



North Texas Woodworkers Association

See us at: www.ntwa.org

Volume 30, Number 2

Newsletter

February 2021

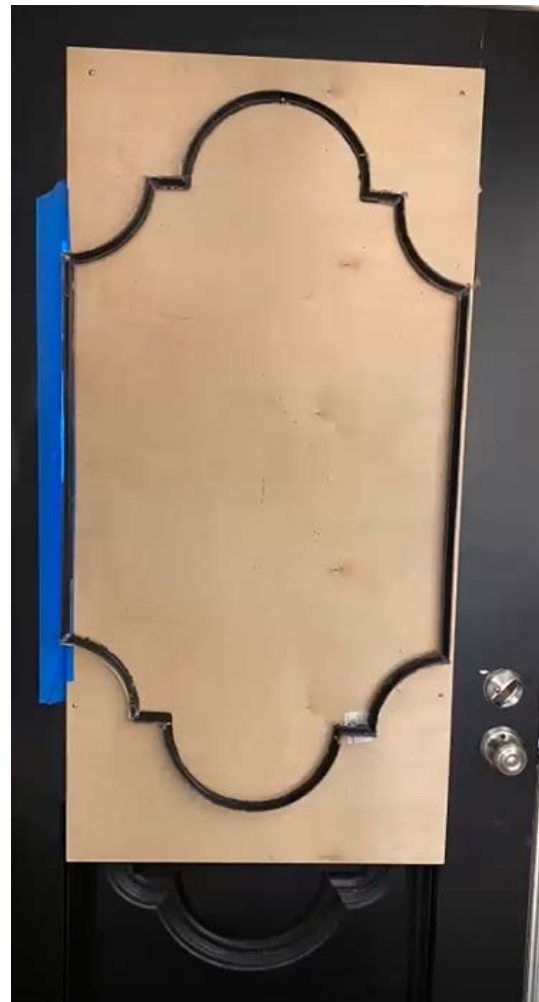
Welcome

President Jay Stearns welcomed everyone to the February meeting and asked that everyone keep their comments brief, especially on Show & Tell to allow enough time for Ron's presentation on box building.



Bodie said there is a member of his church woodworking group that has four 94" bandsaw blades that he will give away. Contact Bodie for details at (972)741-5333 or bpyndus@shadetreeia.com.

Joe mentioned that he was contacted by Juan Carlos Martin in Plano who needs some molding made for his front door. Joe will send more pictures and dimensions in a separate email.



Announcements

Bodie Pyndus gave an update on the Beads of Courage box build and said that he delivered 24 boxes to Cook's Children Hospital.

Jay said that member Nello Armstrong has volunteered his photography service to any member wanting pictures taken of any projects. Nello is now fully retired and has been a professional photographer.



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Jay raised the question of scheduling a board meeting to put together a slate of officers for 2021. Steve asked for any volunteers. With the library eliminated, perhaps we need a media person. We also need someone to coordinate training and possibly a committee for program planning instead of a single person.

Shop Questions

Bodie asked if anyone has used a wood called "roasted oak?" Steve Yauch said he's used roasted maple which he said it was brittle and you had to watch the edges. Bodie is looking for a dark wood to use in place of ebony, but not at the price of ebony.

Jay asked if wenge would work, but Bodie says the mix of brown and black wouldn't work in his application.

Kyle suggested using steel wool and vinegar to ebonize wood. Ron showed an example of poplar that he dyed black. Steve said he's used India ink to dye, but it has a bluish tint to the black.

Jim Cadorette said that he realized his blast gates weren't fully closing so he cleaned them out and now his dust collection is better than ever.

Jay said he's added the extra hose to his bandsaw that Jim Polanco suggested.

Jim Polanco asked if anyone has had a French cleat fail. He used solid pine and the cleat on the wall split along the grain at the bottom of the 45. Joe said he's used a French cleat on a yoga matt hanger for 8 matts. The hanger weighs about 60# and has not failed.

Jim P. is building a cabinet for a friend that is 9" deep x 9" X 22". It is only a frame at this time. The bottom and sides are flat, but the top has bowed 1/8". It is made of cedar. Jim is concerned about the dividers he intends to put in the box using dadoes and gluing them in. Will pulling the top flat when gluing the dividers in cause too much stress and pull it apart? Everyone agreed it shouldn't cause an issue since it is only 1/8".

Show & Tell

There was no Show & Tell to allow Ron time for his presentation.

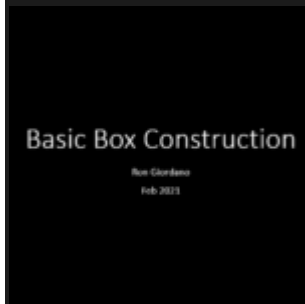
Program

Club member Ron Giordano gave a fantastic program on basic box construction. He started with a PowerPoint presentation of 14 slides, then showed a video he created while actually building a box and ended with 10 slides on hinge installation, lid supports and finish options.

