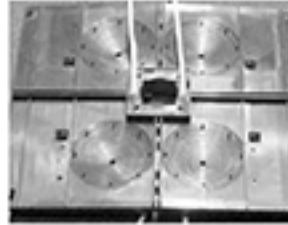
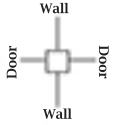


The right side may be saved to become a porch divider, if desired.



Step 5: The door dividers go toward what will be the entrances. Insert the four dividers as shown. Ensure the tabs are locked into the corresponding holes in both the floor and Pillar.

NOTE: The tabs in the floor indicate the entrances of the barn. (see arrow)

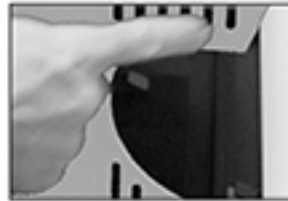


Step 6: Place the second floor atop the dividers. Be sure the floors are turned in the same direction. Push the tabs of the standing dividers into the corresponding holes. Insert the second Pillar **around ropes as in Step 1.** Add dividers on the second floor exactly as the first floor.



Step 7: The attic floor fits over the top Pillar, and allows the corresponding tabs from the dividers on the second floor to be pushed in place on the attic floor.

NOTE: If the shelter appears **WARPED** at this point, do not worry. It will straighten during the following steps.



Step 8: Take one side panel and ensure the textured side is facing outward. Place it on the side of the barn. Align the holes on this panel with the corresponding ones on the floors. The smaller holes are where the perches can be inserted.

WARNING: You must align the holes before inserting the White Snaps.



Step 9: Ten snaps go into each side of the barn. Be sure to push the snaps in all the way. Repeat steps 8 and 9 to install the other side panel.



Step 10: With the barn upright, place the roof panel over this frame. At each corner of the roof, you will find an alignment hole that corresponds with a slide tab. Push the small tab through the pre-cut hole at each corner of the roof and slide it into place.

Before completely attaching the roof, check that the attic flooring is resting on tabs on the inside of the barn walls.



Step 11: Starting at the roof peak, place snaps down each side of the roof to the eaves. Align roof holes with the snap holes in the side walls.

Use a small, flat head screwdriver or other tool to assist you.



Step 12: The four door panels are attached by inserting the end tabs through the molded holes in the side panel as shown. Each door panel swings upward. Press the panels into the floor tabs behind them until the doors snap into place.

See House Notes section on back of this page.

House Notes: Additional Information



HN A: The EXRP19 1.9" Round Pole (sold separately) will insert into the bottom of the barn through the two Pillars and come out the top of the barn. The house will then move easily on the pole.



HN B: To Clean and Inspect

To gain access to the inside of the Great Eight Martin Barn, the doors swing up and down. To open, press down on the two tabs on the flooring. Pull the bottom of the door upward. When closing, close door until the floor tabs click into place.

HN C: Maintenance Tips

The home can be painted with Fusion® paint to change its color. Apply Rain-X® or Armor All® to the roof if desired, to allow water to slide off of it easily.

Nesting Help:

Adding a small amount of needles/straw into each martin compartment of the Great Eight Martin Barn gives the Purple Martins a start in nest building.

Purple Martin Basics

Generations of North Americans have celebrated purple martins, and we are glad to help you on your journey to become a successful landlord. Our shelters offer some of the latest innovations in purple martin housing, and the information here can improve your chances of attracting this magnificent, migratory swallow.

HISTORY: Records indicate that Native Americans have been offering shelter to purple martins since pre colonial times, hanging hollowed and dried gourds in groups for these migratory birds. They found that martins ate several insects that were harming crops, and this led to a beneficial relationship and the birds forming colonies. Over time, erecting multi-compartment housing for martins became a popular and practical practice, and martins are now entirely dependent upon manmade shelters east of the Rocky Mountains. As the fate of these birds is now in our hands, it is extremely important that we provide adequate housing for them.

Purple martins migrate from the Amazon basin in Brazil northward to North America. They fly up to 7,000 miles each trek and can be found in approximately 37 states and 6 Canadian provinces.



Please refer to the map to see when purple martins will be migrating to your area.

BENEFITS OF HOUSING MARTINS: Offering these birds nesting sites has been an enduring pastime, and one known benefit is that they are primarily insectivores. They typically eat a variety of flies, bees, moths, dragonflies, and wasps, diminishing insect pests in your area. Historically, large groups would sometimes band together to threaten and overwhelm other birds such as crows or vultures, keeping crops safe and making them a welcome guest for farmers. As they have a strong sense of site fidelity, martins often return annually to the same colony, allowing you to identify different birds and strongly understand individual behaviors. Amaze at the flight patterns of these acrobatic birds, particularly the male courtship displays, and enjoy their dawn song as a natural soundtrack.

