

# 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.

## 4 Easy-To-Make Kitchen Projects

GIFT SHOP

### 4 easy-to-make KITCHEN PROJECTS

When we discovered these four kitchen projects, by Pennsylvania woodworkers Brad and Sandy Smith, we knew we had something special. Though there's nothing spectacular about salad tongs, a serving board, a cooling rack and a recipe box, each of these projects has some unique feature. The salad tongs make use of a clever rubber band tensioning system, the serving board has the most comfortable handle we've seen in awhile, the cooling rack uses a dovetail slat-and-groove for both strength and beauty, and the recipe box combines a handy built-in recipe card holder with fool-the-eye slanting sides that look (but aren't) hard to make. To further ease your task of reproducing these projects, we've included full-size patterns for the salad tongs and the serving board, and step-by-step instructions for all four pieces. The four projects aren't intended as a set, though by using the same wood for each you could achieve a uniformity in appearance. As shown, the salad tongs are ash, the serving board is walnut, and the cooling rack and recipe box are oak. We recommend a nontoxic natural oil finish—such as Preserve Natural Non-Toxic Nut Oil—for all four pieces.

### COOLING RACK

This is a great low-cost, clever project, with a construction that's ideal for making multiples. Our step-by-step illustrations show stock sized to yield five cooling racks.

There are any number of ways to cut the dovetail grooves that hold the slats, but Brad and Sandy Smith tell us this router table method is the system they use. The center groove is cut first (Step 1A), then a 1/8 in. wide spacer strip between the stock and the router table fence enables you to cut the two grooves adjacent to the center groove (Step 1B). For each subsequent pair of grooves you just add one more 1/8 in. spacer between the workpiece and the fence.

Once the grooves are all cut, the table saw is used to rip off the feet (Step 2). The table saw fence is set just a hair over 1/8 in. from the blade. After sanding, the feet should be a little over 1/2 in. wide.

The slats are cut by setting up the table saw, with the blade angled to equal the angle of the dovetail bit that you used to establish the slat grooves in the feet. Locate the fence 1/2 in. away from the blade to yield the 1/2 in. wide slats (Step 3), then make each consecutive slat cut by flipping the board end-over-end, as shown in Step 4. But test your fence and blade setting on some scrap first, to make certain the slats fit snug within the dovetail grooves. The fence setting should allow for a little finish sanding to remove any blade marks from the slats.

Once the slats are all cut, drill for and glue in place the 1/8 in. diameter dowel pins that anchor the slats to the feet (Step 5). Sand the ends of the dowel pins flush, then apply the finish.

