

# Instructions for converting MSS-12 martin house to enlarged compartments

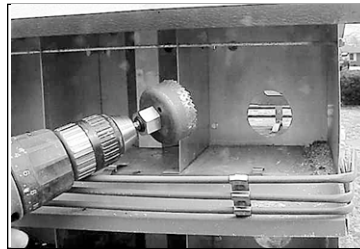
**Note:** This is only a suggested procedure.



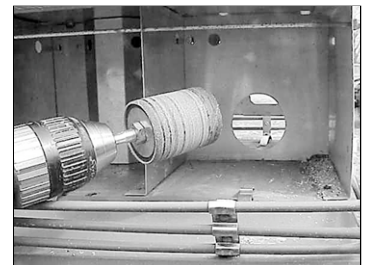
**CAUTION:** Because of decreased entry size, it is very important that you conduct regular nest checks during nesting season when enlarged compartments are in use to make sure martins are not trapped inside. It has been noted that sparrows will sometimes build a nest in front of the martin nest, trapping baby and parent birds. (Enlarged compartments may also attract starlings.)

**Step 1.** If house is already installed, lower the house on the pole to an easy access height. Remove all doors and subfloors.

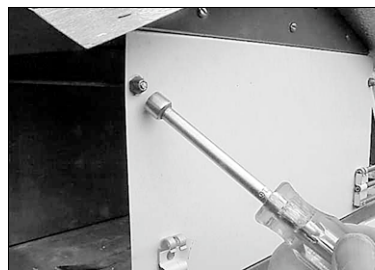
**Step 2.** Use 2-1/2" to 3" hole saw on a drill. Cut hole as shown on one lower and one upper compartment. **NOTE:** Bottom of hole is 1/2" from floor.



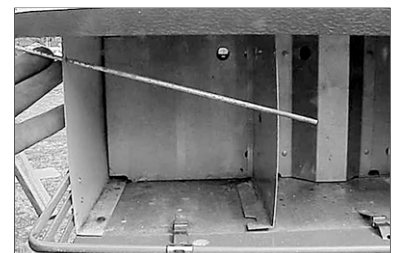
**Step 3.** Use sanding drum that fits on drill or rasper to remove sharp edges and burrs. This will enlarge the hole a bit more.



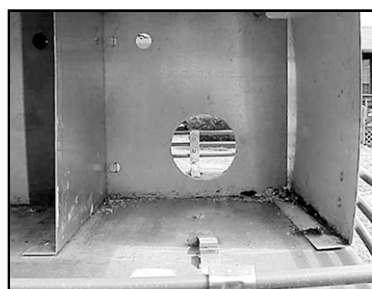
**Step 4.** Use 5/16" nut driver or pliers to remove nut over door rod at end of house. (Do not lose nut.)



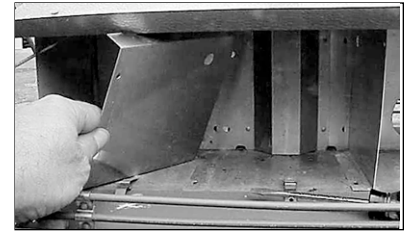
**Step 5.** Remove door rods so that some side panels can be removed.



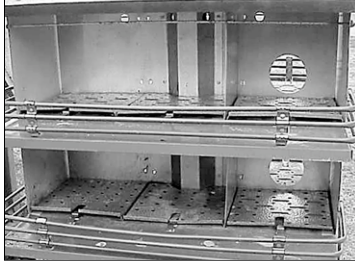
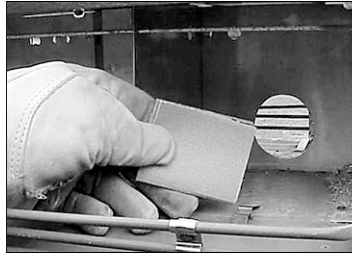
**Step 6.** Using flat screwdriver slightly straighten locking tabs on side panels and pry them out. Remove other three panels, making sure to leave ones in place that go to elongated compartments.



**Step 7.** Replace four rods to their original positions. Make sure they go through remaining panels. Do one final sanding on all sharp edges of holes.

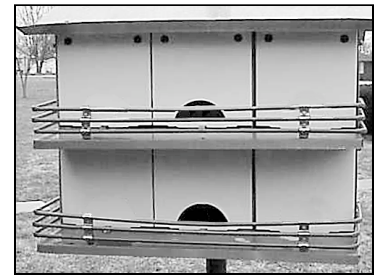
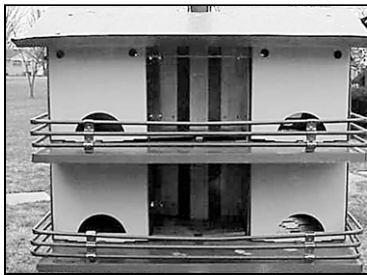


**Step 8.** Do one final sanding on all sharp edges of holes.



**Step 9.** Reassemble house; replace subfloors - they may slide around but will later be held in place by doors.

**Step 10.** Add crescent doors. On house shown there will be four on one side. Blank doors (or regular key-hole entrance doors with door stops) should be added on all other openings.



**Side 1 (w/blank doors) of converted house**

**Side 2 (w/blank doors) of converted house**

**Side 1 (w/door stops) of converted house**



**Side 2 (w/door stops) of converted house**



Doing nest checks at least once a week until hatchlings are about 14 days old and keeping accurate records of your colony is an important part of a management program — good management is necessary for a healthy purple martin colony. To request a free information packet call 800-255-2692 or e-mail: <natsoc@adams.net>

Blank Doors and Crescent Doors are sold in packages of 6 or 12.  
To order and/or to request a free catalog call 800-255-2692  
or order through our secure online catalog: <http://www.naturehouseinc.com>.

**For replacement parts or accessories call toll-free 800-255-2692:**



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