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Bill Krier
Editor in Chief, WOOD magazine

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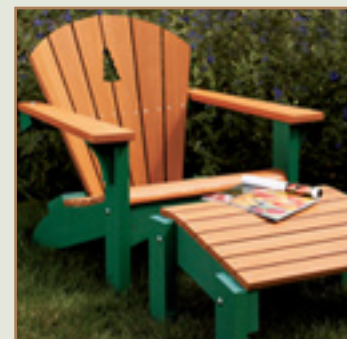
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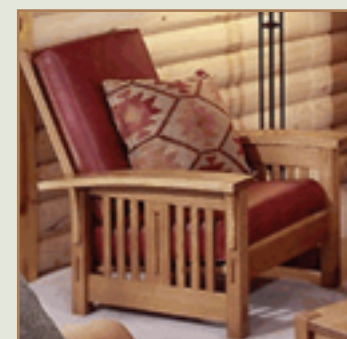
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Aspen sides with mahogany ends



When the wine's gone, the box stores candles, jewelry, or keepsakes.

Curly maple sides with padauk ends

Looking for a project you can make quickly that's sure to delight—and impress—the lucky recipient? This is it. Thanks to straightforward rabbet-and-groove joinery, a simple jig for drilling the eye-catching doweled ends, full-size patterns for shaping the round box ends and handle, and just six parts, you can complete this beautiful holder in a couple of hours. Whether you choose your own contrasting woods or try one of the combinations shown above, the box will look great.

Start with the box and lid

1 From $\frac{3}{4}$ "-thick stock, cut the sides (A) and ends (B) to the sizes listed in the **Materials List** on page 7, except cut the sides $15\frac{1}{2}$ " long.

2 Using a dado blade in your table saw, cut a $\frac{3}{4}$ " rabbet $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep across each end of the sides (A) on the *inside* faces to fit the ends (B), where shown on **Drawing 1**. Then cut a $\frac{1}{4}$ " groove $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the top and bottom edges of the sides to receive the bottom (C) and lid (D) and a $\frac{1}{4}$ " groove $\frac{1}{8}$ " deep $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the bottom edges of the ends on the *inside* faces (also to fit the bottom).

3 From $\frac{3}{4}$ " stock resawn or planed to $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick, cut the bottom (C) to size. Sand the sides (A), ends (B), and bottom to 220 grit. Now assemble the box, as shown in **Photo A**.

4 To drill holes to receive $\frac{1}{4}$ " dowels in the ends (B), where dimensioned on **Drawing 1**, make the hole-drilling jig shown on **Drawing 2** from $\frac{1}{4}$ " hardboard and $\frac{3}{4}$ " scrap. To make sure that the dowels fit snugly in the holes, see the **Shop Tip**, at *bottom*. Positioning the jig on the box, as shown in **Photo B**, drill $\frac{1}{4}$ " holes $1\frac{3}{4}$ " deep into each end and the sides (A). Add $\frac{3}{4}$ " to the drilling depth to allow for the jig thickness, and

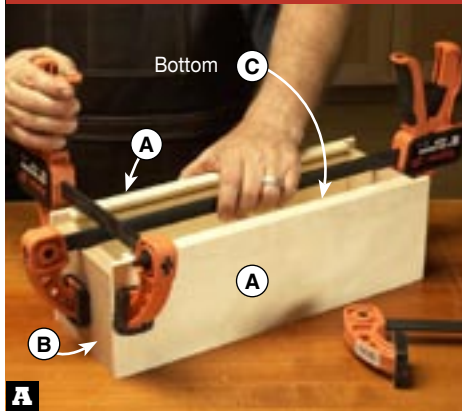
apply masking tape to the drill bit $2\frac{1}{2}$ " from the tip for a visual stop.

5 Cut twelve 2"-long pieces from a $\frac{1}{4}$ " birch or maple dowel. Glue and drive the dowels into the bottom of the holes in the ends. (The dowels will extend $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the ends.) Let the glue dry overnight. You'll trim the dowels when bandsawing the ends.

