


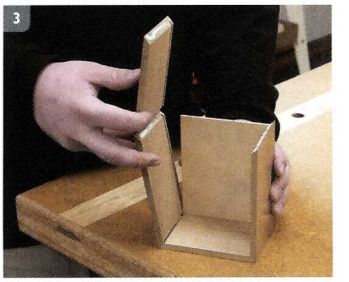



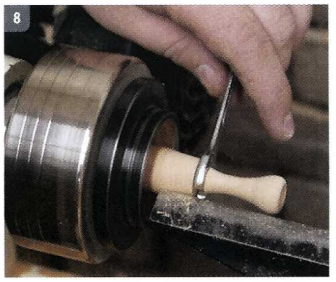


MAKING THE BOX

1. Use a 45° angle sled on the tablesaw to miter cut the box sides. A stop block clamped to the sled assures accurate dimension of parts.

2. Cut a saw kerf in the sides and then form the lip on the bottom plywood panel. These cuts can be done with the same set-up. I use trial-and-error to get the best fit; the bottoms are set flush to the bottom edge of the sides for ease of sanding.

3. Spread glue on the corners and assemble the box sides around the bottom panel. Clear package sealing tape works well to hold the box together as the glue dries.

4. Cutting the slots for the keys or "slip feathers" is easily done with a dedicated jig on the tablesaw. A piece of wood clamped in place as a stop block allows the box to be variously positioned on the jig for accurate placement of key slots. Use a combination blade to cut key slots with a square bottomed kerf, and use 1/8" stock to make the keys.

MAKING THE LID

5. Making the lid is the trickiest and most dangerous part of making the box, requiring a bevel cut to define the shape. It is not a job for a tablesaw novice. Cut the ends first, and then the sides. This allows the cuts on the sides to remove any tear-out left in cutting the ends. A zero-clearance insert is required to keep the cut-offs from slipping into the saw slot. The small recess on the underside of the lid can be cut either with the tablesaw, or on the router table. I use a trial-and-error method to get the perfect fit. Again, saw the ends first so that any tear-out will be removed on the final cuts.

MAKING THE PULLS

6. Turn a small cylinder as the starting point in making a pull. We use a Super Nova Chuck to hold the stock and cut the stock into an octagonal shape prior to mounting in the chuck, so it can be held more securely and so not as much stock will need to be removed.

7. After the pull is shaped to a pleasing pattern, begin forming the heart by making a plunge cut with the skew directly into the end of the pull. It is like forming an apple on a stick. Shape the cut to a smooth curve. Sand the pull smooth while still on the lathe.

8. Begin forming the tenon on the end of the pull by using a parting tool. This task presents a challenge to beginning woodturners. A trick that we learned that makes things easier involves the use of an open-end wrench of the same size planned for the hole in the top of the lid. As the tenon in formed and gets close to the right size, slide the wrench onto the tenon. It will compress the fibers, giving a guide mark for accurate sizing to fit the drilled hole. We found that there were times when the tenons were accidentally made too small, so in those cases we were given a second chance at getting it right by using a smaller wrench to size the tenon to fit a smaller hole.

9. Carefully press the end of the pull into the moving belt sander at an angle. Some experimentation may be required to achieve just the right angle, but it need not be exact.

10. After the face of the heart is sanded, cut the pull from the turning stock—a hand-operated mitersaw works well for this—and it will be ready to install on the lid of the box.

11. Use the drillpress to drill holes in the lids for the pulls to fit.