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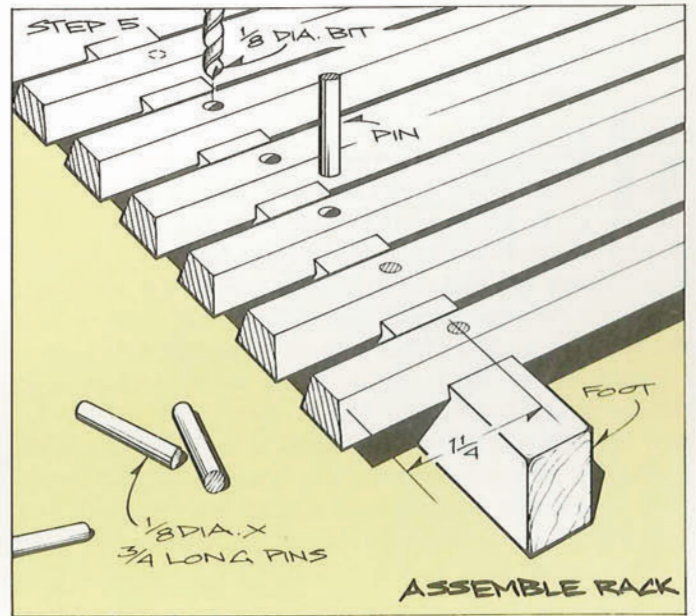
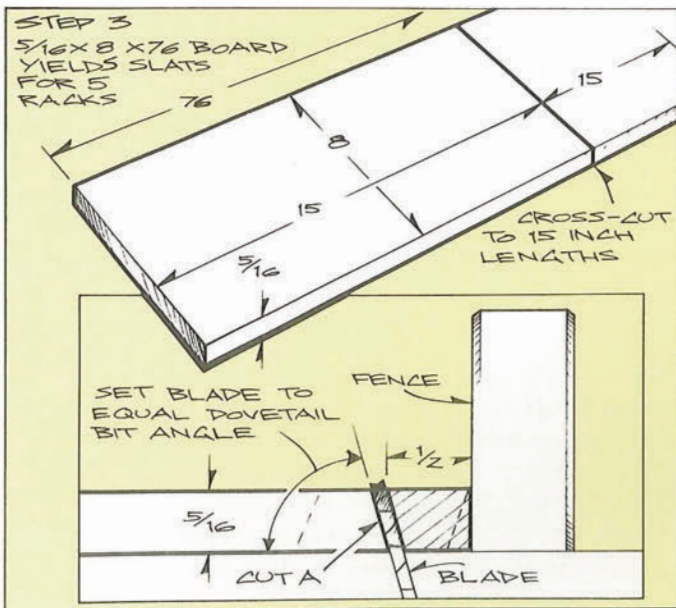
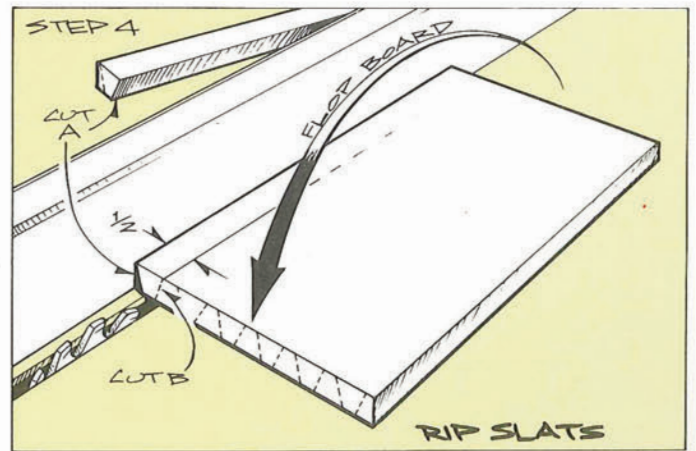
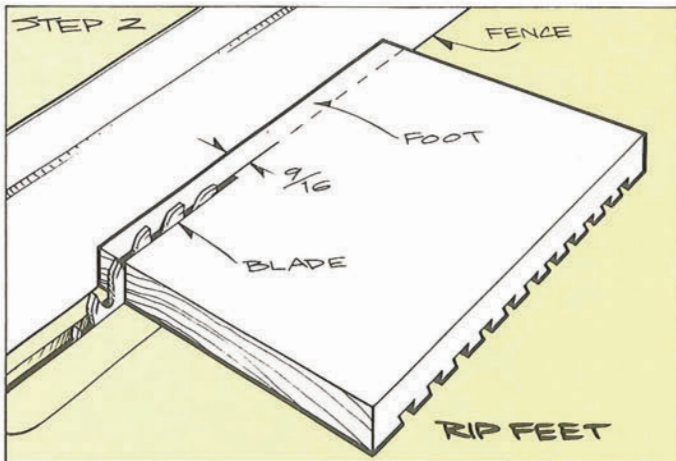
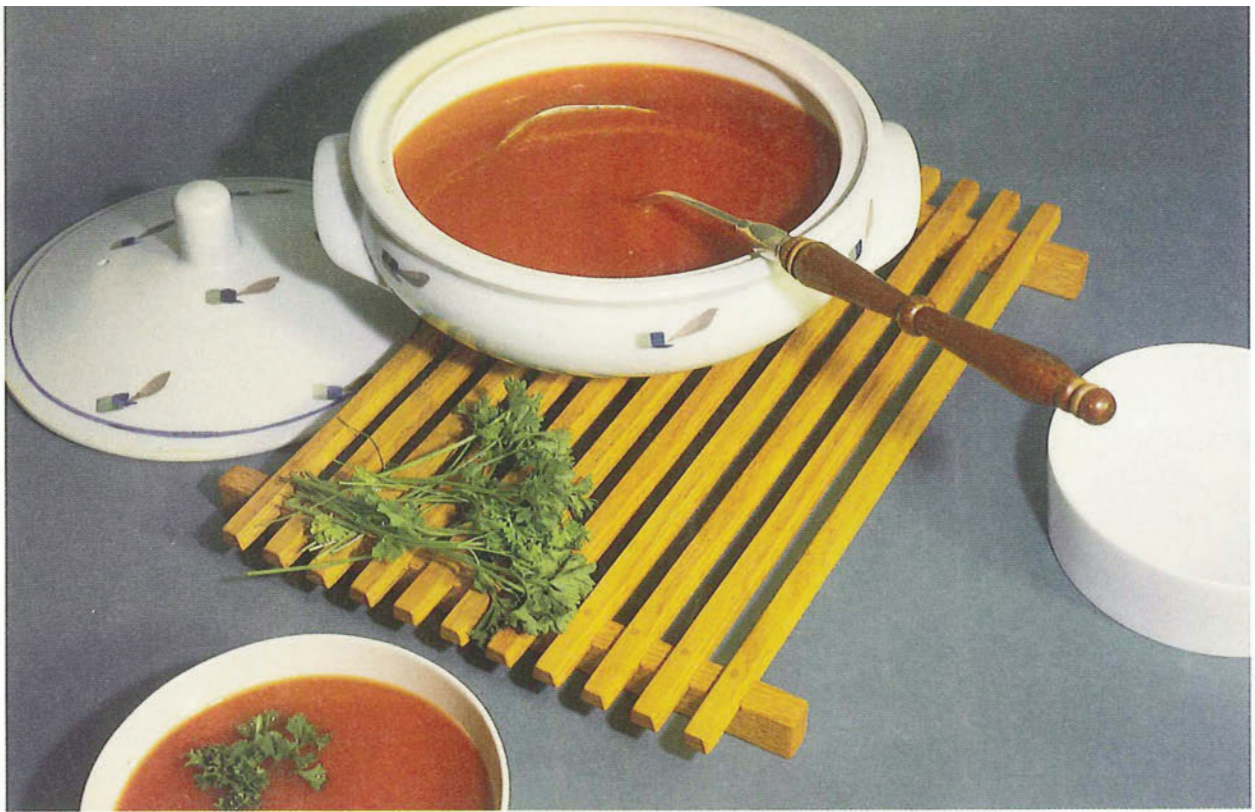
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## SALAD TONGS

