

# WOODWORKER'S JOURNAL

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## Classic Project

### In this plan you'll find:

- Step-by-step construction instruction.
- A complete bill of materials.
- Construction drawings and related photos.
- Tips to help you complete the project and become a better woodworker.

## Dresser-Top Coin Bank

**GIFT SHOP** Easy-To-Make Gift Projects

### Dresser-Top Coin Bank

We used a circle cutter to cut the 3/2 in. diameter coin cavity hole (Fig. 3). Pre-drill a hole for the circle cutter bit, cut halfway through, then flip the workpiece and cut through from the opposite side to finish the cavity. The pre-drilled center hole insures that the cuts from both sides will line up. If you don't have a circle cutter, you can rough out the cavity with a hand-held jig saw. Smooth the interior of the cavity by hand with sandpaper, or use a sanding drum mounted in your drill press.

Next up is cutting the rabbets (Fig. 4). You'll need a rabbeting bit in the router table. The rabbet on the back is 1/4 in. deep to hold the Plexiglas back, but the front rabbet must be 3/8 in. deep to accommodate both the 1/4 in. thick Plexiglas and the 1/4 in. thick clock face cutout. Once the rabbets are established you can use the hand saw to cut the outside profile (Fig. 5). You'll need a narrow blade (no more than 1/4 in. wide) to achieve the fairly tight curves.

The clock face cutout is next. Once again using the full-size pattern, lay out the face profile on some 1/4 in. thick

**FIG. 1** LAMINATE

**FIG. 2** TRANSFER PATTERN TO WORKPIECE

**FIG. 3** CIRCLE CUTTER

**FIG. 4** RABBETING BIT

**FIG. 5** HAND SAW (NARROW BLADE)

52 The Woodworker's Journal

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# Dresser-Top Coin Bank

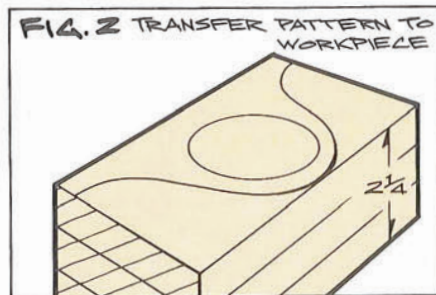
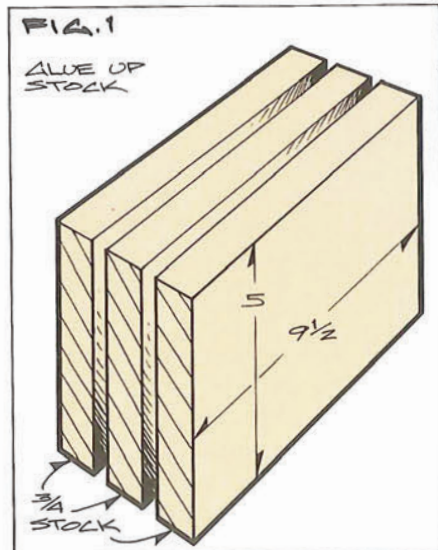


**W**ith this handsome coin bank on your dresser top, it will always be the right time to save. It's an attractive and interesting alternative to the tray that many of us use to hold our loose change when we empty our pockets at day's end.

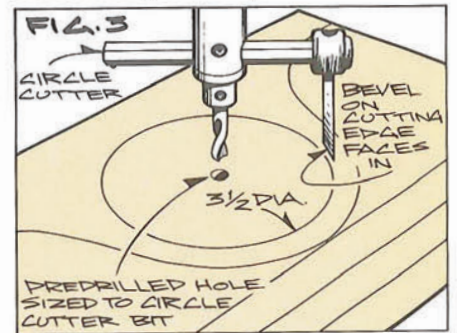
With the full-size half-pattern that we provide, the bank is easy to make. We

used bird's-eye maple for the clock body, curly maple for the base, and walnut for the clock face. However, almost any combination of contrasting woods will look fine. You can cut the Plexiglas front and back yourself, or we've arranged for a mail-order source to supply both the two Plexiglas disks and the 12 brass escutcheon pins that hold the front disk and face in place.

Start by laminating three boards, each measuring  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. thick by 5 in. wide by  $9\frac{1}{2}$  in. long (Fig. 1). When the lamination has dried, transfer the pattern to the workpiece (Fig. 2). Note that the pattern being transferred is only the bank body; the base is added later.

