

Do It Yourself

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Wooden Tool Chest -- Finishing Touches

From "[Wood Works](#)"

episode WWK-308 -- [More Projects »](#)

The finishing steps in the handmade tool-chest is to create the lid by cutting off the top of the box structure, and then applying a wood finish. Brass hardware is also installed.

Materials: Assembled case

Band saw

Block plane

Hand scraper

Tung-oil wood finish

Paint brushes

Rags

Brass hardware: hinges and latch

Note: Cut sizes may vary. For exact measurements, please contact David Marks through his Web site -- information below under Resources.

Safety Alert: *Always* wear safety goggles or safety glasses when working with wood, power-tools, saws, drills, routers, etc.

Safety Alert: *Always* wear protective gloves when working with wood stains, solvents and other toxic solutions.

- Fashioning the top for the tool-chest is the simplest step in the construction, since the lid is simply made by cutting off the top of the glued-up box structure with a single, clean cut on the band saw (**figure A**).
- The cut is positioned by adjusting the band-saw fence so that the cut falls between the second and third dovetail pins. Mark a chalk triangle to ensure that the top is installed properly after the cut has been made (**figure B**).
- With the fence and blade set, and the assembled box set against



The classic design and joinery of this handmade tool-chest combines function, beauty and durability.



Figure A



Figure B

the fence, slice off the top with a single pass on the band saw, and carefully remove the lid piece (**figure C**).

- Clean up the edges of the case and lid using a block plane (**figure D**) and hand scraper.
- With the inside of the tool-chest now exposed, remove the tape from the joints, and clean up any excess glue using a razor blade.
- To attach the top to the case, use brass box-hinges that are made with a built-in stop at 95 degrees. A brass latch is added to the front, and a brass handle to each side.
- Jigs of MDF are fashioned to use as guides for cutting the recesses for the hardware using a hand-router.
- With the jigs attached to the sides using double-stick tape, use a plunge-router to cut the mortises for the handles (**figure E**).
- Apply 5-minute epoxy-glue to the side mortises (**figure F**) and install the brass handle-pieces (**figure G**).
- Fit the brass hinges with screws (**figure H**).
- After the hinges have been pre-fit, remove them for the application of the wood finish. Protect the previously installed latch and handles with tape.
- We selected a finish of tung oil (**figure I**) to bring out the natural beauty of the wood.



Figure C



Figure D



Figure E



Figure F



Figure G

Care Tip: The design of the case built in the demonstration is a simple box. If you have the time to invest, you can customize the interior by adding dividers, or creating a tray that rests on ledger strips. It's a good idea to wrap your hand-tools in cloth or leather when storing them to protect both the tools and the inside of the wood case.

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RESOURCES:

Fine Woodworking

A magazine devoted to high-quality craftsmanship in woodworking.

The Taunton Press Inc

Newtown, CT 06470

Phone: 203-426-8171

Fax: 203-426-3434

Email: service@taunton.com

The Small Wood Shop (The Best of Fine Woodworking)

Model: 1561580619

Author: Helen Albert (Editor)

Woodworking Techniques: Best Methods for Building Furniture from Fine Woodworking

Model: 1561583456

Author: Fine Woodworking Magazine

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Mastering Woodworking Machines (Fine Woodworking Book)

Model: 0942391985

Author: Mark Duginske

David Marks Website

David Marks, DIY's *Wood Works* host, is a master woodworker. For more information on cut sizes and project details, please contact him via his Website at www.djmarks.com

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Figure H



Figure I