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Dave Campbell  
Editorial Content Chief, *WOOD* magazine



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# Keepsake Box



Dimensions: 8 $\frac{7}{8}$ " wide  $\times$  5 $\frac{7}{8}$ " deep  $\times$  3 $\frac{7}{8}$ " high



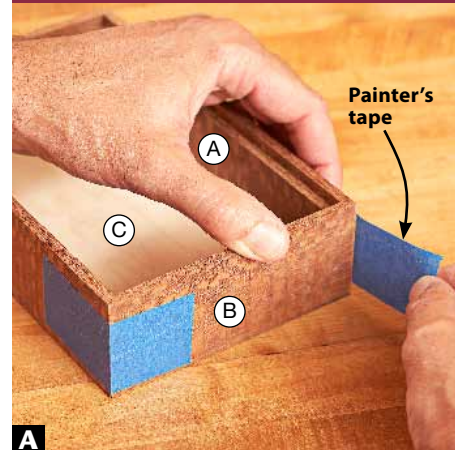
wrap around each corner to conceal any less-than-perfect miter joints, while under the lid, items rest softly on a felt-padded bottom.

## Build the box

**1** Prepare a  $\frac{3}{8}$  $\times$ 4 $\times$ 30" blank. (We used lacewood.) Rip a 2"-wide strip from one edge for the box sides (A) and box ends (B). Save the off-cut for the lid ends (F) and lid sides (G).

**2** In your tablesaw, set up a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " dado blade and raise it  $\frac{3}{16}$ " above the table. Attach an auxiliary fence to the rip fence and cut a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " rabbet for the lid along the top edge of the blank [Drawing 1]. Switch