6 From $\frac{3}{4}$ " stock resawn and then planed or drum-sanded to $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick, cut the lid (D) to size to fit snugly in the grooves in the sides (A). Aim for a slight friction fit to help prevent the lid from sliding out of the box when it's held at an angle. We recommend not lifting or carrying the box by the handle.

7 To bandsaw the ends of the box to shape, where shown on **Drawing 1**, cut two $\frac{3}{4}\times 5$ " spacers from $\frac{1}{4}$ " hardboard. Make two copies of the box end full-size pattern on page 7. Spray-adhere a pattern, centered end to end, to each spacer. With the lid (D) in position and flush with the ends (B), adhere a spacer to the lid at each end between the rabbets in the sides (A) using double-faced tape. Press the $\frac{1}{4}$ "-wide ends of the patterns that overhang the spacers to the top edges of the sides. Now, using a $\frac{3}{8}$ " blade, bandsaw the ends, as shown in **Photo C**. Sand the ends smooth using a 120-grit sanding block. Remove the spacers and patterns.

ASSEMBLE THE BOX



Glue and assemble the sides (A), ends (B), and bottom (C), clamping the ends first and then the sides to draw all of the joints tight.

DRILL THE DOWEL HOLES



With the hole-drilling jig flush with the bottom of each end (B), drill six $\frac{1}{4}$ " holes $1\frac{3}{4}$ " deep into the end and sides (A) for the dowels.