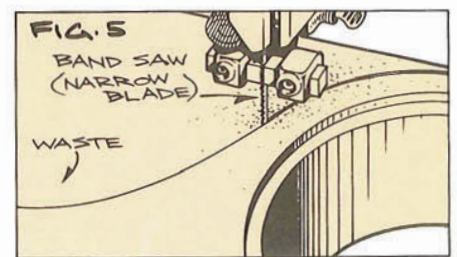
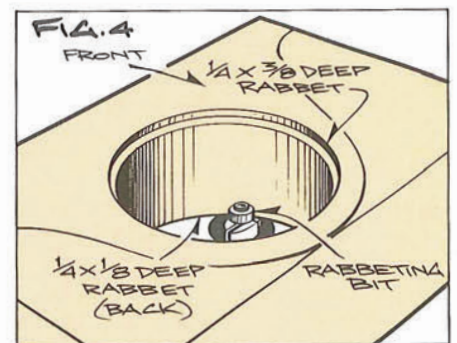


We used a circle cutter to cut the  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. diameter coin cavity hole (Fig. 3). Pre-drill a hole for the circle cutter bit, cut halfway through, then flip the workpiece and cut through from the opposite side to finish the cavity. The pre-drilled center hole insures that the cuts from both sides will line up. If you don't have a circle cutter, you can rough out the cavity with a hand-held jigsaw. Smooth the interior of the cavity by hand with sandpaper, or use a sanding drum mounted in your drill press.



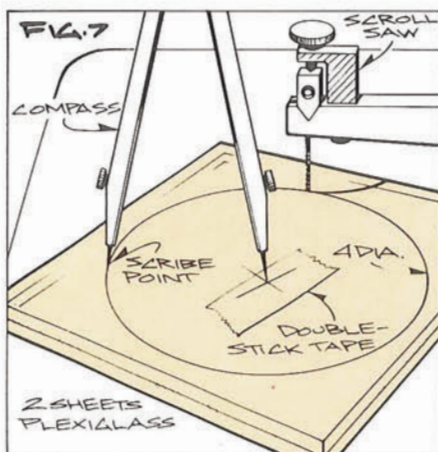
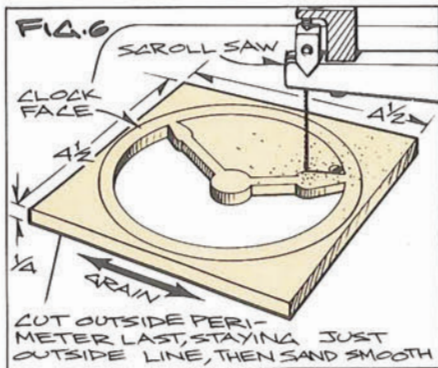
Next up is cutting the rabbets (Fig. 4). You'll need a rabbeting bit in the router table. The rabbet on the back is  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. deep to hold the Plexiglas back, but the front rabbet must be  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. deep to accommodate both the  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. thick Plexiglas and the  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. thick clock face cutout. Once the rabbets are established you can use the band saw to cut the outside profile (Fig. 5). You'll need a narrow blade (no more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. wide) to achieve the fairly tight curves.

The clock face cutout is next. Once again using the full-size pattern, lay out the face profile on some  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. thick



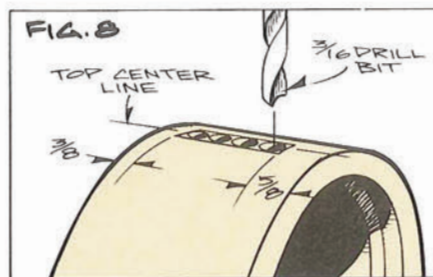


stock. Using either the scroll saw or a coping saw with a fine blade, first cut the inside and then the outside perimeter (Fig. 6). Drill starter holes for the scroll or coping saw blade in each separate interior section that's to be cut out.

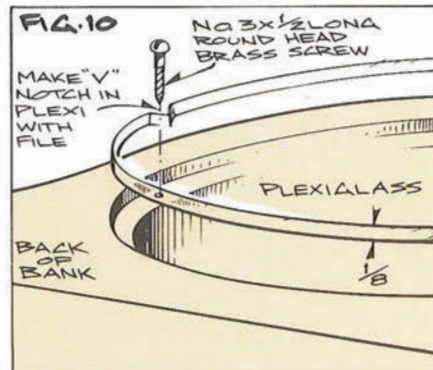
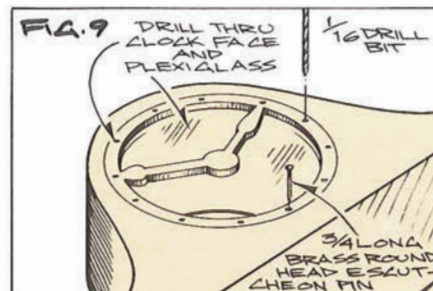


Use some double-stick tape to tape two 4 1/2 in. square sections of Plexiglas together, scribe a 4 in. diameter circle with the compass, then cut out the disks with the scroll or coping saw (Fig. 7). A little sandpaper will smooth the edges. Plexiglas is sold at many building supply and craft stores. If you order the Plexiglas disks, they come laser-cut, so no edge sanding is needed.

