

# 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.

## Keepsake Jewelry Box



**Keepsake Jewelry Box**

*Music box movement adds a special touch*

**W**hen we first saw these little jewelry boxes, by Portland, Oregon, woodworker Gary Damaskos, we liked the simple, clever design. Damaskos had taken the traditional half-blind dovetail joint used in drawermaking, and employed it to make a small jewelry box. If the ability to make a box is the foundation of most every carcass construction in woodworking, then this jewelry box carries the concept even further. If you can make a drawer, then you can make this box, and conversely, if you can make this box, then you can make not only drawers but chests, cases and cabinets.

As illustrated, the half-blind dovetail joinery can be made with any standard 1/2 in. dovetail fixture (Sears, Black & Decker, etc.) or with any adjustable dovetail fixture, such as the Leigh jig. You'll also need a router and a 1/2 in.

dovetail bit. If you've always wanted a dovetail fixture, but could never find a good enough excuse to buy one, then consider this. Make one of these keepsake jewelry boxes for that special person in your life, and there won't be any complaining that you spent Junior's lunch money for the dovetail fixture.

Although Damaskos' original jewelry box design looked fine, we opted for several changes that are noteworthy. First, we added a music box movement. There's something magical about music boxes, and we've long had one on our project wish list. But most of the music boxes we looked at were just boxes for housing a movement. We wanted our music box to also serve a practical purpose, as this jewelry box does.

The changes to the box also included our employing some unique and interesting hardware. With the addition of the music box movement, we found it necessary to replace the swing-arm lid stay that the box originally came with. The solid brass lid stay we selected is a simple and elegant device that has the added benefit of not interfering with the ring tray inside the box. The lid stay is new from Larry and Faye Brusso, a small midwestern hardware company that specializes in top-quality jewelry box hardware. It's the perfect solution to those situations where a lid stay is needed, but you can't afford to use a stay with a chain or swing arm that hangs down inside the box. The lid stay also nicely complements the solid brass barrel hinges that Damaskos uses to mount the lid. If you have never tried these unique little hinges, they're an efficient, easy-to-mount alternative to standard mortise-type hinges. You just drill a pair of matching holes for the two halves of the hinge. The barrel hinges (which are also available in larger sizes for larger boxes) have the added bonus of being totally concealed when the box is closed.

As with all projects, we recommend that you have all the specified hardware—and the music box movement—on hand before starting construction. Ordering information for the movement and hardware is listed in the Bill of Materials.

The box sides (A) and ends (B) are cut from 7/8 in. thick by 3 1/2 in. wide stock.