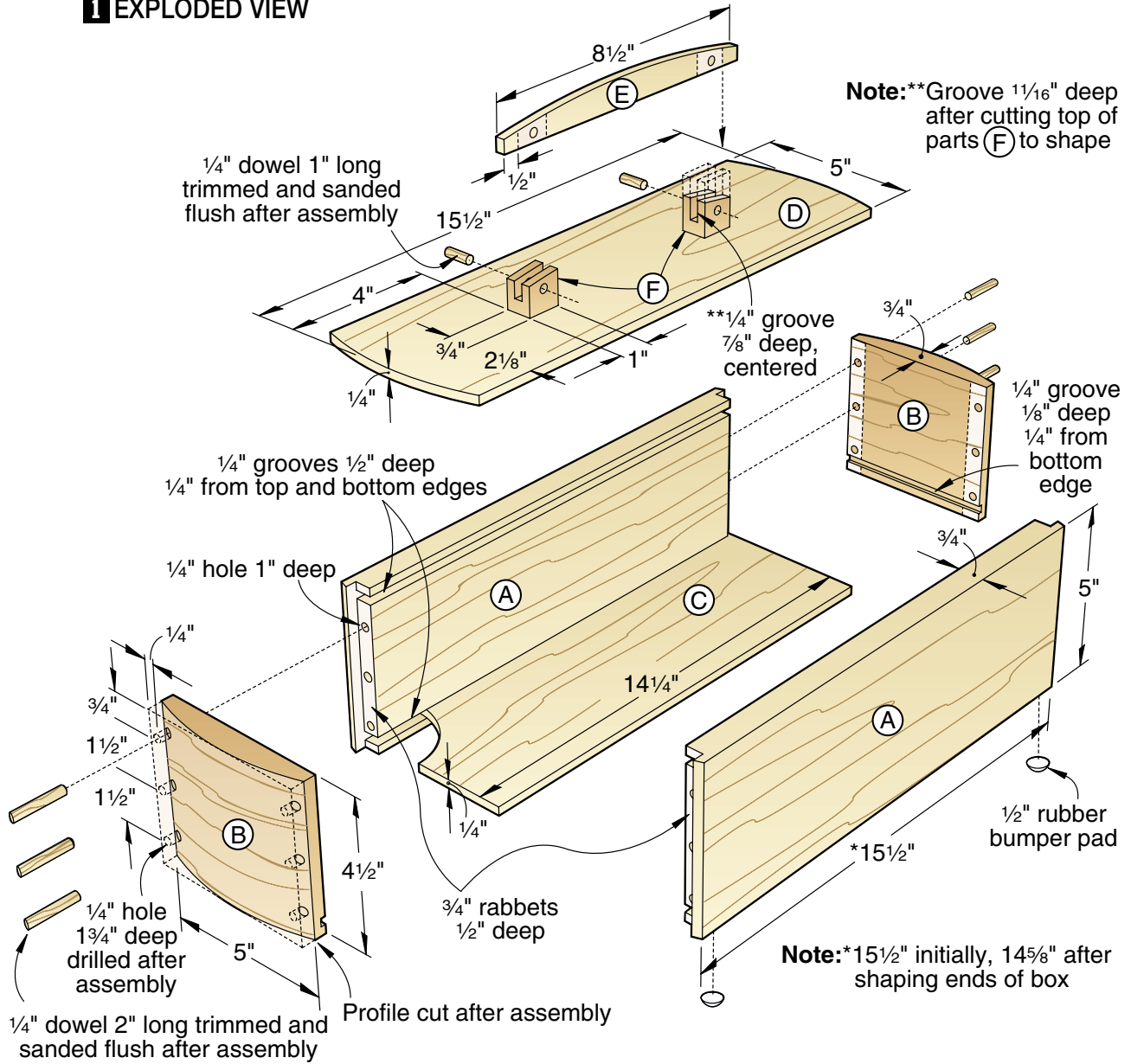
SHOP TIP

How to ensure snug-fitting dowels

Dowels can run a few thousandths of an inch larger or smaller than their specified diameter, leaving them tight or loose in the mating holes. Here's an easy way to make sure that the dowels fit snug. For a $\frac{1}{4}$ " dowel, for example, drill a $\frac{1}{4}$ " hole in scrap. Test-fit the dowel in the hole. **If tight**, chuck a maximum 6"-long piece of dowel in your drill. Turn the drill on, and sand the dowel evenly along the length, as shown, until you achieve the desired fit. **If loose**, drill a $\frac{15}{64}$ " hole ($\frac{1}{64}$ " smaller in diameter) in the scrap. Check the fit of the dowel in this hole. If snug, drill $\frac{15}{64}$ " holes in the workpiece. If tight, sand the dowel, as before.



1 EXPLODED VIEW



Top it off with the handle

1 From $\frac{3}{4}$ " stock resawn or planed to $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick, cut a $1 \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ " blank for the handle (E). Photocopy the full-size handle pattern from the insert. Spray-adhere the pattern to the blank. Then bandsaw or scrollsaw and sand to the pattern line. You'll drill the $\frac{1}{4}$ " holes through the handle for the dowels after gluing the handle brackets (F) to it. Remove the pattern.

2 From $\frac{3}{4}$ " stock, cut a $1\frac{1}{4} \times 12$ " blank to form the handle brackets (F). Cut a centered $\frac{1}{4}$ " groove $\frac{7}{8}$ " deep along an edge of the blank, where shown on **Drawing 3**. Now crosscut two 1"-long handle brackets from the blank.

3 Glue the handle brackets (F) to the handle (E), locating the brackets $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the ends of the handle, where dimensioned on **Drawing 1**. Next, mark a centerpoint on each bracket for a $\frac{1}{4}$ " hole, where dimensioned on **Drawing 3**. Now, using a Brad-point bit, drill the holes, as shown in **Photo D**.

4 Cut two 1"-long pieces from a $\frac{1}{4}$ " birch or maple dowel. Glue the dowels, centered end to end, in the holes in the handle assembly (E/F). Let the glue dry overnight. Then trim the dowels using a $\frac{5}{8}$ "-trim saw, and sand smooth.

5 Bandsaw or scrollsaw the handle brackets (F) close to the curved top edge of the handle (E). Sand the brackets $\frac{5}{8}$ " flush, as shown in **Photo E**. Now glue and clamp the handle assembly, centered, to the lid (D).

