

## Getting Started....

Follow the guide below to help ensure the best possible chance of attracting any number of different birds in front of your Gardenature camera.

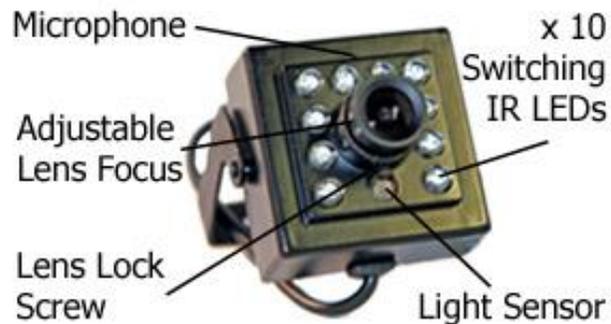
### Before venturing outside....

It is advisable to connect the kit up and check that you understand how everything works before installing; Cables are not covered under warranty once they have been installed!

Remove the front of the nest box to reveal the mini video camera mounted on the quick release bracket inside. Note how the cable connections are tucked neatly inside. Carefully remove the lens cap by gently pulling. **DO NOT TWIST!**

The **camera** is pre-focused to the optimum position by our technicians during the assembly process. If you wish to re-adjust the focus for any reason simply place a small item inside the nest box 50-70mm from the base, release the tiny lens lock screw on the lens barrel and adjust the focus manually by gently turning the camera lens left or right, re-tighten the lock screw.

The angle of the camera can be slightly adjusted to ensure view is centralised by pivoting it up/down on its bracket.



This Sony Effio Camera is fitted with a light sensor which will turn on the IR (infrared) LED's when there is insufficient natural light. This may occur if you are testing the camera indoors and so the image that you see may be in black & white, this is quite normal.

The window in the roof of the nest box will let in sufficient light to provide a good colour image outdoors. It is important that you keep this window from being covered by plants otherwise the IR's will try to compensate for loss of light on dull days; this will cause loss of image colour.

The camera also has a built in microphone so you can hear as well as see what's going on!

Note: **This camera is NOT waterproof** so always keep it sheltered in the supplied nest box or feeding device.



## INSIDE THE BOX

1. **The nest well** – providing a warm, safe place for birds to nest. This Nestbox complies with RSPB recommendations.
2. **Small Plastic Window** – to allow just enough natural light inside the box to provide colour images.
3. **Camera Compartment** – keeps camera, connections and other components dry and away from the birds.
4. **Optional - Cable or Digital Wireless**

**Connect the colour-coded connectors...**on the end of the cable (yellow = video, white = Audio) to a spare AV socket on your TV or video/DVD recorder (use supplied Scart adaptor if required) and the black socket to the supplied 12v mains adaptor. Select the appropriate AV input channel on your TV, you will normally find a button on your remote that is labelled AV, INPUT or AUX. Or you may need to go into the TV menu to find the available AV channels. Keep surfing through until images from inside the nest box appear on screen. If you are planning to record images via your video/DVD recorder then you will need to connect through that equipment, and then select the auxiliary channel input on the video/DVD recorder to view the camera on your TV

This camera system can be connected to a PC/MAC, laptop or interactive whiteboard using an appropriate capture/TV card or one of our **Video-USB Adaptors**. Once connected your Gardenature camera will appear as any other live video source, just like a webcam for example. If you wish to have motion detection capabilities we recommend **icatcher wildlife**, all these options are available on our website [www.gardenature.co.uk](http://www.gardenature.co.uk).

### Where to site the nest box

When choosing a position for your nest box it is important that you do not face the hole towards the prevailing wind as this will almost certainly mean that rain will get into the box during wet and windy weather. Traditionally, this means boxes are positioned facing between north and east. Try to avoid direct or prolonged exposure to sunlight on the box since over-heating can sometimes result in heat stress to the young birds inside. Nest boxes fitted with a colour camera have small plastic windows in the sides to allow just enough light into the box for good colour images. Experiment with the position of the nest box to give you the best results. Remember to allow for excessive leaf cover later if you are erecting the nest box during the winter

Placing a nest box in close proximity to a feeding device or feeding station may well put off birds from nesting in the box. Most nesting birds are highly territorial and do not like intruders in their territory.

Either remove feeders just before and during the breeding season or place the nest box well away from the feeding station (approx 10 meters).

