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INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING A MEMORY BOX

Red oak, walnut, and cherry make beautiful boxes. For a striking design, combine two kinds of wood. Instructions are given for a box with inside dimensions 13 inches wide by 18 inches long, 6 inches deep (outside box dimensions 14 ½ x 19 ½ x 6 inches).

Tools:

Table saw, band saw (scroll saw or jigsaw may be used), router, drum sander, medium and fine grain sandpaper, drill press, clamps

Materials:

¾ inch wood, wood glue, stain, finish (either varnish, oil finish or lacquer), 2 small hinges, latch, #6 x ¾ screws to attach bottom, #6 x 1 inch wood screws for skirt/feet (optional)

Instructions:

For the top, glue wood pieces together to make an oversized top 20 x 15 inches. When dry, sand glue lines smooth. Trim on table saw to 19 ¾ x 14 ¾ inches. This will allow an extra 1/8-inch on all four sides when the top is glued to the box. The extra 1/8-inch will be trimmed later.

Cut two sidepieces 6 inches by 19 ½ inches, and two end pieces 6 inches by 14 ½ inches.

Glue sides and ends together with mitered corners. To miter, cut the ends of all pieces at 45-degree angles, apply glue and clamp together. Glue top to box and trim off the extra 1/8-inch with flush trim bit in router. Next, round over the top with ½ inch round-over bit in router.

Sand the box until it is smooth, starting with medium grain sandpaper and finishing with fine grain.

Set table saw fence about 1 ½ inch from blade and cut top from box. The top now becomes the lid.

To make a skirt and feet around bottom of box, cut two pieces 1 ½ x 21 inches (sides, and two pieces 1 ½ x 16 inches (ends). Make a pattern for feet and rough cut with band saw, and then sand smooth to pattern line with drum sander in drill press. Sand to fit the sides and ends of box. Round over the top of the skirt the same way box top was rounded. Miter the ends and glue to box. Top of the skirt should be about ¾ inch above bottom of box. Screws, applied from inside of box, can be used in addition to glue for reinforcement.

To make bottom of box, cut ¼ inch plywood to fit outside dimensions of box (19 ½ x 14 ½ inches). Tack or screw to box, working from underside. Sand, stain, and finish box. Add hinges and latch.