

Nineteenth-Century Dough Box

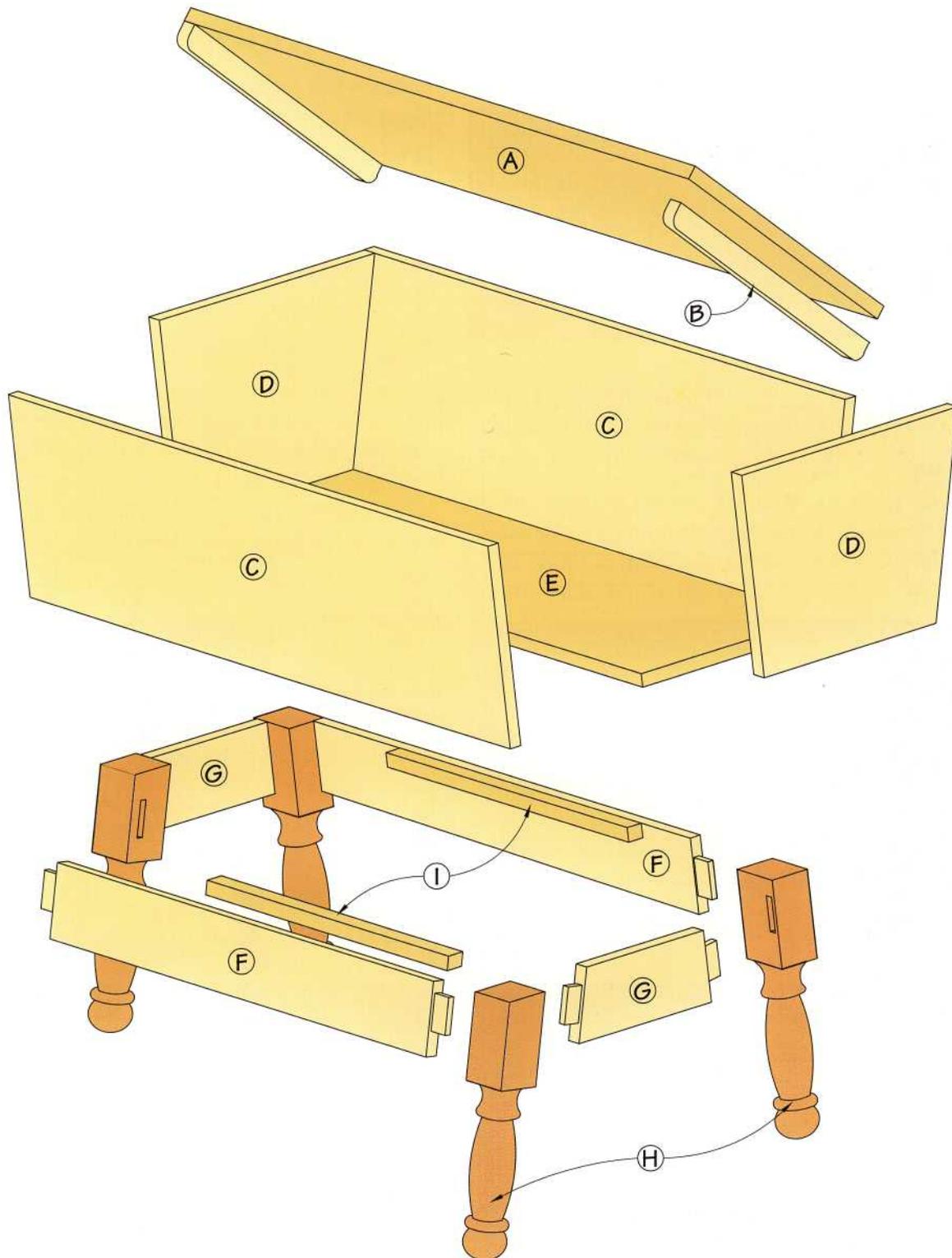


The dough box was a functional piece found in many a country kitchen. The idea was that the cook would make a large batch of bread dough, knead it on the large work surface that formed the lid, then throw it inside the box and leave it to rise. Once the dough had risen she would bring it out again, drop it once more on the surface of the lid and prepare it for the oven. Today, the piece is just as functional, though not used for dough. Most dough boxes are used as storage units, conversation pieces and decoration. They come in all shapes and sizes, depending upon the size of the house where they originated. Some had square

or tapered legs; others had turned legs. A large country home with a large family and staff would have required more baked goods than a small town house, thus the box would have been in the order of perhaps 48" wide X 24" deep X 27" high. Ours is a smaller unit 36" wide X 17" deep X 27" high. I found it in a book of American country antiques. It was dated to the early 1800s and was somewhat primitive in design. I have changed nothing except to add hinges to the one-time lift-off lid. This makes it a little more functional and convenient. What can you use it for? How about storing linens-tablecloths, napkins, etc.?