Finish up

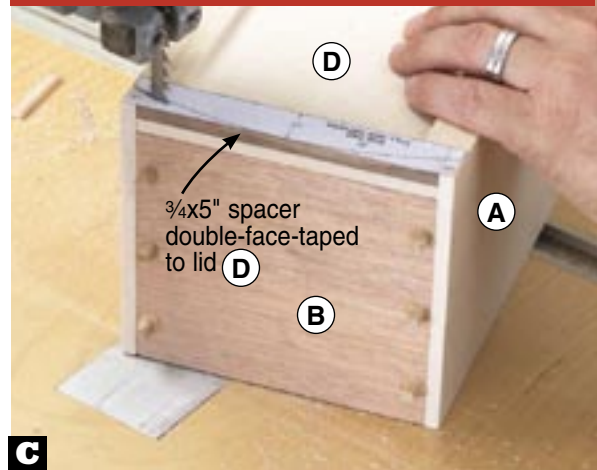
1 Finish-sand any areas of the lid and box that need it to 220 grit, and remove the dust. Apply a clear $\frac{1}{2}$ " finish. (We applied two coats of water-based satin polyurethane, sanding to 320 grit between coats.)

2 Finally, apply $\frac{1}{2}$ " rubber bumper pads to the bottom edges of the sides (A), where shown on **Drawing 1**. Now, place some decorative cushioning material, such as raf $\frac{1}{2}$ a (available at party or such crafts supply stores as Michaels), along with a $\frac{1}{2}$ " beverage in the box, slide the lid into place, and surprise someone special with your handiwork. As an alternative to raf $\frac{1}{2}$ a, you can make your own festive "stuff $\frac{1}{2}$ ng" by feeding a few sheets of bright-colored construction paper through a shredder and crumpling the strips. ♣

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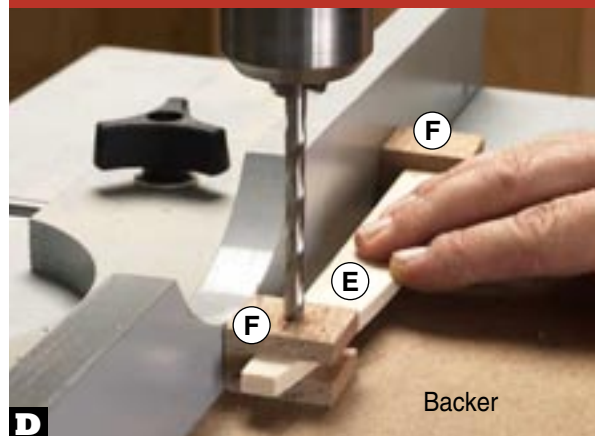
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ROUND THE BOX ENDS



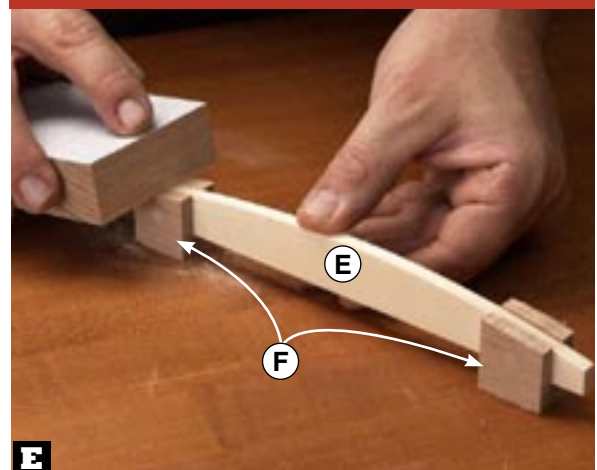
C With the lid (D) and spacer flush with each end (B), bandsaw the ends to shape, cutting just outside the pattern lines.

