

HANGING
MIRROR

TWO-PIECE
DESK SET

Handmade Gifts



FLATWARE
CARRIER



TEA LIGHT
CANDLE
HOLDER



4 Tasteful projects made quickly from scraps

**BY CHRISTIAN
BECKSVOORT**

A woodworker's friends and family always want to see the results of all that time spent in the shop. Small, quick-to-make gifts are a good way to show them. We've all made our share of cutting boards and keepsake boxes; here are a few suggestions for other quick pieces you can make. This is a great chance to use up those accumulated scraps and make a lot of people happy.

Contributing editor Christian Becksvoort makes furniture in New Gloucester, Maine.

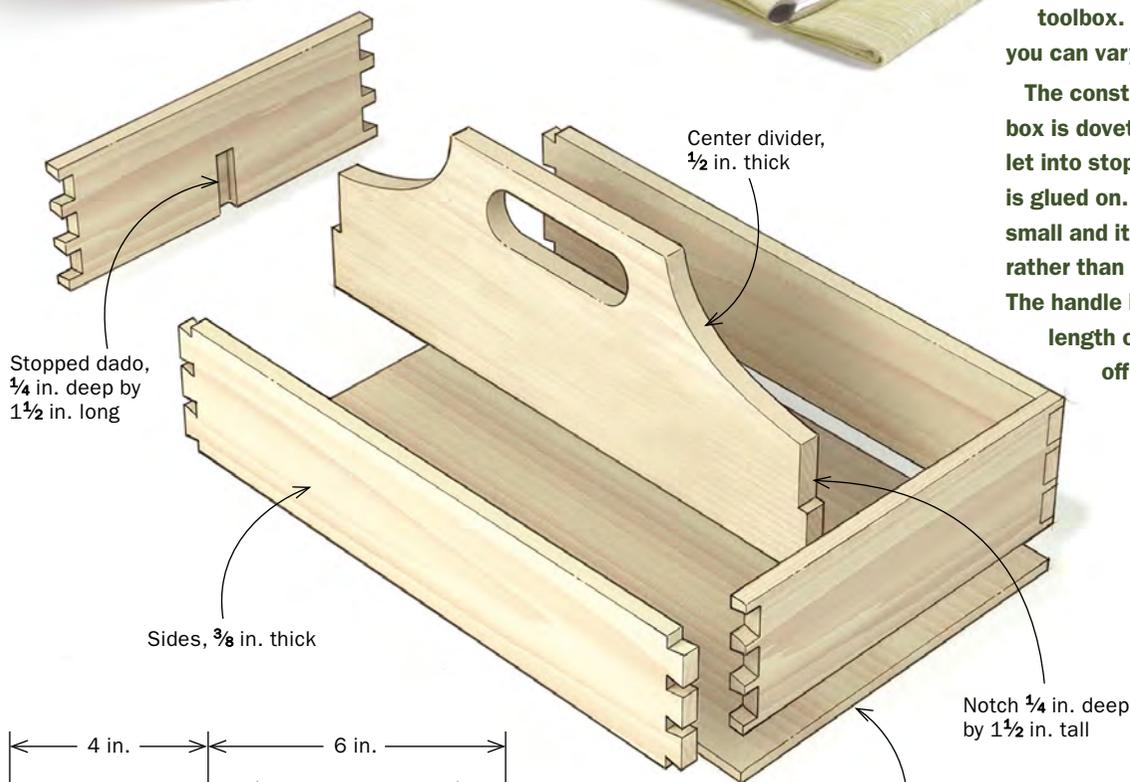
1 Flatware carrier is versatile



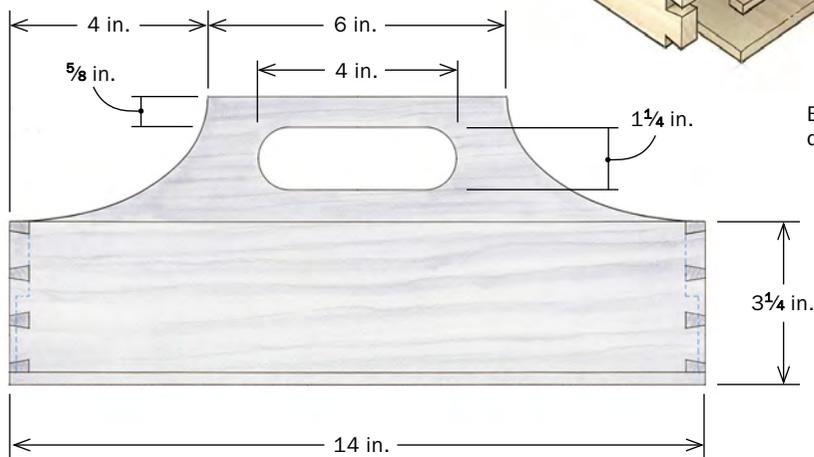
This sweet caddy can be made with hand tools, power tools, or a combination. It is a variation on a Shaker dining room tray. The original was 18½ in. long, but I find that most flatware and kitchen utensils will fit easily into this smaller version. Build it to whatever size you find most useful.

