

Milk Jug Bird House

You look over the directions one more time. Your eyes go over each word with the care of memorization, the corners of the paper have begun to thin and curl up from the sweat that collects in your palms. You should probably open a window soon.

You stand in front of the sink, carefully washing a Hiland Dairy milk jug. You hold it under the faucet using warm, soapy water to coax the label off—it makes a satisfying snap when the last of the adhesive pulls off the cloudy plastic. Water rushes inside the mouth of the container, it swirls at the bottom as it fills. You cap it, hold the jug from the handle and shake it around. Your eyes are on the paper again, already half-way through the next line of instructions.

The jug sits downturned in the dish rack as you to hunt for the rest of the supplies: green tissue paper, decoupage glue, paint brush, X-Acto knife, scissors, glue gun, glue sticks, thin tree branches, twine, small stones, moss and clear acrylic sealer (optional).

You start pulling on kitchen drawers until you find the one with scissors. There are ten scissors of an assorted variety:

Fabric shears, for the several yards of denim sitting in a corner in the living room still uncut. Hair shears you bought on Amazon for whenever you decide to stop spending money on haircuts and start doing it yourself. Kitchen shears, for obvious reasons, yet you still insist on slicing open food packages with the knife you're cooking with like the home chef you are; they're there if you need it, because you'll eventually need it.

Two left-handed all-purpose scissors—you're not left handed, you just like the idea of being able to accommodate someone who is. Two someones, actually. And who's to say you won't become ambidextrous at some point and would want to use them for yourself instead of just someone you know. Or, potentially, you both use a pair.

Trimming scissors. They're too small to use for anything else except your fingernails or facial hair, it can make for a more precise cut when in a pinch when you think about it. However, they won't do it for the specific task at hand. Why they're here and not in the bathroom with the other five grooming kits (one of them incomplete you're realizing) is beyond you.

Pruning shears for a garden you hope to have sometime in the future. They were on sale so you figured it would be better to get them now than never. Maybe by having them they'll motivate you to get a place with a yard. You could take up gardening. You were almost certain you had a sack of soil somewhere in the house.

Sitting at the bottom of the drawer are three right-handed, all purpose scissors. You keep forgetting you have them and continue to buy more and don't have the heart to get rid of a couple or give them to someone else. You suppose it's better to be over prepared than under prepared.

Now it's a matter of picking which of the three to use.