



those “aha!” moments.

The Clear Spring Valentines boxes are made with simple miter joints, using keys or “slip feathers” of contrasting wood to strengthen the corners. The material for the box sides was re-sawn from scrap white oak flooring donated by a parent, and the hardwood lids were cut and shaped from an assortment of native Arkansas species culled from my own scrap pile. The only expenses were the plywood bottoms and the chocolates for inside the finished boxes. The bottoms are 1/4" Baltic birch plywood rabbeted around the edges to fit a 1/8" saw kerf cut in the box sides.

Making the heart-shaped pulls is really quite simple, and requires only a lathe and a stationary belt sander. Lacking the belt sander, the shape can also be made

These Valentine boxes were one school shop’s solution to fund-raising for the school and building community involvement in the shop program.

by hand-sanding with coarse sandpaper.

To make the pull heart-shaped, turn an apple shape by using a skew chisel to form a recess in the end. When the face of the pull is sanded away, the heart shape will be revealed.

Making the heart-shaped pulls for the deluxe models required some practice and was done by the more experienced woodturners. Simple pulls in a variety of shapes and sizes were made by less experienced students and by parents.

The fund-raiser is a social event, with some laughter in the woodshop to offset the hard work involved. Sanding is the

thing that draws the most complaints, but is made much easier with music and conversation. Putting the finish on and watching the wood come to life is one of the favored tasks. We sold boxes in three shapes and sizes in both standard and deluxe versions. A parent planned the selection of chocolates and, with student volunteers, carefully lined the boxes in beautiful foil wrappers. We made and sold over 120 boxes, raising more than \$3,000.00 for group travel, and we made additional boxes for the school to give as special gifts to supporters and friends. Our Clear Spring School brand identifies the product as a student made gift of lasting value.

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