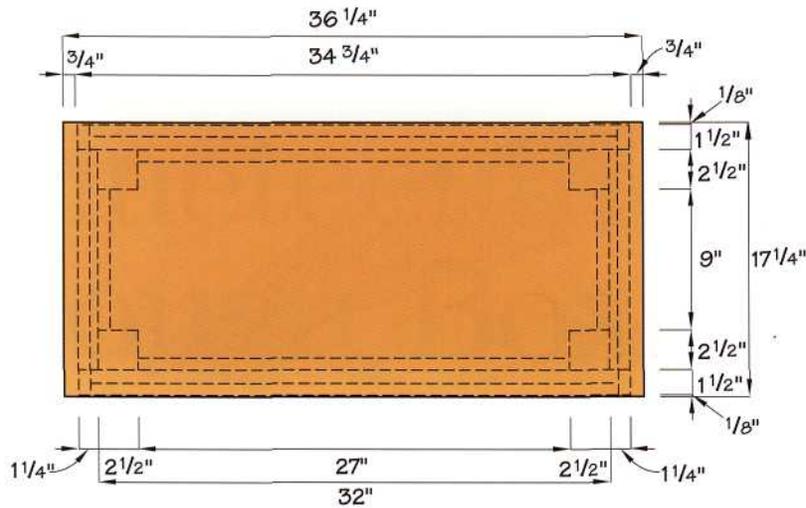
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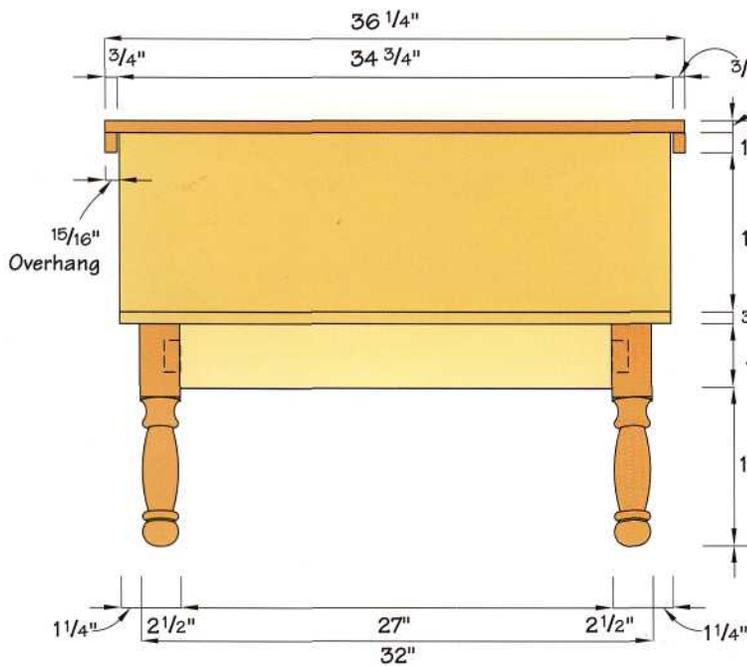