## TAPE FOR TIGHT MITERS

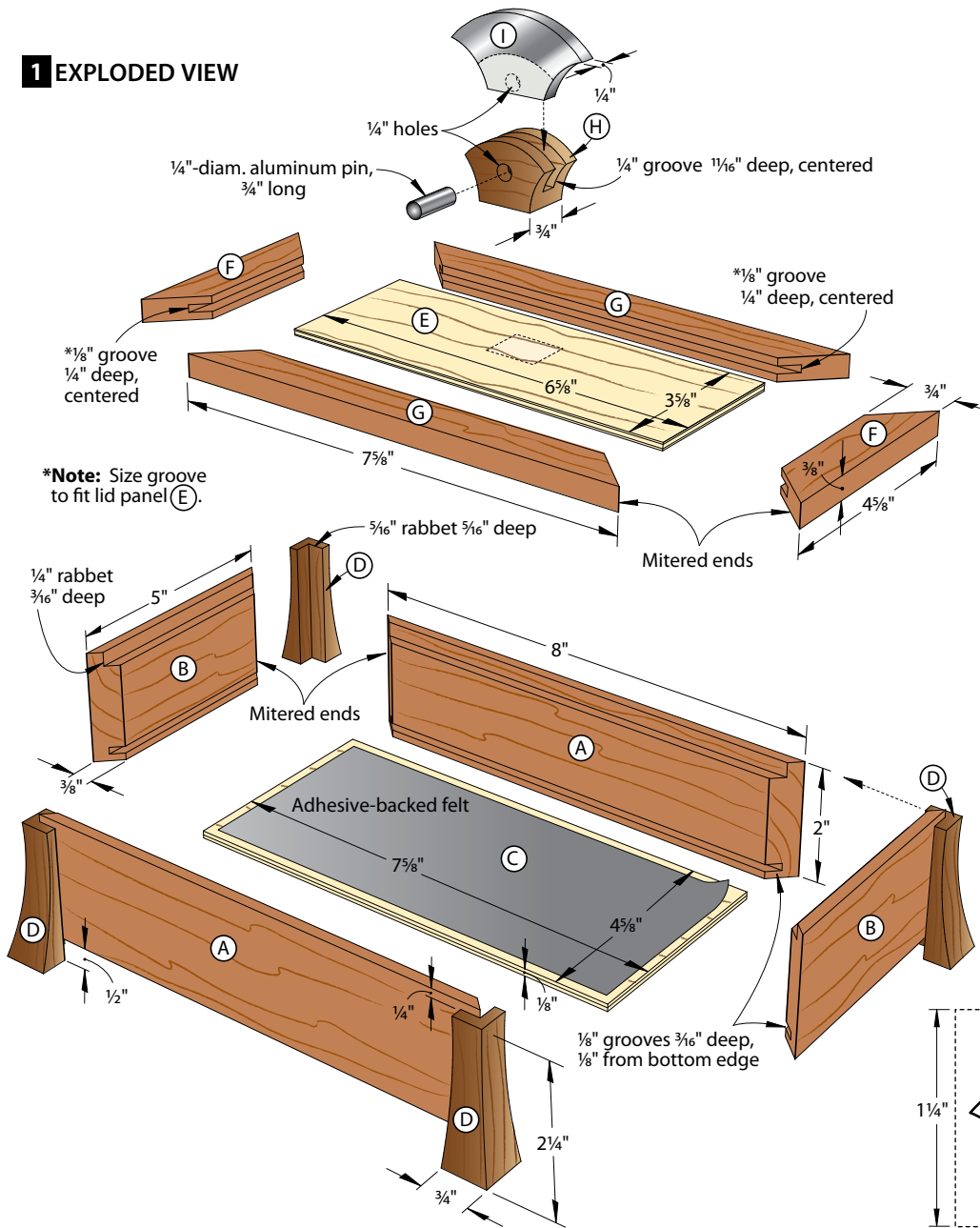


**A** Miter joints can slip when clamped. Painter's tape stretched taut around each corner holds the joints closed while the glue dries.

**T**hree species of wood—and a bit of aluminum—give this little project lots of visual appeal. (And don't worry about working with aluminum—you already have everything you need to cut and shape it.) The rabbeted legs lift the box and

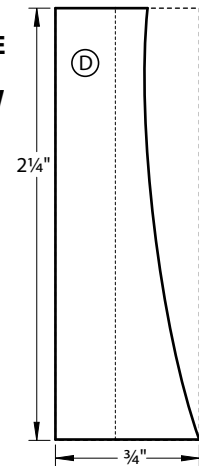


# 1 EXPLODED VIEW

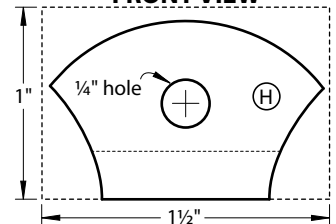


\*Note: Size groove to fit lid panel (E).

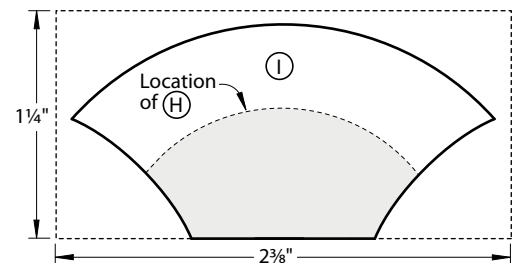
FOOT FULL-SIZE PATTERN SIDE VIEW



HANDLE BASE FULL-SIZE PATTERN FRONT VIEW



HANDLE FULL-SIZE PATTERN FRONT VIEW



to a combination blade and cut the groove for the bottom (C). Bevel-cut the blank in half [Shop Tip]; then bevel-cut a box side (A) and box end (B) from each half. Sand the inside faces to 220 grit.

**3** Dry-fit the box sides (A) and ends (B) and measure for the bottom (C). Cut the bottom to size from 1/8" plywood [Drawing 1]. Assemble the box, gluing the bottom into the grooves [Photo A].