DRILL THE HANDLE HOLES



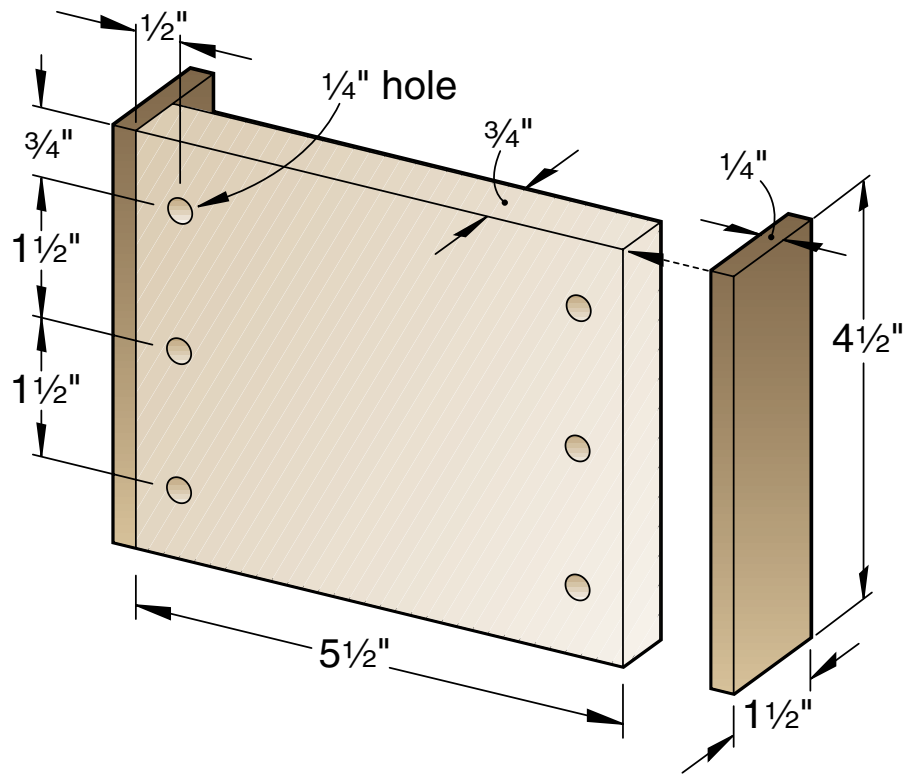
D Using a backer to prevent tear-out, drill a $\frac{1}{4}$ " hole through the handle assembly (E/F) at the marked centerpoint on each bracket (F).

FLUSH-SAND THE BRACKETS



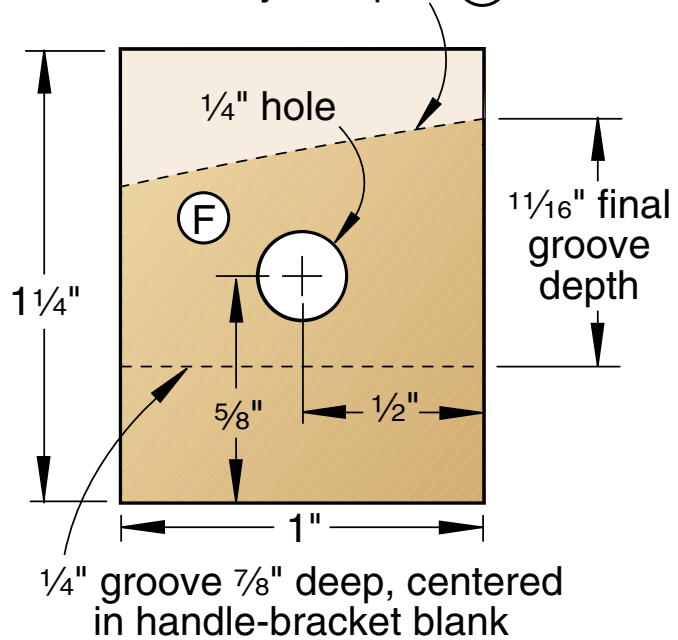
E Sand the handle brackets (F) flush with the curved top edge of the handle (E) using a 120-grit sanding block.

2 HOLE-DRILLING JIG

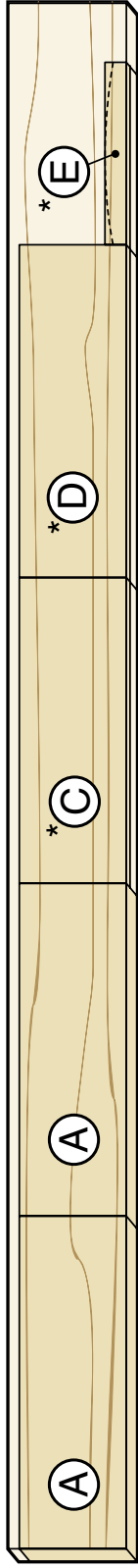


3 HANDLE BRACKET

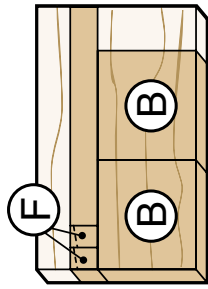
Trim and sand flush after assembly with part (E).