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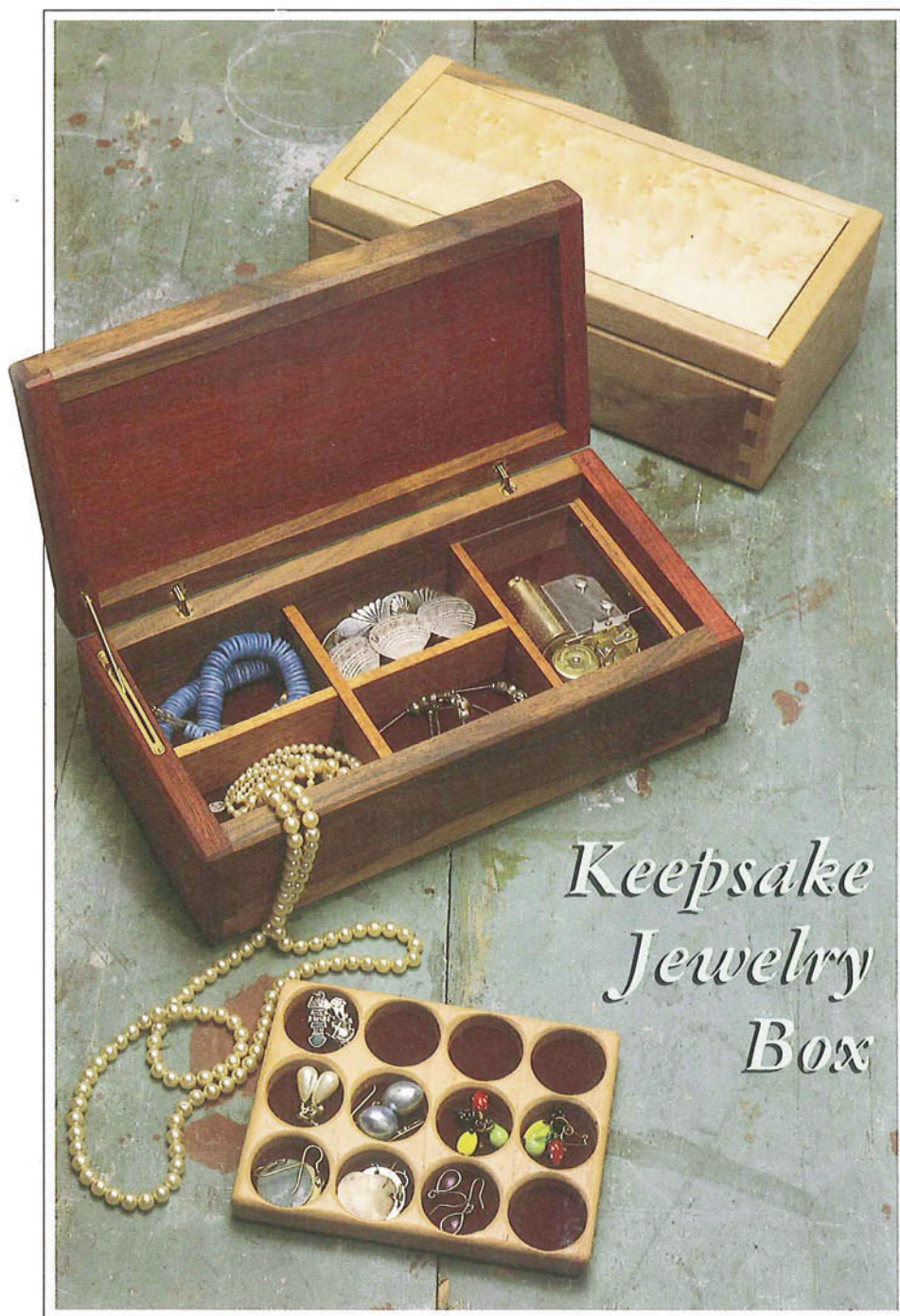
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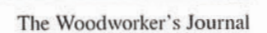
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As with all projects, we recommend that you have all the specified hardware—and the music box movement—on hand before starting construction.

The box sides (A) and ends (B) are cut from 5/8 in. thick by 3 1/2 in. wide stock.







The boxes in the photo are bird's-eye maple or padauk with walnut, but almost any combination of attractive hardwoods can be used. Note that the  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. width dimension includes an allowance of  $\frac{1}{16}$  in. for waste when the lid is cut from the box and the parts are sanded, but you may want to also allow a little extra for sanding on the top and bottom edges. Cut the sides and ends to length, then follow the instructions for cutting half-blind dovetails that come with your jig.

Next up is cutting the grooves for the top panel (C) and the bottom (D). The dado head (set for a  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. wide by  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. deep cut) and table saw, or the router table (equipped with a  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. diameter straight cutter) can be used for this operation. Note that the location of the grooves with respect to the dovetails enables you to make the cuts along the entire length of the sides and ends, without the grooves showing once the box is assembled.

Before assembling the box, you'll want to cut the slot and recess in the right end for the actuator shaft and button. Establish the button recess first. Measure  $1\frac{1}{4}$  in. up from the bottom edge, and  $2\frac{7}{8}$  in. from either the front or back, then use the drill press and a  $\frac{5}{16}$  in. diameter Forstner bit to establish one end of the  $\frac{3}{16}$  in. deep recess. Make a second cut  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. from the first, then clean up the little remaining stock with a sharp chisel. To cut the shaft slot, use the same center point measurements to drill a pair of  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. diameter holes, and again clean up the remaining stock to produce a straight-sided slot.