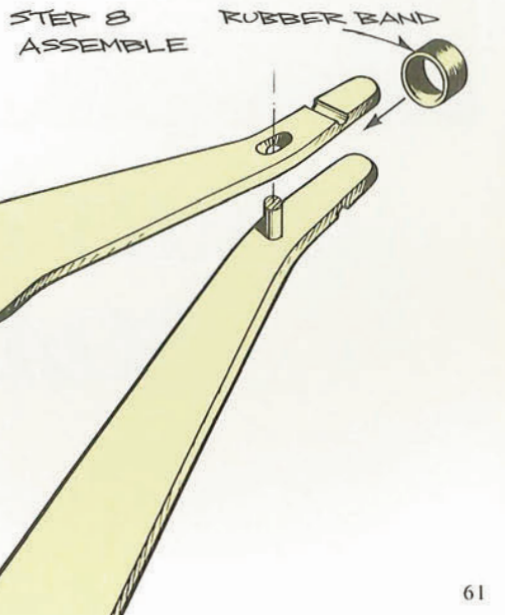
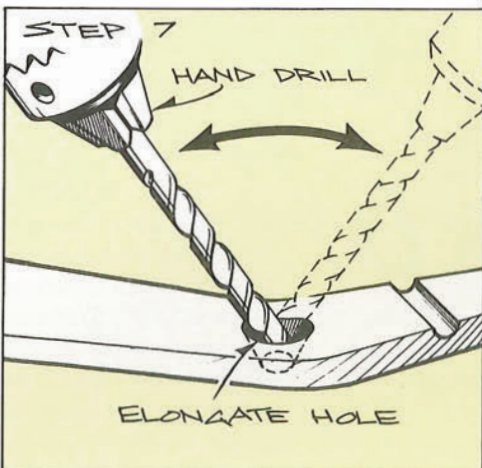
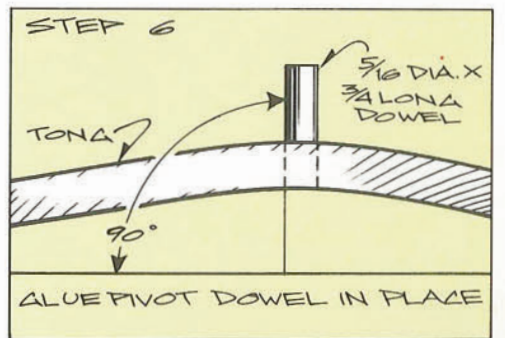
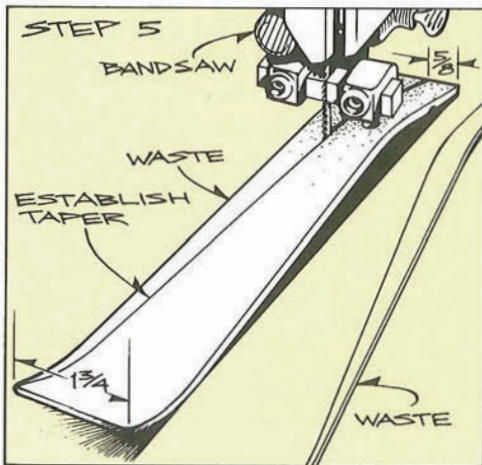
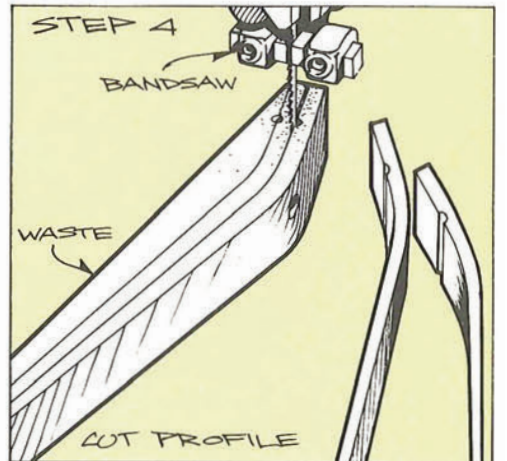
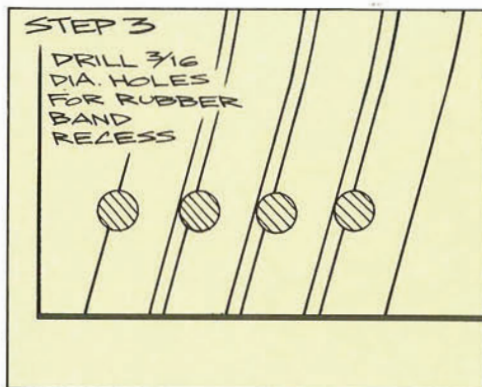
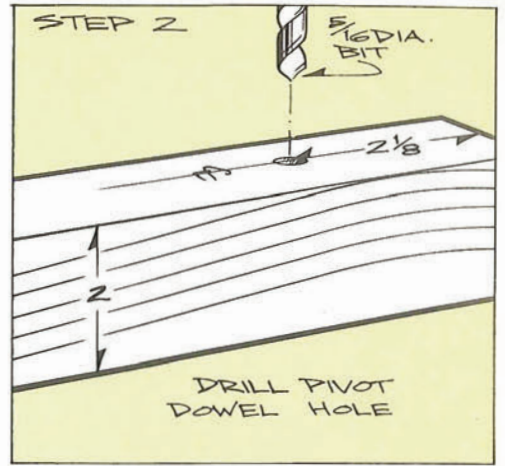
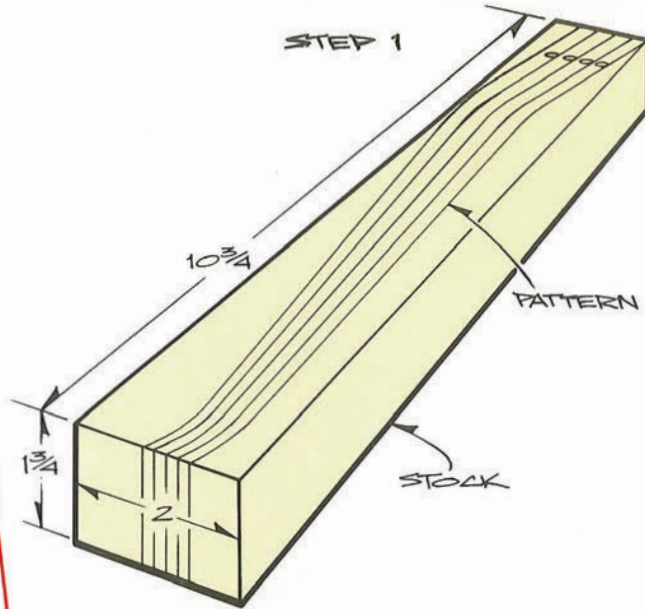
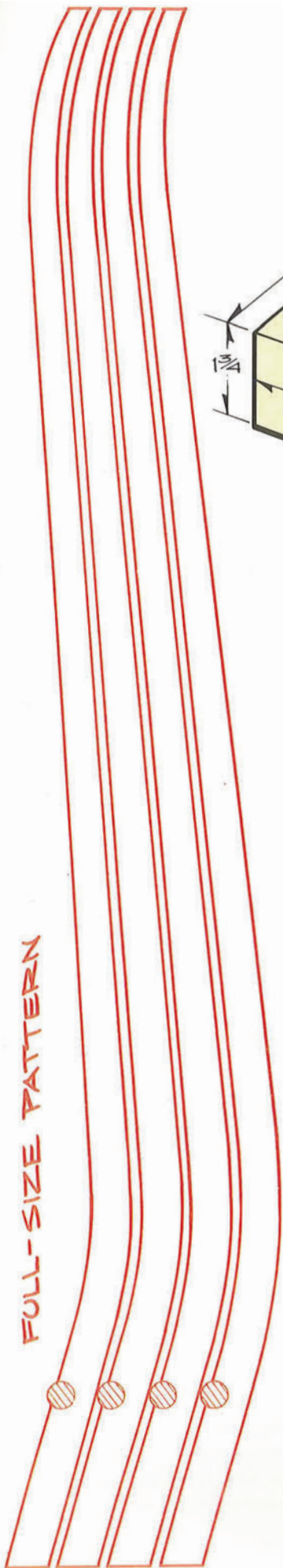
**H**ere's another easy project, also well suited to making multiples. As shown in Step 1, all you need is some 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> in. thick stock. A board that's 2 in. wide by 10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> in. long will yield four tong sides, enough for two salad tongs. Wider boards will yield more. Just be careful with the layout. You'll need to allow enough space between each tong side for the band saw blade kerf plus whatever sanding will be needed to clean up the rough cut and refine the final shape. Our full-size pattern has the tong sides properly spaced to allow for this. Just trace the pattern, using carbon paper, onto your stock.