Cutting Diagram



3/4 x 5 1/2 x 72" Curly maple (3 bd. ft.) *Plane or resaw to the thickness listed in the Materials List.



3/4 x 7 1/4 x 12" Padauk (.7 bd. ft.)

Materials List

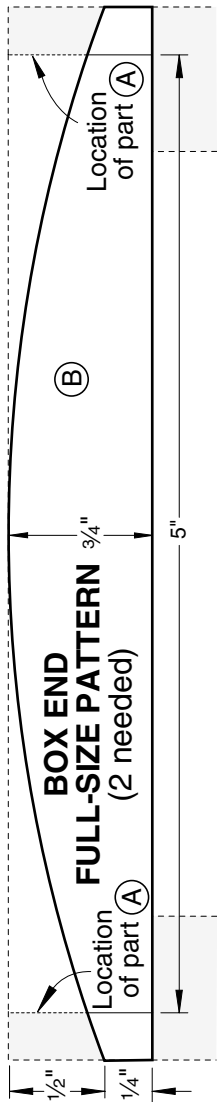
Part	FINISHED SIZE			Matl.	Qty.
	T	W	L		
A* sides	3/4"	5"	14 5/8"	CM	2
B ends	3/4"	4 1/2"	5"	P	2
C bottom	1/4"	5"	14 1/4"	CM	1
D lid	1/4"	5"	15 1/2"	CM	1
E* handle	1/4"	7/8"	8 1/2"	CM	1
F* handle brackets	3/4"	1 1/16"	1"	P	2

*Parts initially cut oversize. See the instructions.

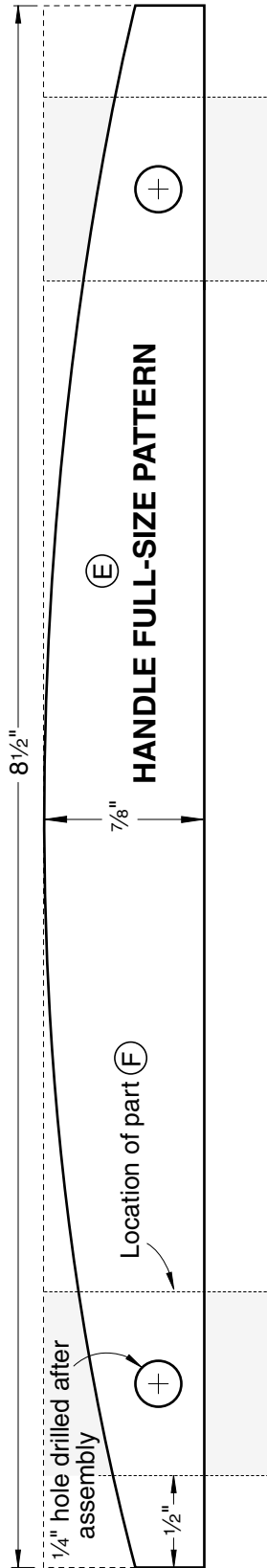
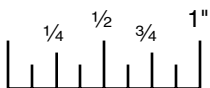
Materials key: CM—curly maple, P—padauk.

Supplies: 1/4" birch or maple dowel 36" long, spray adhesive, double-faced tape, 1/2" rubber bumper pads (4).

Blades and bit: Dado-blade set, 3/8" bandsaw blade, 1/4" brad-point bit.



To ensure full-size patterns are correct size, your printer should be set to print at 100% (not fit to page). Measure full-size patterns to verify size.



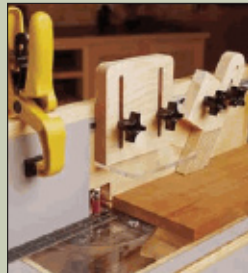
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