**4** On one edge of a 3/4x3/4x12" wenge blank, rout or cut a 5/16" rabbet 5/16" deep. Crosscut the feet (D) to length from this blank [Drawing 1]. Make a copy of the Foot Pattern, above right, and spray-adhere it to a piece of 1/4" hardboard or plywood. Bandsaw and sand the hardboard to the pattern lines, then use this

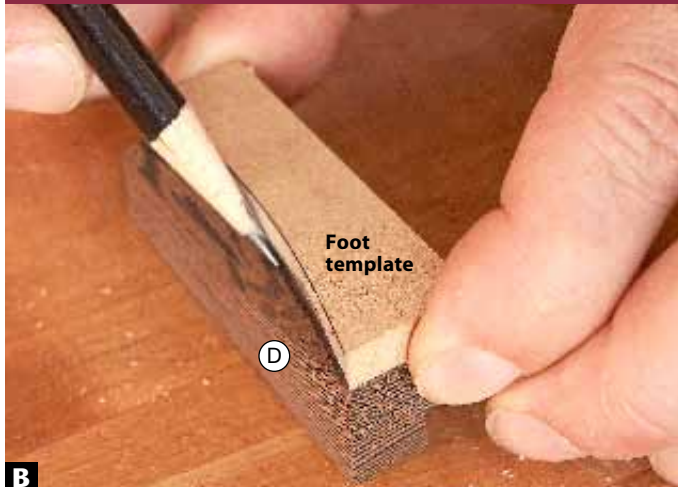
## SHOP TIP

### Spot-on miters and bevels

Before bevel-cutting or mitering project parts, check the accuracy of your blade or miter-gauge setup by cutting a test box or frame to ensure that all four corners come together with no gaps. A miter-gauge extension that reaches past the blade, right, backs up the cut to prevent chip-out. For identical-length pieces, fasten a stopblock to the extension using double-faced tape.



## LAY OUT THE FEET



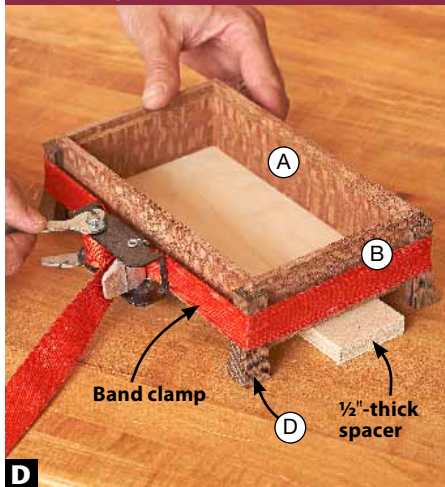
**B** A template makes it easy to lay out identical curves on the feet (D). Align the bottom of the template with the end of the foot.

## NOW ROUGH-CUT THE FEET



**C** Safely grip each foot (D) in a handscrew. Bandsaw just outside the line; then lay out the curve on the adjacent face.

## AND FASTEN THE FEET



**D** Rest the box on a 1/2"-thick spacer; then glue and band-clamp the feet (D) to the corners. Make sure each foot rests on the bench.

## CUT THE VENEER TO SIZE



**E** Hold a plywood platen in place on each piece of veneer and, using a fresh blade, cut around the platen.

## EVENLY COAT THE LID



**F** White glue allows for a longer working time. Spread an even coat, then position the veneer flush with the platen edges.

template to transfer the foot shape to one unrabbeted face of each foot [Photo B]. Bandsaw this face to within 1/16" of the line [Photo C], then lay out the profile on the adjacent unrabbeted face and cut it close to the line. With 220-grit sandpaper, finish-sand the feet to final shape; then assemble the box [Photo D].

## Let's look at the lid

**1** Cut a 4x7" blank for the lid panel (E) from 1/8" plywood [Drawing 1]. From 1/2" plywood, cut two 4x7" platens to use when gluing veneer to the lid panel. Using a platen as a template, cut the veneer to size [Photo E]. (We chose quilted maple.)