CONSTRUCTION OUTLINE

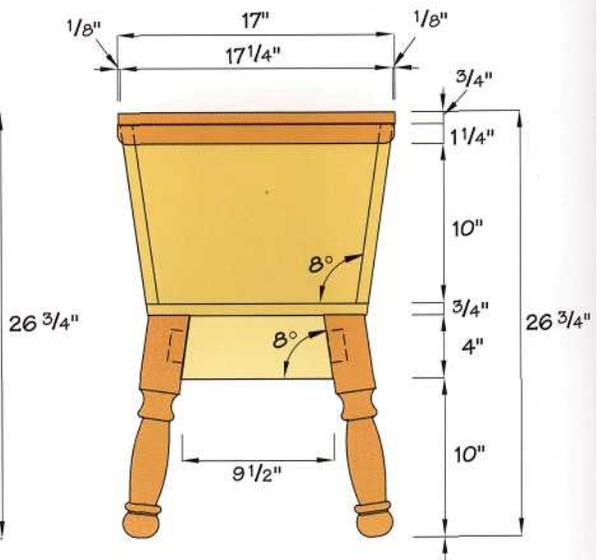
For the sake of authenticity, I constructed the box section using glue and cut-steel nails. The ends are tapered to an angle of 8° . The bottom of the box is attached with screws. The top is a simple board built from several smaller pieces of stock, the grain alternated for stability,



Top



Side



End

MATERIALS LIST

Dough Box

No.	Letter	Item	Dimensions T W L
1	A	Top	3/4" x 36 1/4" x 17"
2	B	Cleats	3/4" x 1 1/4" x 17 1/4"
2	C	Box Sides	3/4" x 11 1/4" x 34 1/4"
2	D	Box Ends	3/4" x 11 1/4" x 15 1/2"
1	E	Box Bottom	3/4" x 13 3/4" x 34"
2	F	Aprons	3/4" x 4" x 29"
2	G	Aprons	3/4" x 4" x 10 1/2"
4	H	Legs	2 1/2" x 2 1/2" x 14 1/4"

biscuited together. The original had cleats added to the ends of the lid, just as I have done, but did not have hinges; ours does. The understructure is a simple affair built using mortise and tenon; the legs are splayed forward and backward at an angle of 8° to match the box section. I kept the finish simple, just as it was on the original. These pieces were used exclusively in the kitchen and saw a lot of water, so I gave this one the scrubbed look you'll find described on page 25.

BUILDING THE DOUGH BOX

STEP 1. Cut all the pieces to size as laid out in the materials list, then run them through the jointer to clean up the edges.

STEP 2. Build the boards to make the top and bottom of the box unit.

STEP 3. Glue and screw the cleats to the underside of the top.

STEP 4. Sand the top smooth and set it aside.

STEP 5. Go to the lathe and, using the pattern provided, turn the four legs. If you don't have a lathe you can use tapered legs. The procedure is as follows: set your tapering jig to 3° and taper the legs on the two inside edges, making sure you have two right- and two left-hand legs. Begin the taper 4" down from the top of the

STEP 6. Cut the mortises—1" deep x 3/8" x 2"—in the tops of the legs as you see in the drawing.

STEP 7. Set your table-saw miter gauge to 8° off 90 and trim the two end pieces of the apron. Do the same to the ends of the two pieces that will make the end pieces of the box.

STEP 8. Remove the guard from your table saw and set the blade to cut at a depth of 1".

STEP 9. If you have a tenoning jig, set the back-stop to 8° off the vertical and cut the cheeks. **Note:** Do this

first on a piece of scrap stock and test the tenon for fit in one of the mortises.

STEP 10. Mark the shoulders at an angle of 8° (see photo below) to accommodate the angle inside the mortise.

STEP 11. Use your band saw to cut the scrap stock away from the shoulders.

STEP 12. Replace the guard on your table saw and tilt the blade to 8°.

STEP 13. Set your rip fence to 4", lay the apron pieces flat on the table, outer side up, top edge toward the blade, and trim the edge to 8°; this is so the top of the understructure will fit flush to the underside of the box.