LOCATING HOUSING: Over the centuries, martins have shown preferences for specific housing locations and siting. For optimum occupancy rates, you will want to place the shelter in the most open area possible, and as close to 15' to 20' high as you can. Homes should be placed 40' to 60' away from any trees taller than the nesting box, and approximately 30' away from human housing. Due to

hunting by hawks, owls, snakes, and raccoons, martins will not nest in homes placed under or near trees. They will need the open area around the house for enough room and time for them to flee any aerial predators.

KEEPING YOUR COLONY: The key to establishing and retaining a successful martin colony is proper management. Our unique housing set ups have been designed to encourage martins to roost and help you effectively manage it. The sturdy poles enable you to lower the gourds or home for inspection and checking nests, and to monitor the progress of each nesting pair. The homes and gourds have larger compartments, as compared to traditional shelters, which promotes better breeding success, as these birds tend to raise more young when provided with larger nesting cavities. The gourds and homes also have crescent shaped starling resistant entry holes, which are smaller than traditional, circular openings. These smaller entries allow martins passage, while stopping virtually all starlings from entering the cavities. English house sparrows are a similar size to martins and are infamous for trying to nest in these shelters. A responsible martin colony manager is vigilant about keeping house sparrows out of the cavities. No birds other than purple martins should be allowed in the system you place for them. Martins, in all likelihood, will not nest in housing in which another species has already established its territory; the martins will be chased off by the other birds. If you notice any birds other than martins trying to lay claim to the housing, force them to go elsewhere by plugging holes if martins are not yet established. If you see native birds like bluebirds and tree swallows, put up separate housing for them. You should never allow the non native European starlings and English house sparrows to begin nest building in martin-specific housing, as these sites are much needed by the migratory purple martin, whose population has dwindled in recent years.

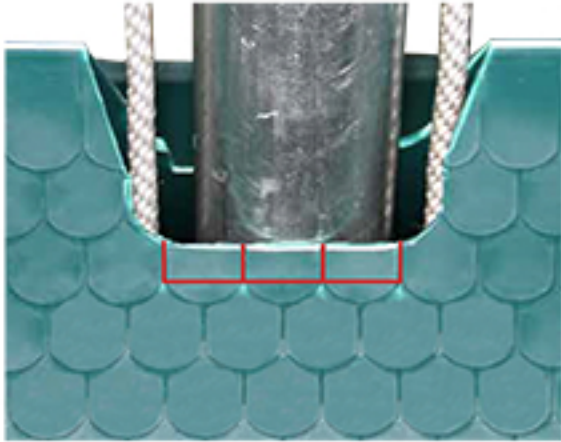
A FINAL THOUGHT: There is much more to being a successful martin landlord than purchasing a home or gourd system, placing it in your yard, and letting nature take its course. Your interest in this item already demonstrates your desire to attract purple martins. In depth knowledge of the preferences and behaviors of these birds will certainly help you manage your colony. Join a local martin club or Audubon society, read books about these birds, and check online blogs and Web sites for like minded individuals wishing to care for these birds. Sharing your hobby with others will tremendously help these birds in their fight for survival and help you best care for your colony. Our best wishes in your endeavors.

Necessary Roof Modifications on the G8 Martin Barn

This procedure will work whether you have the Great Eight Martin Barn assembled, or it is yet to be built.



You will need a Utility Knife



The red lines represent the 5 cut lines needed to remove the required section of the roof.



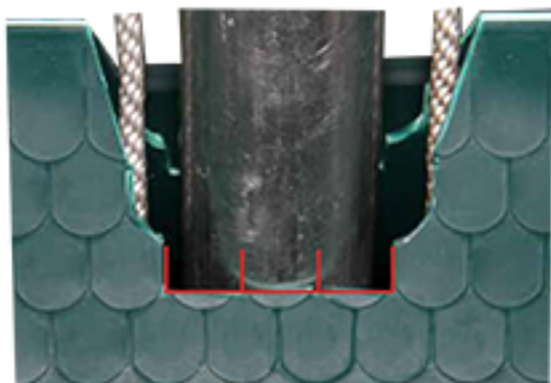
Step 1: Make 4 vertical cut lines on the side of each shingle.



Step 2: Make a horizontal cut line connecting the vertical line. Just score the roof; you do not have to cut all the way through it here.



Step 3: Wearing gloves, push each of the 3 shingles away from you, then toward you. They will fall off.



You have completed the roof modifications.