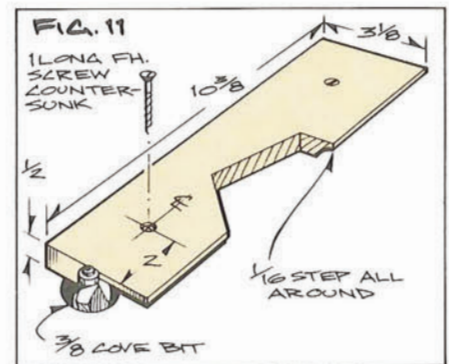
Chuck a 3/16 in. diameter drill bit in the drill press and make a series of holes to rough in the coin slot (Fig. 8). Then pare the waste between the drilled holes with a sharp knife or chisel.



As shown in Fig. 9, the escutcheon pin holes through the face and front Plexiglas disk are made with a 1/16 in. diameter drill bit. If you don't have a complete drill bit set in 1/16 in. increments, you can make a bit by sharpening one end of a brad or finishing nail and

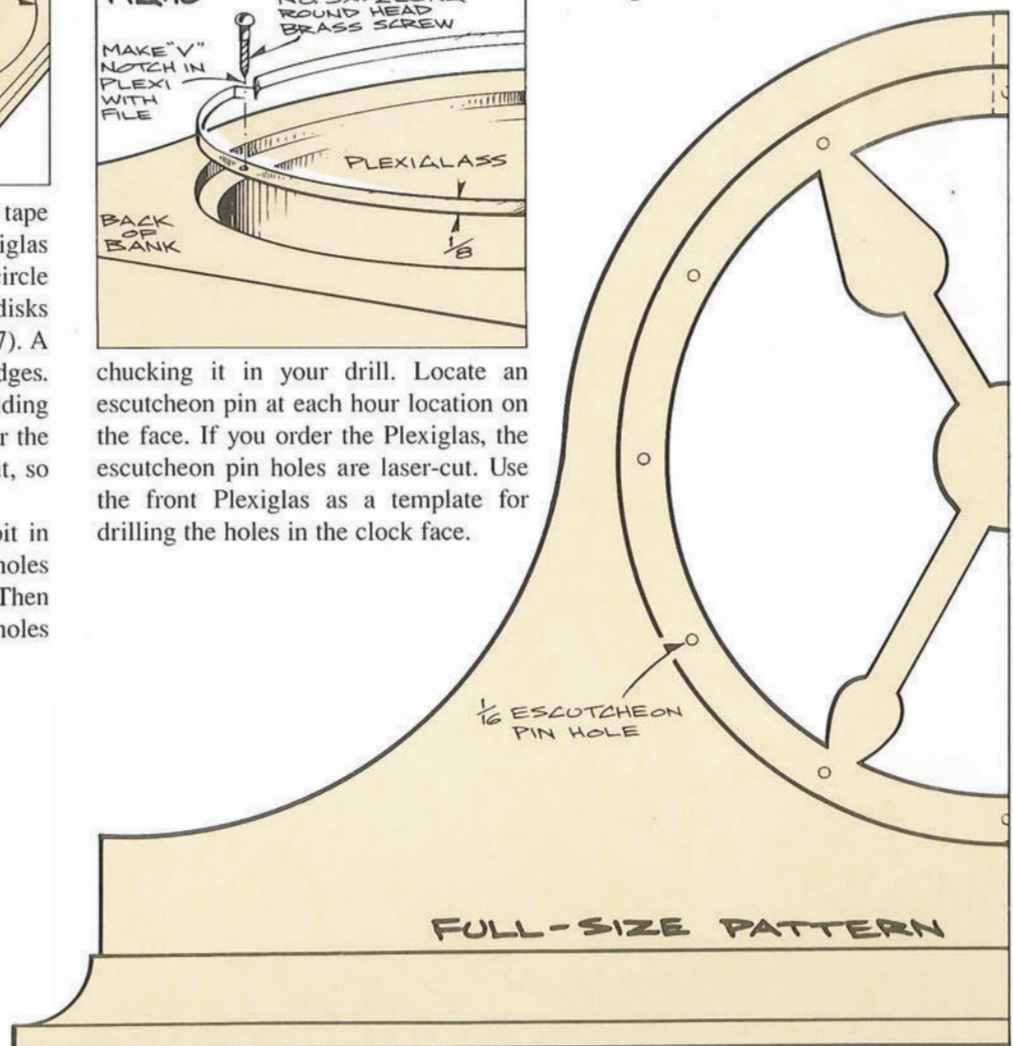


chucking it in your drill. Locate an escutcheon pin at each hour location on the face. If you order the Plexiglas, the escutcheon pin holes are laser-cut. Use the front Plexiglas as a template for drilling the holes in the clock face.



The back Plexiglas disk is removable, so you can empty the bank as needed. Use a file to notch the back Plexiglas (Fig. 10) for the two brass roundhead screws that hold it in place.

All that remains is to make the base (Fig. 11) and apply the finish. Cut the base to the size shown, then use the router table with a 3/8 in. radius cove cutter to mold the edge. Screws hold the base to the body. The finish—we used a golden oak stain followed by shellac and then Minwax Antique Oil—should be applied to the clock and face before the Plexiglas and the face are mounted.



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Matt Becker  
Internet Production Coordinator