With the pattern transferred, drill through your stock (using a <sup>5</sup>/<sub>16</sub> in. diameter bit) for the pivot dowel holes (Step 2), then switch to a <sup>3</sup>/<sub>16</sub> in. diameter bit and drill the holes that form the rubber band recesses (Step 3). Use the band saw to cut out the tongs (Step 4) and establish the tapers (Step 5). Final sand to

remove the band saw marks; refine the shape before gluing the pivot dowels into two of the four tong sides (Step 6). Elongate the outside face of the remaining pivot dowel holes (Step 7), and assemble the tong sides with a rubber band (Step 8).

A heavy-duty rubber band, such as those used for securing lobster claws, can be used to tension the salad tongs. But Brad and Sandy Smith use cut-off sections of <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> in. diameter high-strength black latex tubing, which lasts much longer than rubber bands and looks quite a bit better. If you can't find black latex tubing locally, send Brad and Sandy a buck (\$1) and they'll mail you out six pre-cut black latex bands, enough for six salad tongs. Write to them at Bradford Woodworking, 3120 Fisher Rd., Box 157, Worcester, PA 19490. Don't forget to include your return address or Brad and Sandy will have trouble getting you your latex bands.

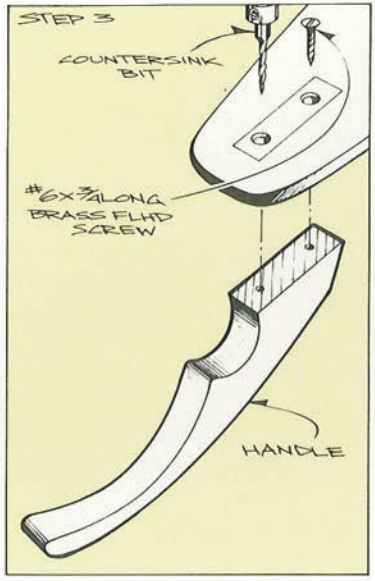
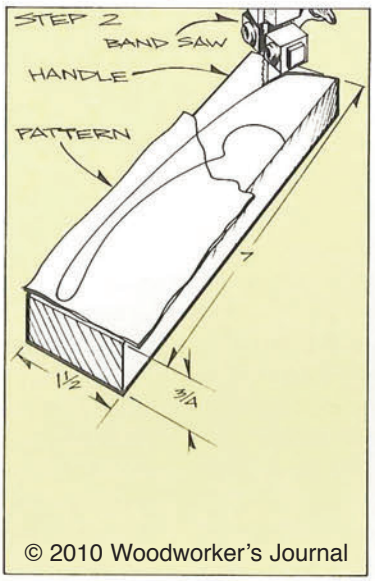
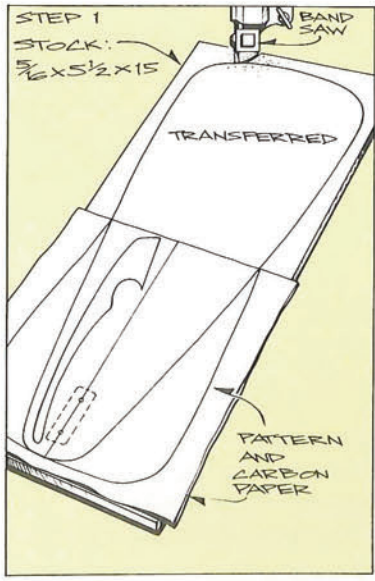
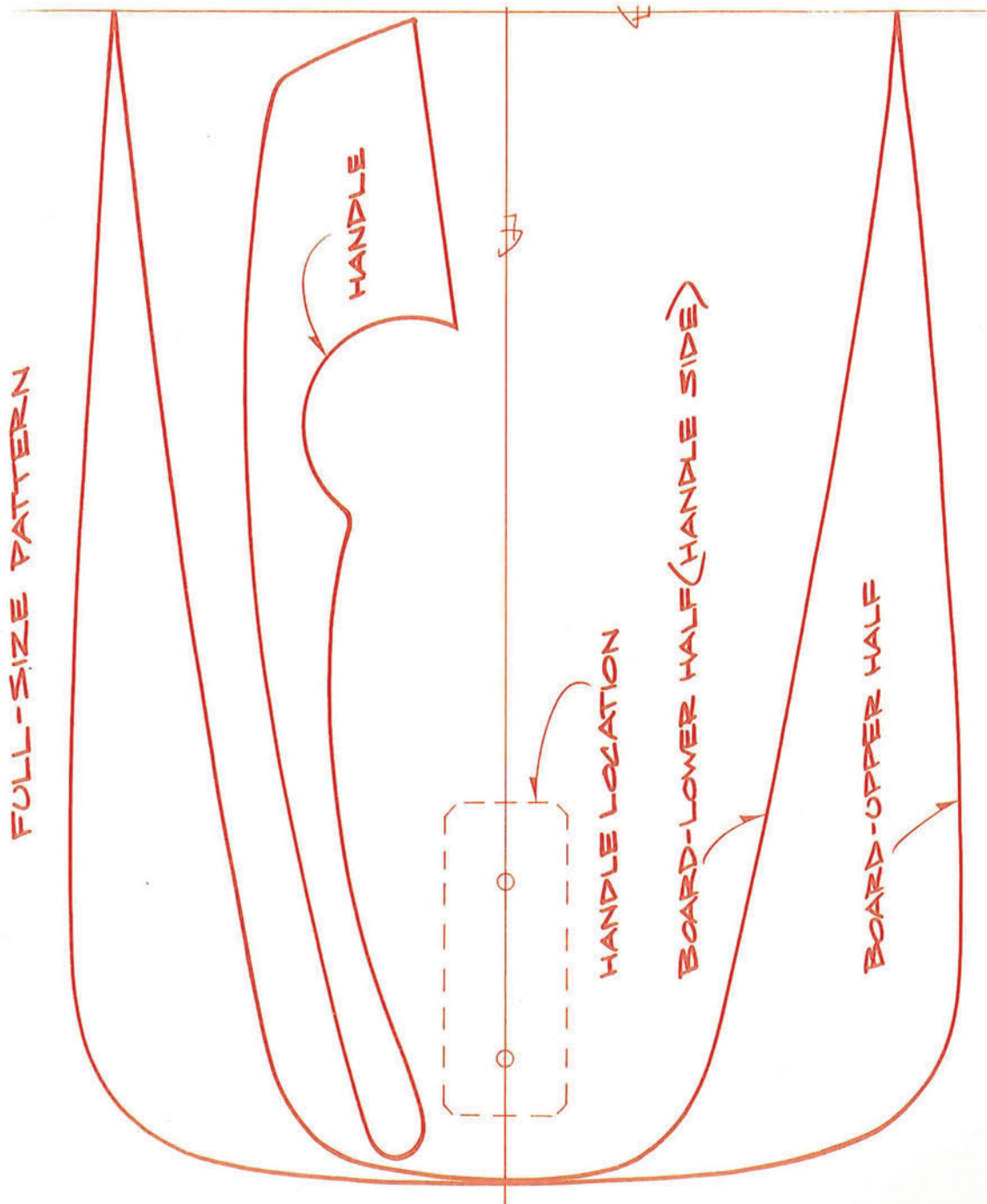
FULL-SIZE PATTERN

