Let’s Start Building

1. Words of wisdom.
   Before you begin, be sure that the assembly for this project is easy.
   It requires a little patience.
   Tack-gluing the parts together makes the assembly easier,
   but takes a little time.
   Since many of the parts are small, and pieces are made
   of fairly hard wood, predrilling
   the nail holes will avoid splitting.

2. Cut the pieces.
   Start by cutting the parts from the cutting list.

   When cutting the 5/8-inch
   pieces for the seat and
   back boards and armrests
   (Parts G through K), use
   push sticks to do it safely
   (see Photo 1). If your push
   sticks are made
   from 3/4-inch stock,
   guide your stick against
   the fence and through the
   saw blade, pushing the
   material completely past the blade.
   Push sticks are meant to be
   expendable.

   You’ll need a total of
   about 12 feet of these 5/8-inch strips.
   To save time, sand the edges before cut-
   ting the pieces to length
   according to the cutting list.

   The angle for the back
   sides (Part C) and each one
   of the seat frame ends (B)
   is 17 degrees, but it’s
   still need to be exact. Just make
   sure the angle is the same
   on all four pieces. See the
   pattern on page 46.

3. Frame it out.
   Assemble pieces A and B
   for the seat frame as shown
   in Photo 2. Tack glue and
   allow the frame to dry before
   nailing or using 7/8-inch brads.

   Cut off the head of a brad
   and use that as a drill bit
   for predrilling.

   Put together the back
   frame (see Photo 3) in the
   same way. Support the
   piece well while nailing.

   While nailing, note that
   the seat connector
   (Part D) is flush with
   the back of the frame.

   Glue and nail the two
   frames together as shown
   in Photo 4, using 7/8-inch brads.

   Set each slat slightly
   below the surface after nailing.

4. Attach the slats.
   Center, glue and nail the
   two long seat boards (Part G)
   to the seat frame. Then
   carefully lay out the back
   boards on the frame
   beginning with the two outside
   end pieces, making them
   flush with the seat back
   sides (see Photo 5).

5. Setting the screen.
   When dry, nail in place
   with 5/8-inch brads.

   Using the same method,
   glue each short seat board
   (Part H) in place and
   nail when dry.

6. Hanging it up.
   Insert the screw eyes in
   the feeder as shown
   (diagram at left). Cut two
   lengths of chain 12 inches
   long and attach the ends to
   the screw eyes on each side
   of the feeder. Since the
   chain is easier to open than
   the screw eye, use pliers to
   open and close the end
   chain link around the screw
   eye.

   Attach a length of chain
   just off-center to each side
   of the hanging. This off-
   center placement (about
   one linking closer to the front)
   gives it a slight backward
   tilt like a real-bench swing.

   Add the hooks to the top
   of the chains and close them
   around the chain with pliers.

   A cost of deck stain
   or outdoor seal for protec-
   tion against the weather.

   Now your feeder is ready
   to go. Fill it with sunflower
   seed or your favorite mix,
   hang it outside, and see if
   your backyard birds get into
   the swing of it!