

Bandsaw Boxes



Quick & easy to build – with a “one-of-a-kind” flair that makes them sell fast, too

Bandsaw boxes are novel in their design, deceptively simple to build and make perfect jewelry, trinket or keepsake boxes. And the best part of all is that you don't need a bunch of fancy joinery tools to build them. Just a Bandsaw.

Their cleverness lies in the guaranteed snug fit of the drawers in the box. This is possible because the drawers are actually cut from the box carcass...so, naturally, they'll fit right back into the space they came from. Plus, you won't have to worry about miss-sizing any complex joinery, since the only gap between the drawer and its surrounding box will be the width of the kerf the bandsaw blade takes as it cuts out the drawers.

Just as the Bandsaw can cut practically any irregular shape, so can Bandsaw boxes be made in any shape. Drawers can be traditional rectangles...or circles, ovals or virtually any shape that suits your fancy.

A box can contain one drawer or several. In fact, you could almost go so far as to say that no two Bandsaw boxes are ever alike, since they are typically made out of small pieces of scrap wood in any shape. That's how the boxes pictured here were made. The small box is made from laminated cherry and the large box is laminated alder. There's only one limitation. Box sizes are restricted to the 6" capacity of the Bandsaw...and that's about it.

Although any Bandsaw blade may be used, you will obtain tighter fits between the drawers and the carcass by using smaller blades. The boxes shown here were cut with a 1/4" blade. Smooth cuts mean less sanding, which also contributes to tighter fits with the drawers.

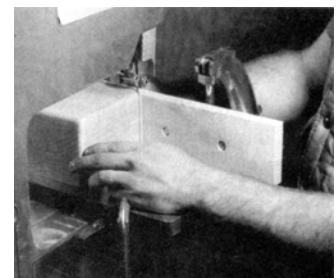
The instructions and photos here describe the step-by-step procedure for cutting a two-drawer box. Build yours out of whatever size of solid wood or laminated pieces you can lay your hands on and enjoy designing your own one-of-a-kind creation.

Preparation

Start by cutting your wood block to size – or by laminating a series of pieces together to create the size block you want. Remember not to exceed your 6" Bandsaw limit on any one side or dimension of the box. Round your corners with a Router set-up or Belt Sander and do any shaping at this time, then sand the box smooth with 220-grit sandpaper. The shaping and sanding are done now because the box will be much more stable at this time than it will after it's cut.

Cutting the sides

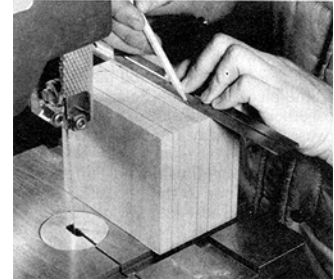
Cut off both sides of the box. They'll be glued back on later, once you've cut out the drawers. The sides of our box are 1/2" thick, but you could



safely go down to 1/4", if you prefer. You'll notice that we're using our Miter Gauge (clamped to the Bandsaw Table) as a Fence. If you have a newer model Shopsmith Bandsaw, just use your Bandsaw Rip Fence.

Marking the drawers

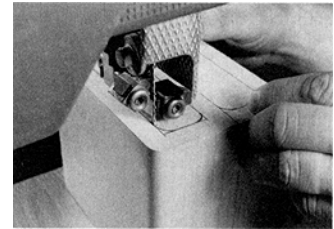
Once you've removed the sides, use a square to lay out the drawers on the front and side of the box carcase. On our two-drawer box, we allowed 1/2" thickness for the bottom of the box, the top, the back and the drawer separator. For lighter boxes, you may reduce these measurements to as small as 1/4".



When determining your drawer depth, allow 1/4" to 3/8" for the thickness of the drawer bottom. Here, you're left with drawers 7/8" deep. Make the fronts and backs 3/8" to 1/2" thick. When you draw your drawer lines, be sure the corners are rounded and not square. Remember the turning radius of your blade when you make your corners: 1/4" for 1/8" Blades – 3/8" for 3/16" Blades and 1/2" for 1/4" Blades.

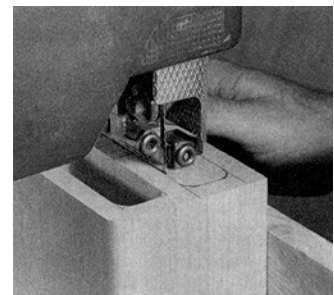
Cut the first drawer

Use your Miter Gauge and Rip Fence for the straight sides. Stop when you get to the corners and remove the Miter Gauge. Cut the corners freehand, then replace the Miter gauge and cut the other side.



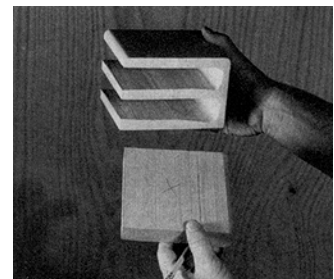
Cut the second drawer

Accuracy is extremely important when you cut the drawers, so work slowly and carefully.



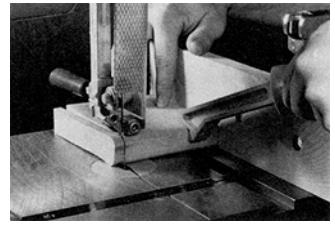
Assess your progress

Here, you see the box carcase after both drawer blanks have been removed. The depth of each drawer opening is 1-1/4" and the drawers will be 7/8" deep. To accommodate larger pieces of jewelry, this same size box could be made with just one drawer. In this case, the finished drawer would be about 2-1/2" deep.



Cut the drawer sides

Put the drawer blanks on the Bandsaw and cut off the sides. the thickness of these drawer sides is 3/8". Mark each drawer and the sides after they are cut so that later, you'll be able to match them up when you glue them back together. **This is important.**



Mark the drawers

Draw lines on the sides of the drawer bodies to indicate the front, bottom and back of each drawer. In this case, they are all 3/8" thick. Once again, remember to round the corners so your blade can make the turns.



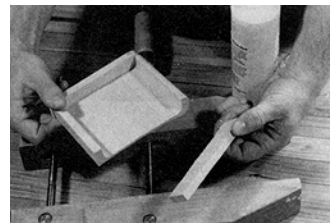
Cut out the drawer bodies

Follow the lines you drew and cut out the insides of the drawers. Once removed, the insides can be discarded.



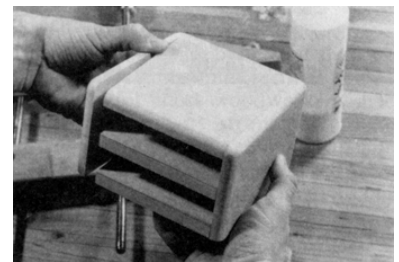
Finish the drawers

Do any light sanding on the drawer pieces at this time because it's easier to sand the insides before they're re-assembled. Then, glue the sides of the drawers back onto the bodies. Once the glue has dried, lightly re-sand the glue joints.



Finish the carcass

Do any light sanding to the inside of the carcass at this time. It will be easier to reach your fingers inside the drawer holes before the sides are glued on. Then, glue the outer sides of the box back onto the carcass. Once the glue has dried, re-sand the glue joints.



Your Bandsaw box is now finished and ready to be stained, oiled or varnished – and to have drawer pulls attached.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE

This photo shows how the construction differs for a one-drawer box.

Suggested retail price: \$20 to \$30 each , depending on wood