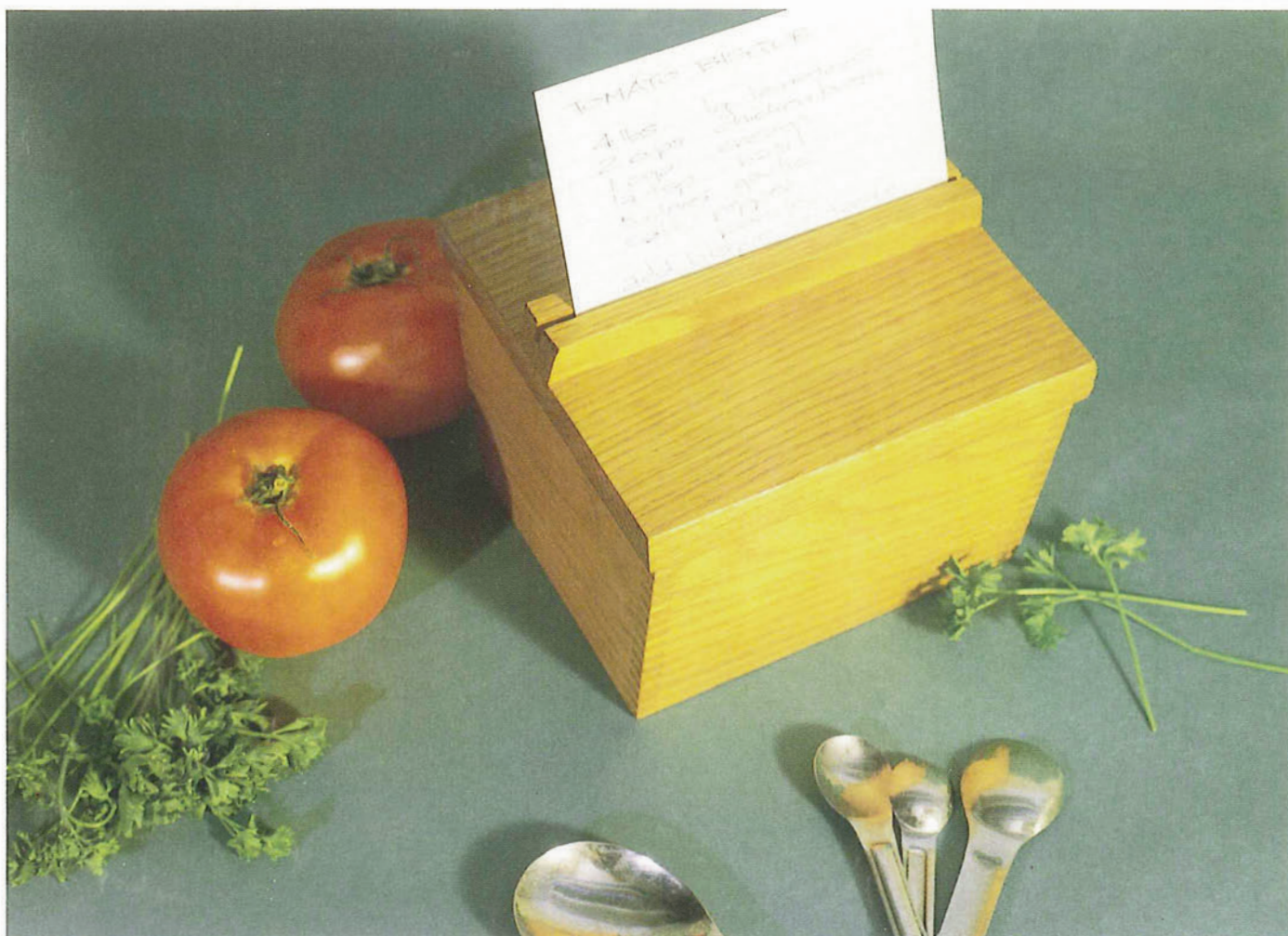




## SERVING BOARD

As projects go, they don't get much simpler than this. You'll need some  $\frac{5}{16}$  in. thick stock for the board and some  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. thick stock for the handle. The easiest way to get the  $\frac{5}{16}$  in. stock is to resaw  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. thick material with the band saw. Resawing a  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. thick by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide by 14 in. long board will yield two serving board pieces. Trace the full-size pattern directly onto your stock with carbon paper, as shown in Step 1. Transfer the upper half of the pattern first, then the lower half. Once you've traced and cut out both the board and the handle (Step 2), all that's left is to drill and countersink the screw holes, final sand, assemble and finish the serving board (Step 3).





## RECIPE BOX

If any of these four projects were to garner the mantle of “most challenging,” then this recipe box would be the winner. The slanting sides make the box look like a project that involves some rather complex compound angles. But, in fact, there are no compound angles. Since only two sides of the box slant, the angles involved are simple, and not compound.

As shown in Step 1, all four box sides can be obtained from a single board  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. thick by 4 in. wide by 24 in. long. Cut the two square sides off at a  $5\frac{5}{8}$  in. length, then angle the miter gauge to 8 degrees and cut the two slanted sides. Note that you’ll need to flip the stock to get the angle on the ends.