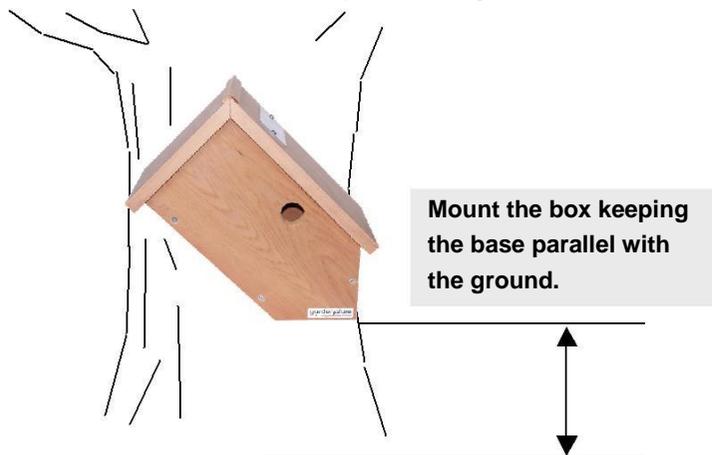
If squirrels or woodpeckers are a particular problem in your garden try fitting a metal hole protector plate, 28/32mm supplied



## Fixing the nest box

If you wish to attract Blue Tits, Great Tits etc to nest, ideally your nest box should be fixed two to five metres up a tree or wall to prevent predators such as cats from reaching them.

There are two screws provided and two pre-drilled holes through the back of the nest box. Alternatively boxes can be attached with wire around the trunk or branch of a tree, thread through the screw holes or make your own holes if required. Use a piece of garden hose or similar around the wire to prevent damage to the tree.



**Safety Note:** Many activities concerned with nest boxes are potentially hazardous – Be familiar with the safe working practices of any tools you use. Wear safety glasses where appropriate. Ensure ladders are secure before you climb them, particularly if the ladder has been placed against a thin tree, or a branch protruding from the main trunk.

Run the cable from the nest box using the safest route possible. To prevent any tripping hazards you can either fasten the cable along a wall or fence or bury it underground. Where possible we advise you to place the cable inside a conduit or old hose pipe to help prevent damage from squirrels, rats or the occasional spade! Although advisable this is not essential as the system runs on low voltage DC so poses very little hazard. However, as with any electrical equipment used outside, we advise you to connect your system to the mains via an RCD breaker.

There are a number of options for getting the cable into your house. Either drill a 20mm hole through the wall or run the cable through the corner of a door or window frame. Alternatively, you could pass it through an airbrick.

## Quick Care / Maintenance Guide

The nest box is made from high quality Western Red Cedar and should require no treatment for some time. However, if you do wish to treat it, we recommend using a water based wood preservative but only on the outside so as not to harm the nesting birds. Boxes are best treated in late summer or autumn when the birds are not using it. In winter, especially during cold spells, birds such as tits and wrens often use nest boxes as roosting sites, and by March many species of tit are already prospecting for nesting sites.

Old nests should be removed from your nest box. The best time to do this is soon after the breeding season and before the onset of winter. The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 permits the cleaning out of nests containing abandoned eggs between 1 August and 31 January. The eggs must be destroyed promptly and cannot be kept or sold. Nests often harbour fleas and an old nest left in a box over winter provides a warm home. If, however, you do forget to remove an old nest make sure you clear it out before the end of January.

Put old nests into a plastic bag and seal it straight away. This will keep the fleas contained within the bag rather than jumping all over you! Wear protective gloves or wash your hands thoroughly when you have finished.

**If the camera is to be left outside in very cold weather conditions it should always be left switched on. This will generate a very small amount of heat inside the camera to prevent the electronics from freezing.**

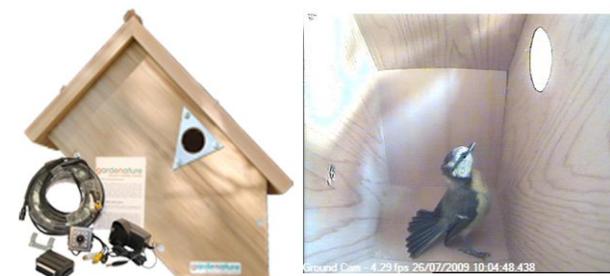
If you need further help or advice - please visit our website and read the **FAQ** and **Advice** tabs, you can also contact us using any of the following methods -

**Tel: 01473 327775**

**eMail: [customerservices@gardenature.co.uk](mailto:customerservices@gardenature.co.uk)**

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**gardenature**  
WILDLIFE CAMERA SYSTEMS



## Side View Box – For Ultra High Res Camera

### Set Up Guide

Gardenature nest box camera systems have won many awards and are one of the best brands available on the market today!

We have taken the standard Nest Box Camera design and added a unique twist by literally turning the traditional bird box design on its head...well almost!

This Side View design provides garden birds with a warm and secure place to raise their family but also offers the viewer a unique 'side on' view rather than the traditional 'top down' image.

The camera body and connections are mounted behind an opaque plastic panel fitted with a small slot for the camera lens to shoot through. As the camera is mounted at the top of the sloping side wall, nesting material and general mess is kept away from the camera in the nesting chamber at the base of the box.

We use high quality PEFC Western Red Cedar (from renewable sources). Cedar has its own natural oils and does not require treatment, but if you wish to coat it in a water based preservative then this will help to protect it against the harshest weather conditions over the longer term.

Thank you for purchasing a Gardenature Camera System.