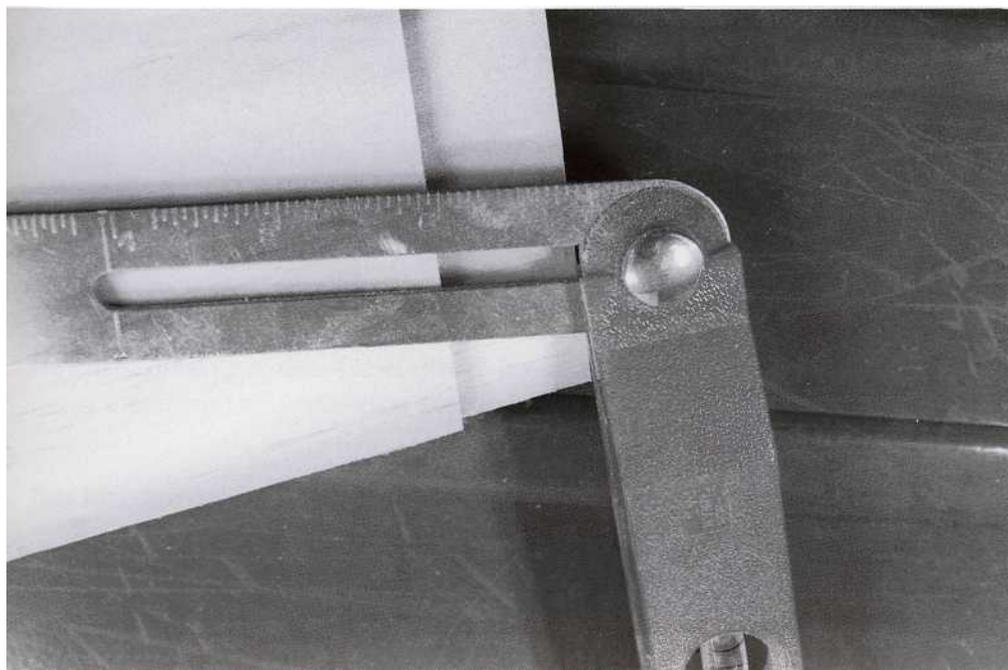
Note: You can do this step on your jointer if you wish.

STEP 14. Do the same to the tops of all four legs, once again making sure you maintain two left and two right. This is also so the top of the understructure will fit flush to the underside of the box.

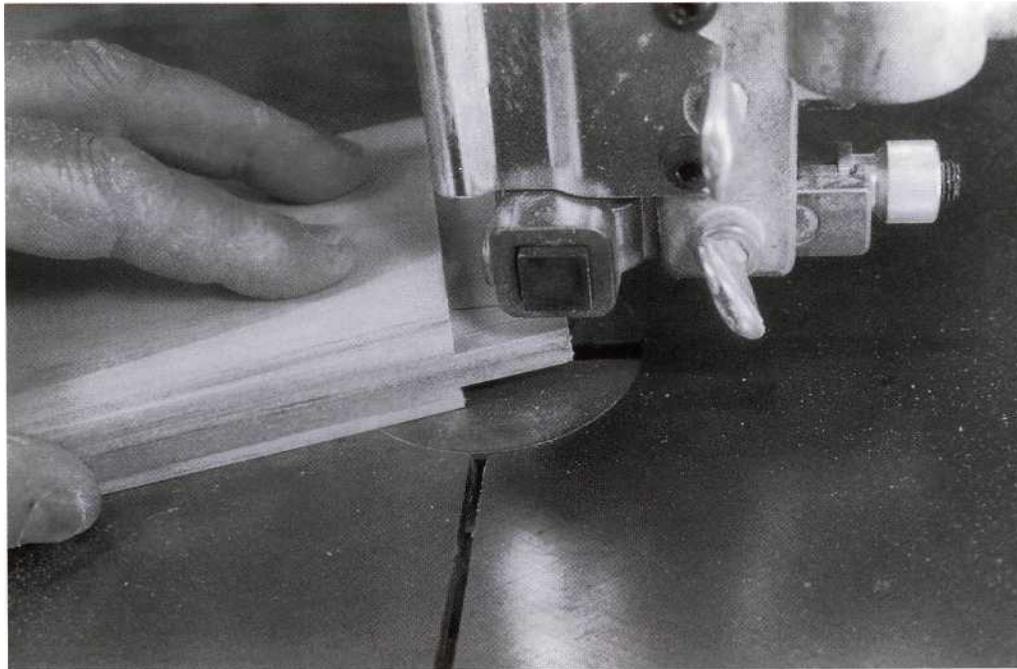
STEP 15. Take the four pieces that comprise the apron to the drill press and mill the pocket holes you'll use to attach the understructure to the box unit.

STEP 16. Dry fit all the rails to the legs and lay the lid, upside down, on the structure; all should sit true.

STEP 17. Disassemble all the pieces, sand everything smooth, then glue and reassemble the understructure, clamp it and leave overnight or until the glue has fully cured.