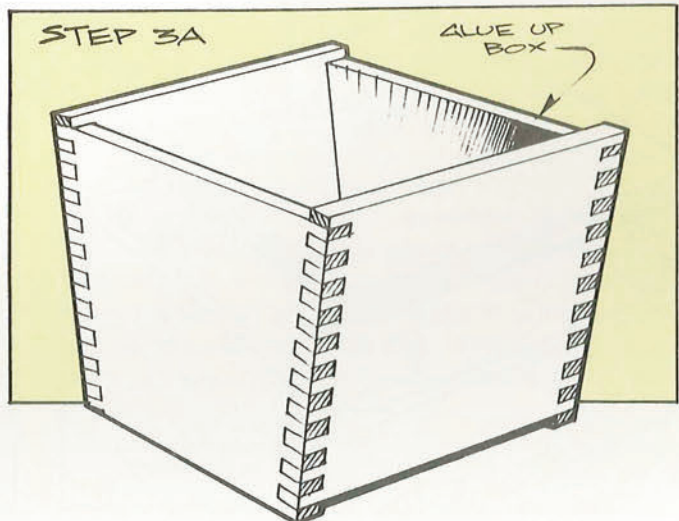
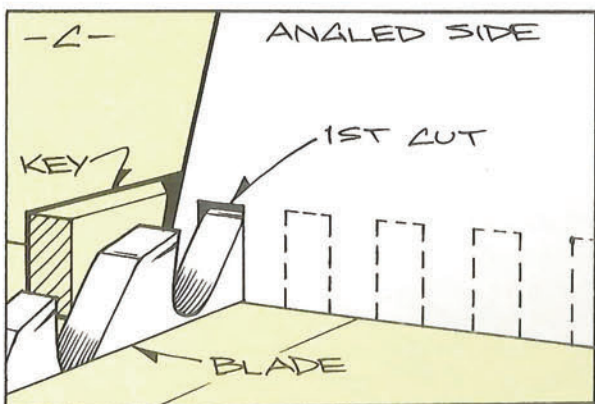
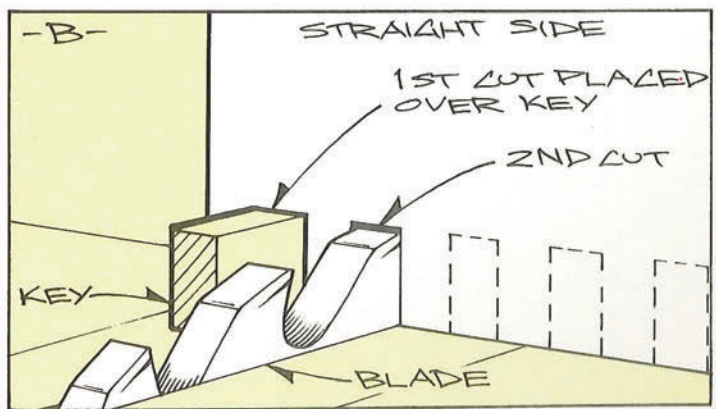
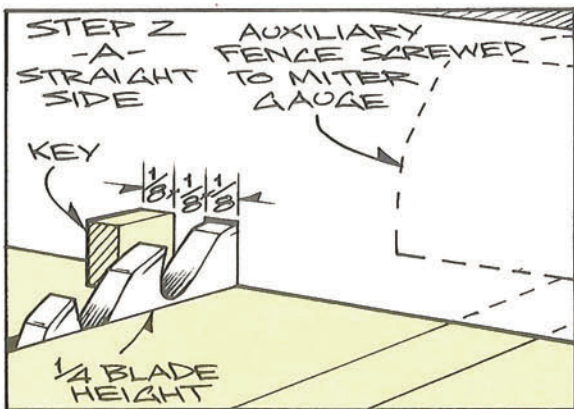
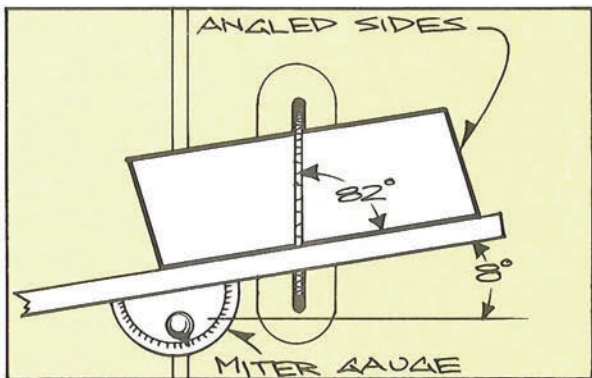
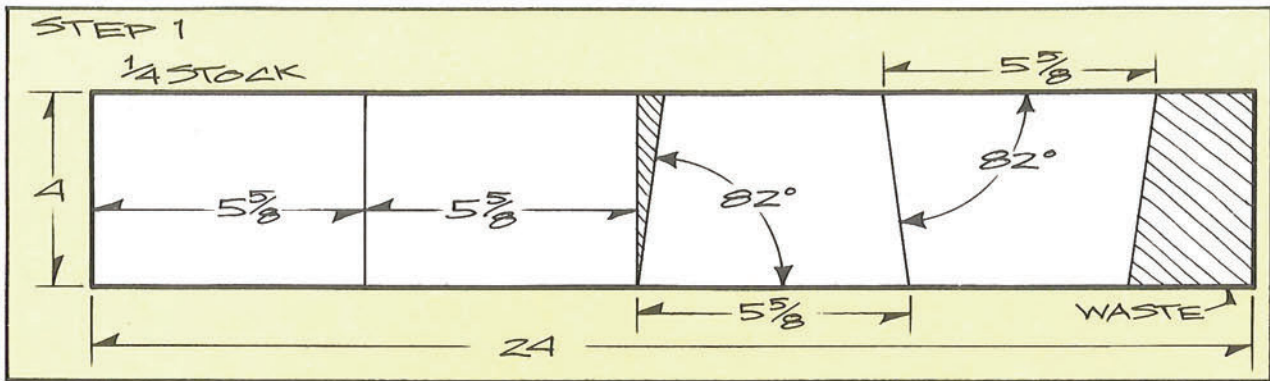
Next up is cutting the box joints. We show a standard box joint jig being used with a regular table saw blade, cutting a  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. wide kerf and requiring  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. pins (Steps 2A–2C). The jig is just a  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. thick