**2** Spread an even coat of white glue on one face of the lid blank [Photo F] and position it on a veneer sheet. Place the blank veneer side down on a waxed-paper-covered platen. Apply glue to the exposed lid face and position the second

piece of veneer. Clamp up the platens and lid [Photo G]. Allow the glue to dry at least four hours before removing the clamps and platens.

**3** Trim the lid panel (E) to finished size [Drawing 1] and finish-sand it to 220 grit. Retrieve the blank for the lid ends (F) and lid sides (G) and rip it to 3/4" wide. Cut a centered groove along one edge of the blank to match the thickness of the lid panel. Miter-cut the ends and sides from the blank to fit around the lid panel [Photo H].

**4** Apply glue to the miters and the grooves in the lid ends (F) and sides (G) and assemble the lid with the panel (E). Clamp the corners with painter's tape. After the glue dries, sand the lid so it fits easily in the rabbet in the top of the box (A-D). **Quick Tip! Keep the lid uniform.** Sand equally on opposite sides so matching pieces stay the same width.

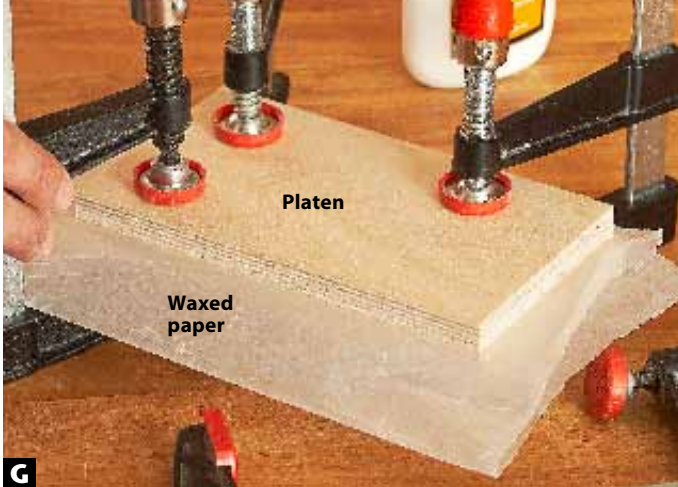
## Handle this job easily

**1** From wenge, cut a 3/4x1x12" blank for the handle base (H). Cut a 1/4"-wide groove 1/16" deep, centered on the blank's thickness [Drawing 1]. Make a copy of the **Handle Base Pattern** on page 63 and spray-adhere it to the blank, aligning the bottom of the pattern with the ungrooved edge of the blank. Bandsaw 1/16" outside the lines and finish-sand up to the top line only.

**2** Spray-adhere a copy of the **Handle Pattern** to a piece of 1/4"-thick aluminum stock. **Quick Tip! Wood is good, too.** If you don't take a shine to metal, feel free to substitute lacewood or another species for the aluminum handle (I). Bandsaw just outside the pattern lines. Sand the top edge to 220 grit, then remove the pattern and sand the faces. We polished the aluminum starting with 150-grit sanding pads and finishing with 320 grit.



**PUT THE SQUEEZE ON**



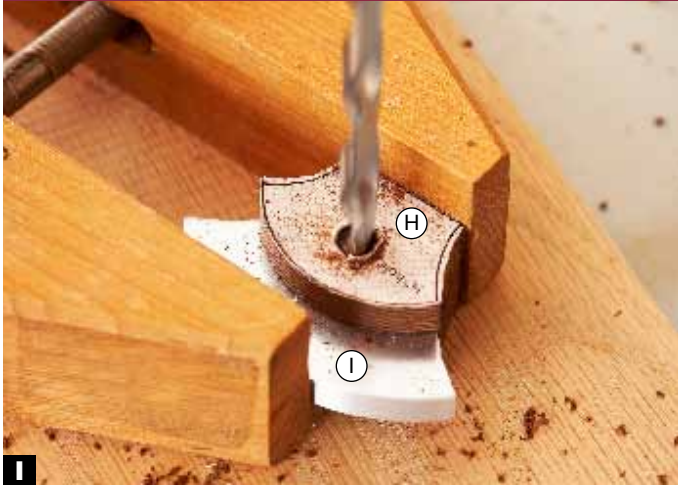
**G** After gluing veneer on both faces, place waxed paper on top of the veneered panel, then clamp the top platen in place.