It can also be used for incoming and outgoing mail, to hold cords and chargers, as a tea caddy (with dividers added), as a desk organizer, or as a small toolbox. This version is white pine, but you can vary the wood, too.

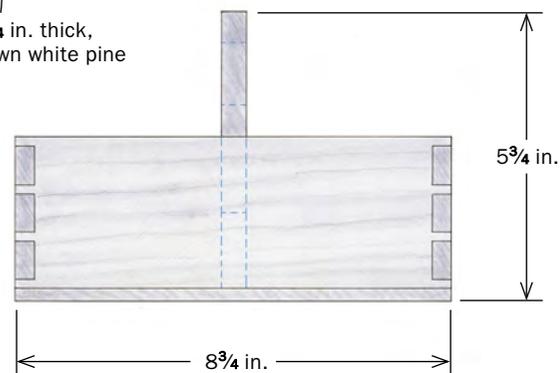
The construction is straightforward: The box is dovetailed, the center handle is let into stopped dadoes, and the bottom is glued on. The stopped dado is pretty small and it is faster to cut it by hand rather than with a router or dado blade. The handle is ½ in. longer than the inside length of the box, and ¼ in. is sawed off the top half of each end.



To purchase expanded plans and a complete cutlist for these 4 handmade gifts and other projects, go to FineWoodworking.com/PlanStore.



SIDE VIEW



END VIEW



Cut a stopped dado. Because the stopped dados are small, Becksvoort cuts them by hand. He scribes the line with a knife, chisels out the sides and waste, and cleans it up with a router plane (right).



The handle is also the divider. After drilling both ends of the hand-hold with a Forstner bit, use a chisel to waste out the center. Becksvoort works halfway through one side, flips the piece over, and removes the rest. Then he uses a drawknife (right) to shape the scooped ends of the handle.



Insert the handle and add the bottom. After gluing up the dovetails, slide the handle in from the bottom, trapping it in place when you glue the bottom directly to the box (right).