Cut the top panel and the bottom to the dimensions listed in the Bill of Materials. Note that the  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. wide by  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. deep rabbet around the top panel is sized to leave a  $\frac{1}{16}$  in. reveal all around the panel once assembled. Now assemble the sides and ends around the top and bottom. Use glue at the dovetails and on the bottom, but not on the top panel. Later, after the box is out of clamps and the lid has been separated, you'll anchor the top panel with a pair of pins.

As shown in the elevation, we've allowed about  $\frac{1}{16}$  in. for the band saw blade kerf and sanding when the lid is separated from the box. If you use the table saw instead of the band saw to separate the lid, use a thin kerf blade, and be sure to employ shims and tape to

hold the box together and the kerf open for the final cut. Depending on the method of sawing, and the kerf width of the blade used to separate the lid from the box, your actual final lid depth will vary from about  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. to  $\frac{7}{8}$  in. Once the lid is separated, you can apply the  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. chamfer where the lid and box meet, and at the top and bottom edges.

Next, cut the long and short partitions (E, F), the cleat (G) and the tray (H). The partitions are a simple half-lap construc-

Bill of Materials (all dimensions actual)			
Part	Description	Size	No. Req'd.
A	Side	$\frac{5}{8} \times 3\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{4}$ *	2
B	End	$\frac{5}{8} \times 3\frac{1}{2} \times 6$ *	2
C	Top Panel	$\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{8} \times 11$	1
D	Bottom	$\frac{1}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{8} \times 11$	1
E	Long Partition	$\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{5}{16} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$	1
F	Short Partition	$\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{5}{16} \times 4\frac{3}{4}$	2
G	Cleat	$\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{3}{8} \times 4\frac{3}{4}$	1
H	Tray	$\frac{3}{4} \times 4\frac{3}{4} \times 6\frac{3}{8}$	1
I	Felt	10 x 16	1
J	Plexiglas	$\frac{1}{8} \times 2\frac{7}{8} \times 4\frac{3}{4}$	1
K	Movement**	36 note	1
L	Barrel Hinge***	10 mm diameter	2
M	Lid Stay****	$\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{7}{8}$	1
N	Foot	As shown	4

\* Width dimension of sides and ends are before lid is separated from box.

tion. If you add a felt liner (I) to the box, you'll need to shave just a hair off the partition width to allow for the liner thickness. A  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. by  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. rabbet in the cleat and one of the short partitions serves to support the Plexiglas movement cover (J). The  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. thick Plexiglas is available at hobby centers or at any glass shop. It's important since it adds to the sound quality by creating a resonant chamber, while keeping dust away from the delicate movement.

The tray (which is perfect for holding rings or earrings) is just a board with a series of  $1\frac{3}{8}$  in. diameter by  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. deep holes drilled with a Forstner bit. Space the holes about  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. apart. The size listed for the felt in the Bill of Materials includes enough extra felt to also yield  $1\frac{3}{8}$  in. diameter disks to line the ring tray holes.

Next up is mounting the barrel hinges (L) and lid stay (M). You'll need a 10 mm diameter drill bit to drill for the hinges, but if you don't own a set of metric bits, a single 10 mm bit is available from the hinge supplier. The hinge barrels aren't glued in place. Instead, a small screw is tightened to lock each hinge barrel securely in its hole. This makes removal easy, should that ever be necessary.

For the lid stay, cut a  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. wide by  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. deep slot into the box end. The slot is  $2\frac{7}{8}$  in. long and starts  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. from the back of the box. The  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. diameter hole for the sliding arm pin is located 1 in. on center from the back edge of the lid. The body of the stay is screwed in place and a dab of epoxy is used to secure the pin in the hole. While you are drilling the pin hole, also drill for the pair of brass pins that anchor the top panel. The key here is to make certain that an even  $\frac{1}{16}$  in. reveal is maintained all around the top panel.

All that's left is to apply a finish, add the feet (N) and mount the movement (K). For a finish, we recommend either a tung oil finish topped with beeswax, or lacquer. When mounting the movement, take care to locate it properly so the actuator button and the slide arm to which it is attached effectively turn the movement on and off.

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Thank you again for your purchase, and happy woodworking!

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Internet Production Coordinator