The slides and video are available on Ron's website.

<https://rongiordano.com/resources/>
See the pic below on how to find the slide show (blue) and video (red).

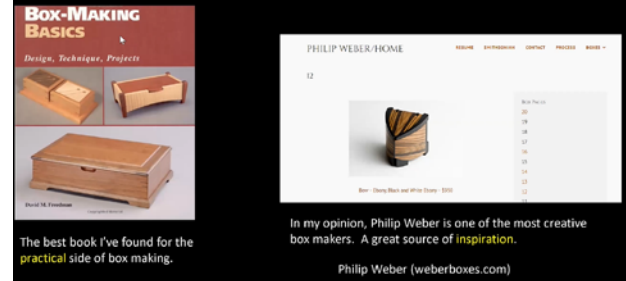
Box-Making Tutorial



I gave a demo to the North Texas Woodworkers Association (ntwa.org) on the making of a basic keepsake box. The demo included a slide presentation as well as a video of me making a box in my shop. You can find the [slide presentation here](#) and the [YouTube video here](#). Feel free to leave comments on my YouTube channel!

Ron says gave several references on recommended reading:

Recommended Reading/Viewing



David M. Freedman is his go-to book on the practical side of box making and Philip Weber for inspiration in creative box making:
www.weberboxes.com.

Ron showed several of Philip Weber's boxes to show some of the different possibilities in design and materials.

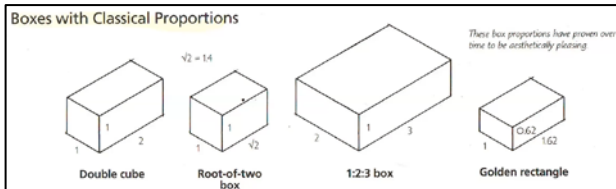
He then talked about some of the helpful small tools he keeps in his shop: Incra 6" T-Rule; Incra 6" Bent-Rule; Rockler Glue Applicators; Woodcraft Large Rubber Bands; dental picks; scalpels; double-side golf-grip tape; visor type magnifier; and CA glue applicators (stewmac.com).

Some of the larger tools he uses are: Incra router table, fence and lift; Super Max 19-38 drum sander; a bandsaw; Byrnes miniature table saw with an 18" table; a Delta belt/disc sander; and someday, a SawStop table saw.

He then showed off his garage shop and highlighted his dust collection in particular.

Ron then touched on design considerations by discussing Dimensions. On large boxes, he uses hinged lids, 1/2" walls and can include partitions/dividers. For small boxes the lid is non-hinged, has 3/8" walls and no partitions.

Aspect Ratio was discussed next, but Ron emphasized that this is a good starting point; it is nothing magical.



Philip Weber's boxes are a good example of how aspect ratios are not hard and fast.

Ron gave samples of several of his boxes that he considered "bad" designs.



Specialized boxes and considerations were discussed next.

Specialized Boxes and Considerations

- Humidors: Moisture control, no odor, Spanish cedar
- Urns: The rule of thumb is one cubic inch per pound of person
- Jewelry: Compartments and trays, flocking
- Ring boxes: Foam insert, engraving (laser/metal plaque)
- "Generic" keepsake box – easiest.

Ron then talked about three box designs he tends to use.



The first is a carcass and panel where the panels for the lid and bottom are floating panels and the grain on the front is continuous into the lid.

The second is a picture-frame top where the grain is not continuous into the lid.

And the third is a solid top box where again the front grain is not continuous into the lid. Ron cautioned that this lid is prone to warping.

On floating panels, Ron will use a drop of glue on the end-grain of the panel to hold it in place for assembly. DO NOT use glue on the sides or you may cause joint failure if the panel expands too much.

Ron gave a great example of a layout for cutting the sides of the box. See slide 12 for the details. He cautioned that you want the front board to be somewhere in the middle of your stock, not on an end otherwise you won't get the grain to match on the 3 visible sides. He also talked about resawing your stock to save on wood and to get 4 side grain-match.



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Jim Polanco asked about the CA glue applicators and whether they can be reused. Ron says he does reuse them. If the glue builds up he uses a knife or chisel to cut it off.

Jim also asked if Ron uses hidden hinges and referred everyone interested to Rob Cosman's hidden hinges YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/c/RobCosmancom/search?query=hidden%20hinges>

Ron then switched over to the video he created of the box build in his shop. Please refer to page 3 on how to access his video.

After the video Ron opened the program up to Q&A.

Steve Yauch asked Ron how he adjusted his miter sled to get perfect 45° angles. Ron said he used 2 plastic drafting triangles and trial-error. The blade on Ron's miniature saw does not tilt.

NOTE: Joe P. uses a miter sled even though his blade tilts to 45°. The advantage of using a dedicated sled is not only do you get perfect 45° miters, but if you need to cut another piece of wood while you're cutting miters you don't have to reset the blade to 90° and then reset it back to 45°. You just take the sled off the saw.