by  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. wide by 2 in. long key glued into a like-sized notch cut in an auxiliary fence that is attached to the miter gauge. The same jig is used to cut the box joints on the slanted sides. Test your jig setup on some scrap and make a test assembly of the joint produced before going to work on your project stock.

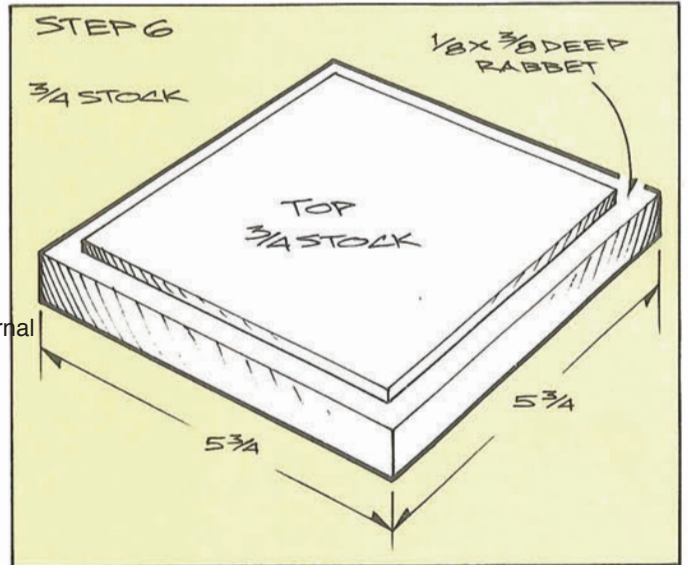
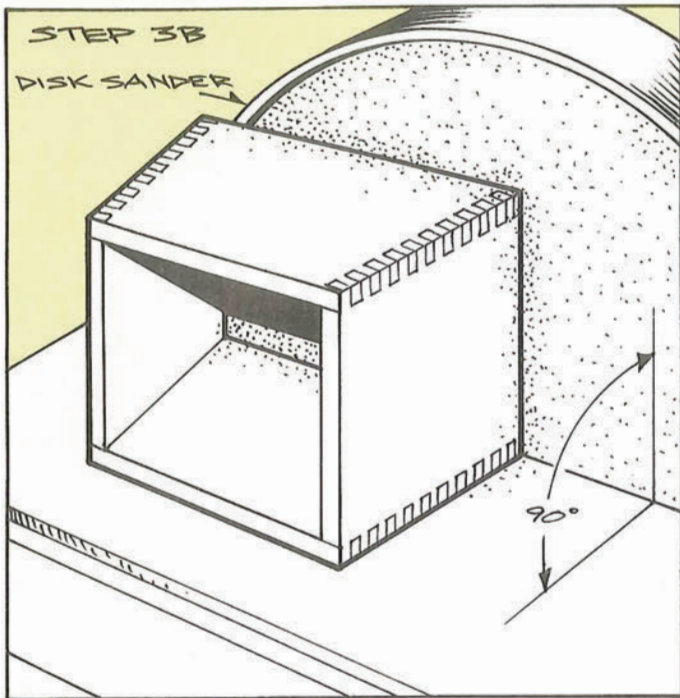
Once the box joints are all cut, glue up the four sides and set aside to dry (Step 3A). A pair of sides will be a pin above or

