

Art Box

Miniatures West Club Project by Nikki Donahue • Photographed and edited by Monin Dreebin

WOOD

1/32" x 1" x 3"
1/32" x 1/8" x 6"
1/32" x 5/32" x 10"

For this project, it really makes things easier if you stain the wood first.

MATERIALS

- Brass hinges: small (3/16" x 1/4") Classics CLA 05644 or similar
- Brass brads (1/8" for electrification)
- Tiny pieces of thin brown leather
- Small pieces of gold jewelry findings or gold dolly

TOOLS

- Hand cutter
- Miter box and saw
- Sandpaper
- Tacky glue
- Tweezers
- Ruler for measuring wood thickness
- Stain pen
- Straight pin and T-pin
- Sharp scissors



DIRECTIONS for BOX

Lid and bottom: from 1/32" x 1" x 3"
cut 2 pieces 1-3/8" long

Lid: from 1/32" x 1/8" x 6"
Front and back - cut 2 pieces, 1-3/8" long
Sides - cut 2 pieces, 15/16" long

Bottom: from 1/32" x 5/32" x 10"
Front and back -
cut 2 pieces 1-3/8" long
Sides - cut 2 pieces 15/16" long
Dividers - cut 2 pieces 1-1/4" long
and 2 pieces 1/8" long

- Sand the lid and bottom pieces until they are identical.
- Select the best side (right side) of the two pieces to be the outside of the lid.
- The front, back, sides and dividers will be attached on top of the wrong sides of the lid and bottom pieces

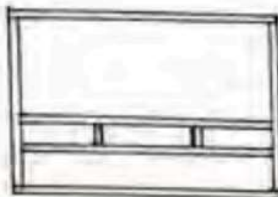
LID

- Attach the longer (1-3/8") pieces to the lid piece (wrong side), narrow side down.
- When the glue has dried, sand any overlap.
- Test fit the shorter (15/16") side pieces, narrow side down.
- Glue the side pieces in place.



BOTTOM

- Attach the longer (1-3/8") pieces to the bottom piece (wrong side), narrow side down.
- When dry, sand off any overlap.
- Test fit the shorter (15/16") side pieces, narrow side down.
- Glue in place.
- Glue the back divider about 1/2" from the back. This section normally holds paint tubes.
- Glue the second divider about 1/8" in front of the back divider.
- Dry fit the two 1/8" pieces between the two divider pieces, about 3/8" from the sides.
- Glue them in place.



HINGES

- Assemble if necessary.
- Put a tiny dot of glue at each end of the pin that holds the two plates together so it won't fall out.
- Put the lid and the bottom together and rubber band it.
- Glue the hinges in place on the back about 3/16" in from each end.
- Use 1/8" brass brads rather than the screws that came with the hinges.
- Poke a hole in the wood with the straight pin and put a dot of Tacky glue on the hole.
- Put the brad in the hole.
- When dry, cut off the excess inside.
- Repeat with the other three holes.



LEATHER HANDLE

- Cut a tiny piece of leather so that it fits inside this pattern. About 1/2" long by 3/32" wide.



- Using scissors, round the ends.



- Poke a hole in both ends of the leather, using a straight pin, and then enlarge the hole with a T-pin.
- Put a dot of tacky glue on both ends of the leather and position it on the bottom front of the box. Center it, and using a toothpick placed between the leather and wood create a small bulge in the center of the handle.
- With a pin make holes in the wood that correspond to the holes in the leather.

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1" scale • Art Box for Artist's Studio

- Glue a brad in each hole pushing it into the leather and through the wood.
- When dry, cut off the excess part of the brads inside the box.

LOCKS

- Cut locks from small pieces of jewelry findings or gold doilies.

- Glue the locks to the front of the lid on either side of the handle, allowing a small portion to hang down below the edge.



Locks, Hinges and Handle



Completed Box

1" scale • Luggage

Quick and Easy Luggage

By Cindy Crane, Fairburn, GA

SUPPLIES

- Blocks of wood cut to size (or foam core if you prefer)
- Hat Straw, fabric, ribbon or suede paper to cover luggage
- Thin strips of leather or suede for handles
- Other trim to cover edges (thin cording works well)
- Hinges and clasps (I use gold stickers)
- Small gold beads for "feet" if you desire
- Scissors
- Glue (Choose the glue that best suits the material used to cover your base)

Base sizes

Suitcase: 1-1/4 x 1/4 x 3/8

Cosmetics Case: 1 x 3/4 x 5/16

These are the sizes I use. You can make your luggage any size you want.

Assembly

1. Sand all edges of your wood base, slightly rounding your edges.

2. Begin gluing your material to all surfaces. Make sure you begin gluing to the back or bottom of the piece so it will not show later. Make sure your seams meet each other and do not overlap. This will make sure that your luggage will not fall over!

3. When using ribbon, paper or fabric, you can leave it slightly oversize and then carefully trim after it is glued. This will give you a neater finish at the edges. When using the hat straw, begin at the bottom and work the strips edge to edge upward. You may not end up with an exact fit when you get to the top. Trim this when the glue is secure.

4. To make the top lid of the cosmetics case, Take a strip of hat straw and glue it over the last piece of hat straw at the top. When using the other materials, I fold the fabric or ribbon into a small strip and then glue over the covered piece near the top to form the "lid". This additional thickness is what makes the case look as though it has an actual lid.



5. Now it is time to add the handles and hinges. Cut a small piece of leather or suede to the desired length and glue into place making sure that there is a small space for the hand to fit in. Add trim to all edges. Now add the hinges in the back and add the clasp. Don't forget to add "brass" to the ends of the handles for a more realistic look.

6. You may want to add "feet" to your luggage. This step is optional.
7. For additional realism, make a small luggage tag and you are done!

I hope you enjoy making this project. For any questions about this Work-project contact Cindy Crane, 136 Peters Rd., Fairburn, GA 30213 cindy@miniatureluxuries.com

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