**USE A STOPBLOCK FOR IDENTICAL SIDES AND ENDS**



**H** Position the miter-gauge head as shown so the workpiece presses against the stopblock throughout the cut.

**GET A GRIP ON THE HANDLE**



**I** Clamp the handle base (H) and handle (I) in a handscrew. Mount a 1/4" twist bit in your drill press and bore through both pieces.

**SAND THE HANDLE TO SHAPE**



**J** Sand the sides of the handle assembly (H/I) on progressively finer sanding drums to achieve the sheen you desire on the metal.

**3** Center the handle (I) in the handle base (H), clamp the pieces in a handscrew [Photo I], and drill the hole where indicated. Cut a length of aluminum rod to fit in the hole and secure it with a dab of epoxy if needed. Sand the rod flush with both faces of the handle base.

**4** Using a 220-grit spindle sander or sanding drum mounted in your drill press, sand the handle assembly (H/I) until the aluminum is flush with the wood [Photo J]. Glue the handle base to the lid panel (E), centered.

**Finishing touches**

**1** Apply a finish to the box and lid. To reach all the inside corners with even coverage, we sprayed on three coats of aerosol satin lacquer.

**2** Cut a piece of adhesive-backed felt (available at hobby shops and fabric stores) to fit in the bottom. Test the fit before peeling off the backing and pressing it in place. 🌲

Produced by **Craig Ruegsegger** with **Kevin Boyle**  
Project design: **Kevin Boyle**  
Illustrations: **Lorna Johnson**

**Materials List**

Part	FINISHED SIZE			Matl.	Qty.
	T	W	L		
A* sides	3/8"	2"	8"	L	2
B* ends	3/8"	2"	5"	L	2
C bottom	1/8"	4 5/8"	7 7/8"	BP	1
D* feet	3/4"	3/4"	2 1/4"	W	4
<b>Lid</b>					
E* lid panel	1/8"	3 5/8"	6 5/8"	VP	1
F* lid ends	3/8"	3/4"	4 5/8"	L	2
G* lid sides	3/8"	3/4"	7 7/8"	L	2
H* handle base	3/4"	1 5/16"	1 1/16"	W	1
I* handle	1/4"	1 1/8"	2 1/4"	A	1

\*Parts initially cut oversize. See the instructions.

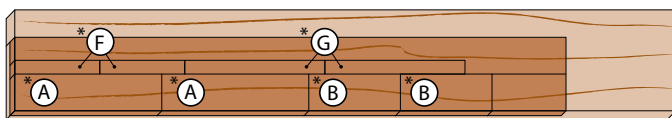
**Materials key:** L-lacewood, BP-birch plywood, W-wenge, VP-veneered birch plywood, A-aluminum.

**Supplies:** Spray adhesive, 1/4x1 1/2" aluminum bar, 1/4"-diam. aluminum rod, quilted-maple veneer, 4 1/4x7 1/4" self-adhesive felt.

**Blade and bit:** Dado blade; 1/4" drill bit.

**Materials kit:** Contains lumber, plywood, veneer, aluminum, and felt for one box, pieces cut slightly oversize. Kit no. W202, Heritage Wood Specialties, 800-524-4184, heritagewood.com.

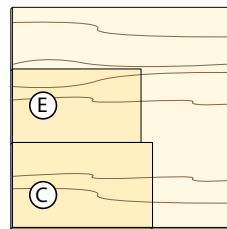
**Cutting Diagram**



3/4 x 5 1/2 x 36" Lacewood (1.5 bd. ft.)  
\*Plane or resaw to the thickness listed in the Materials List.



3/4 x 1 1/2 x 24" Wenge (.3 bd. ft.)



1/8 x 12 x 12" Birch plywood

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