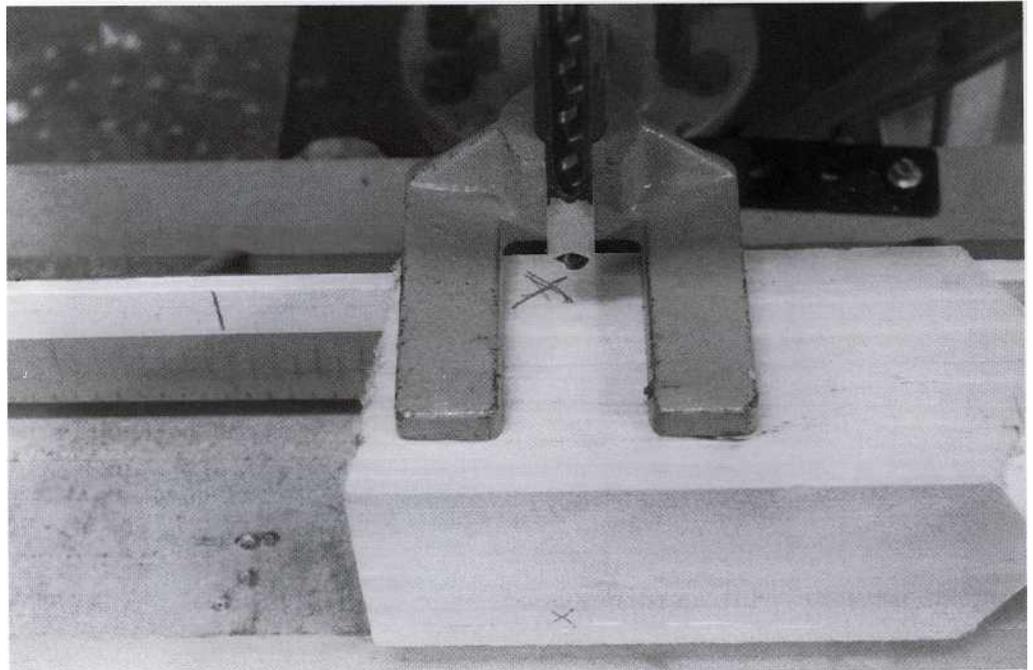


Use a movable square to mark the angles of the tenons to the rails that make up the apron.



The best way to cut away the waste at the shoulders of the tenons is to do it freehand on your band saw.

Before you mill the mortises, mark the position of each one to ensure you have two left- and two right-hand legs.



STEP 18. With the table-saw blade still set at an angle of 8° , mill the top and bottom edges of the two long sides of the box section so the top and bottom will fit flush.

STEP 19. Take the bottom board to the table saw and mill both edges to an angle of 8° so the bottom and sides will both follow the 8° splay.

STEP 20. Using $1\frac{3}{4}$ " cut-steel nails and glue, assemble the box unit. **Note:** You'll need to drill pilot holes to accommodate the nails. First use a $\frac{1}{8}$ " bit and drill through both pieces of stock, then a slightly larger bit to enlarge

the hole in the outer piece only. Clamp the structure, making sure it's square, and set it aside until the glue is fully cured. **Note:** Bessy makes a clamp that works well when clamping angled .

STEP 21. Place the box unit on the bottom board and mark a pencil line around inside.

STEP 22. Remove the box unit and, using the pencil line as a guide, drill twelve pilot holes in the bottom board—four along each side and two at each end.

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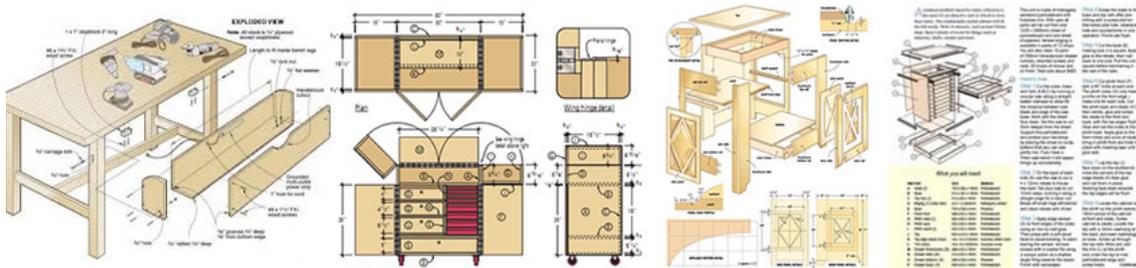
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