below the other pair, but that’s not a concern since the excess will be cleaned up next. When dry, use a belt or a disk sander to flatten the top and bottom of the box (Step 3B). Then move to the router table to establish the rabbet for the  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. thick plywood bottom. Since standard rabbeting bits cut a rabbet that’s too deep for our  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. thick box sides, you’ll need to improvise. We show a  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. diameter bearing mounted on a  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. diameter flush trimming bit. The result is a bit that will cut a  $\frac{1}{16}$  in. deep rabbet, perfect for our purposes here (Step 4). Borrow a  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. diameter ball bearing from another bearing-guided cutter to replace the regular  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. diameter bearing on the flush trimming bit. Cut the plywood bottom to fit, then either round the corners of the bottom to match the  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. radius or use a chisel and square the rabbet corners. Then glue the bottom securely in place (Step 5).

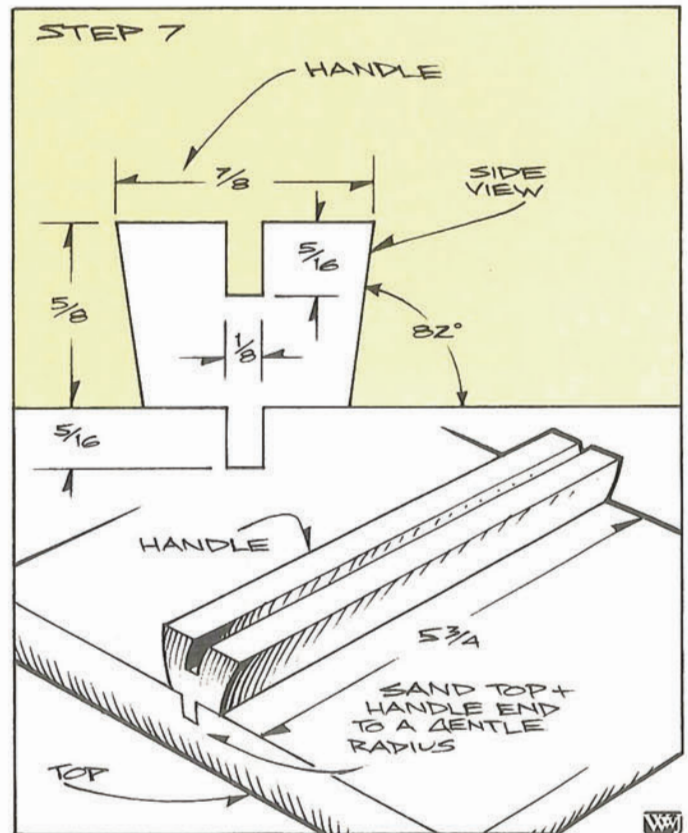
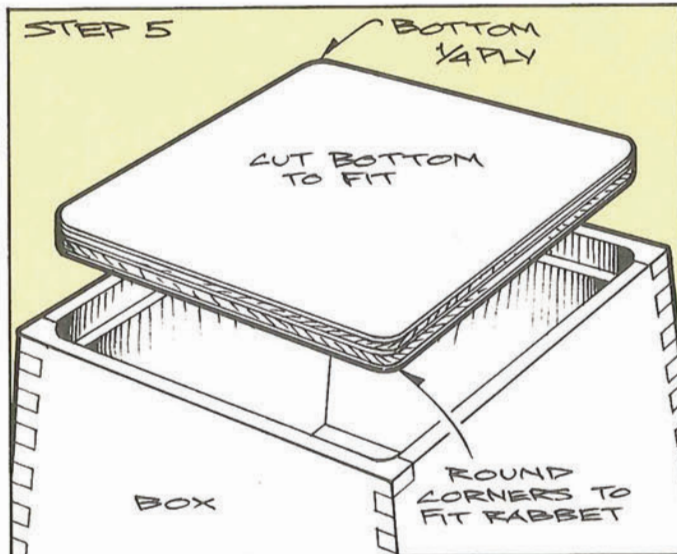
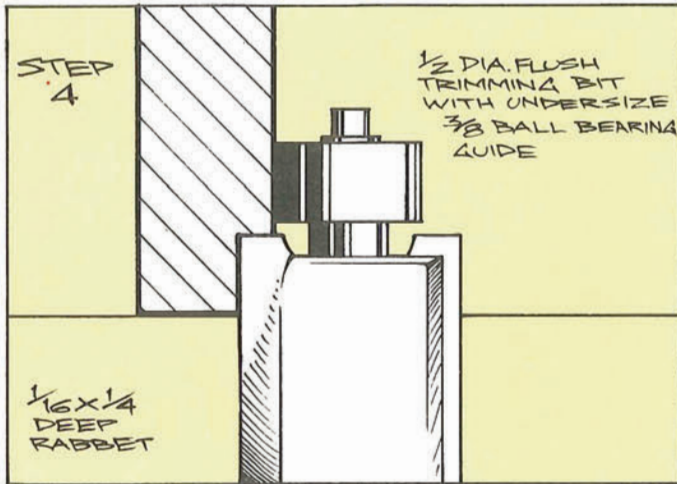
Now cut the top to size and establish the  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. by  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. rabbet that nests the top over the sides of the box (Step 6). Cut the handle to size as shown, rip the  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. wide by  $\frac{5}{16}$  in. deep grooves in the handle and top, and establish the matching tongue on the bottom edge of the handle (Step 7). Finally, glue the handle into the top, round the edges of the top and handle, and apply the finish.







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