Ron says that after cutting his miters he'll take the pieces to his router table where he will use a 45° bit to fine-tune the miters. He says he doesn't use the router for the complete miter because it's too difficult to take off that much stock.

Since Ron assembles his boxes with the lid and bottom panels in place and then cuts the lid off, Chris asked how he finishes the inside. Ron said he frequently finishes the inside before the glue up. This also makes cleaning up any glue squeeze out much easier. For those he finishes after the lid is cut off, he'll use dental picks and plastic cards to remove excess finish and glue in the corners.

Ron is not a fan of using masking tape on the inside of the joint before glue-up because the masking tape tends to stick and is as difficult to remove as the glue itself. He can't remove the tape right away because he can't access it until the lid is cut off.

Wendell asked why Ron prefers miter joints over other joints. Ron says he uses miter joints to get grain matching which you can't quite get with finger joints or dovetails.

Jim asked if he was concerned about the strength of the miter joints. Ron said only if you're going to be standing on the box otherwise he's never had a failure. Jay suggested if you're concerned about the strength

of the miter joint you can always put a spline in it.

Chris K. asked why Ron used the table saw to cut off the lid instead of the bandsaw. Ron said he does it that way because that's the way he learned and with his miniature table saw, the kerf is very small. Jay said he uses the bandsaw to cut off lids but doesn't think he will do that anymore. The blade on the bandsaw can drift sometimes causing a wavy cut that you have to sand to smooth the parting faces. See Ron's video for his technique on cutting the lids off!

Sidney asked about Ron's bow box that was in one of the slides. Ron won 2nd place with this box at the 2018 Texas State Fair and showed it at the December 2018 club meeting: see NTWA newsletter of 2018-12.



Ron shared this link on the plans for the bow box:

<https://www.popularwoodworking.com/article/the-bow-box/>

He also shared this link:

<https://www.popularwoodworking.com/american-woodworker-web-extras/web-extras-161-augustseptember-2012/>

Look for "Bow Box Ribbon and Bow Pattern PDF" on that webpage.

Ron moved on to hinges (see Ron's slide show) and recommends the Brusso JB-102 hinge because it has a built-in stop that allows the lid to open to 95°. It is milled from heavy brass stock however, they are expensive. They do have a 50% off sale once a year. Ron says if you're building an expensive box, you definitely want to use the Brusso hinge, but if you're doing a \$20 craft show box, use less expensive hinges.

He then covered a number of other hinge options.

Next up was lid supports and hinge placement. Again, the slides are pretty much self-explanatory.

Ron likes to size the thickness of his box sides to the width of the hinge so he can use a through-mortise. If the sides are thicker than the width of the hinge, you should use a stopped-mortise but your choice is a matter of taste.

Ron uses the router table to cut through-mortises as demonstrated in his video.

The slide show repeats the steps he takes in finishing as shown in the video.

Ron then talked about ways to fix any mistakes.

A bad miter can be repaired by sanding the miter with a belt sander, use the round shaft of a screwdriver to compress the outside of the joint or you can use CA glue and sand the joint.

Dents can be removed with steam and/or hot water.

Ron says there are a million videos on YouTube that you can use for references and he recommends this article in Fine Woodworking as a reference on hinges:



Pick the Perfect Hinges for Your Boxes

The right choice will help you design and build better boxes

BY DOUG STONE

Selecting just the right hinges to fit each special box can be a daunting task. There are so many types that it's tough to make the right choice. And you don't want to make a ton before choosing the hinges—after all, the packing material isn't a corner. To help you wade through the options, here I give a brief look at the different hinge types and their application.

There are three main criteria to consider when you decide which hinges will be right for your box. First is appearance. Do you want to see the whole hinge on the outside of the box, or a partial hinge bent at the back, or just glimpse a barely visible hinge tucked into the lid joint? Another key factor is the size of the box and the weight of the lid. Some hinges are more robust than others, but in certain cases you can use multiple pieces of less substantial hinges to bear the weight. One aspect of hinge choice that tends to be forgotten in the specification difficulty. Some hinges simply screw right to the surface, some require cutting a complex mortise, and some require a specialized cutter to make a cut for the hinge. Understanding each type's strengths and weaknesses will let you offer your box design and find that perfect hinge each time.

Doug Stone is a professional furniture maker and instructor in Zephyr, Oregon, AK.

<https://www.finewoodworking.com/membership/pdf/226625/W259Stcorrected.pdf>

has worked without using the steel screw.

Jay commented that if you use barrel hinges you need to chamfer the bottom, the top, or both to get the lid to open.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 16th at 7:00pm via Zoom. See the email for join info.

Program: Club member Bodie Pyndus will demonstrate how to make a mortising jig for the router table that will also do loose tenons.

Greg M. asked Ron if he's used a steel screw to cut the threads for the hinge before using the brass screws. Ron says Brusso includes a steel screw and that he has bought screws for that purpose but has found that using wax on the screws

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