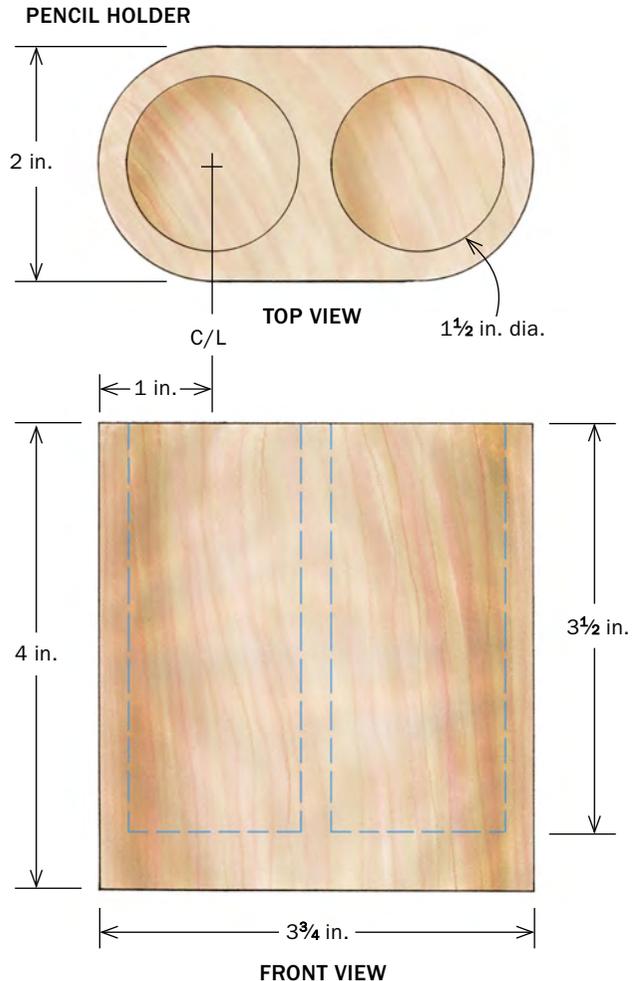
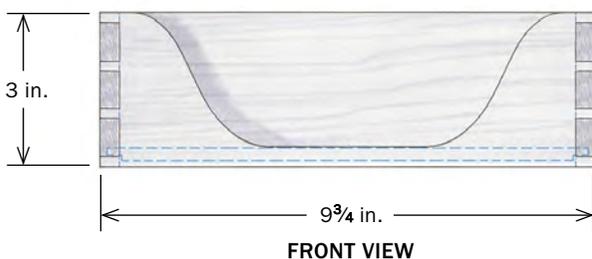
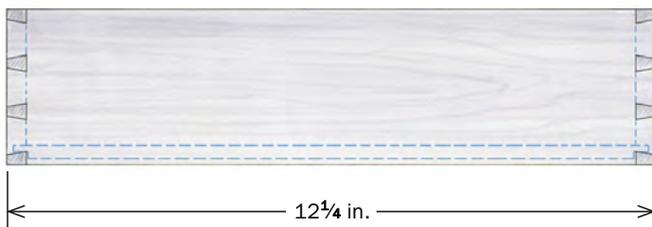
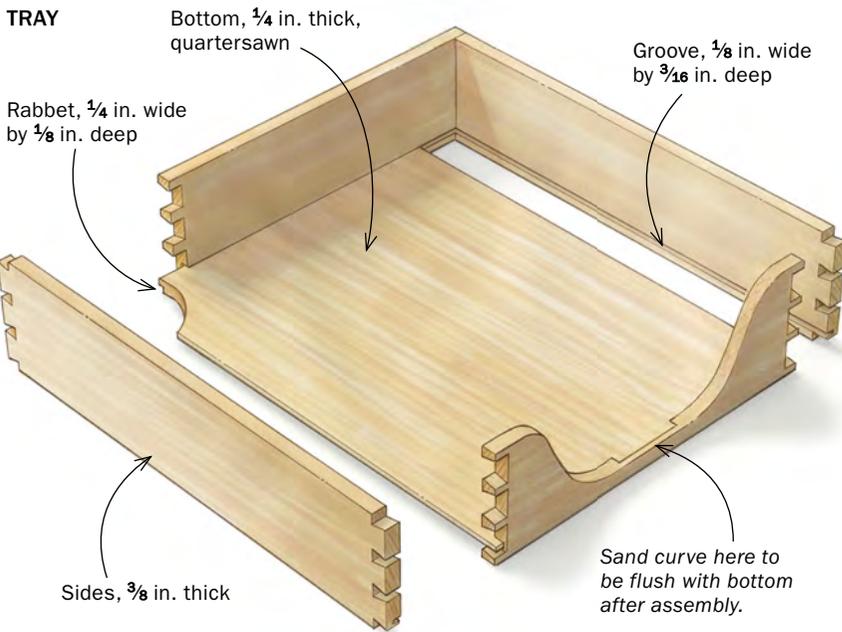


2 Two-piece desk set



It's nice to be organized, to have your desk uncluttered, and to have all your to-do projects in one place, with pencils, pens, and letter opener at the ready. Paperless society? Not yet. This small inbox with a pen and pencil holder makes a great project.

The box is dovetailed, with a cut-out in the front for easy access to the papers inside. I use a bandsaw for the cutout, but a coping saw would work, too. The bottom can be quartersawn pine, glued underneath, or a floating panel set in grooves on all four sides. The pencil holder is a block of scrap, drilled with two holes. When using such a large bit it's a good idea to hold the block with a hand screw clamped horizontally to the drill-press table. After drilling the holes, I bandsaw the outside shape and plane it smooth. Alternatively, it can be hand-carved for a more textured look.



THE TRAY

A groove for the trapped bottom. After cutting the dovetails but before gluing up the box, clamp it together and use a trim router with a slot-cutter and bottom-bearing-guided bit to cut the groove for the bottom around the inside of the box.



Bandsaw the cutout in the front. Disassemble the box and cut out the shape of the front. This will leave a thin line of wood just above the groove for the bottom. You can address that after the glue-up by cutting out the center and feathering it toward the outer edges.



Glue up the box but not the bottom. Insert the bottom during the glue-up, but leave it unglued so it can float.

THE PENCIL HOLDER



It starts with a block. Clamp the block to the drill-press table and use a Forstner bit to drill the pencil holes. Because they are large, deep holes it's a good idea to back out the bit and clear the waste before hitting bottom. Use a bandsaw to rough out the outside shape.

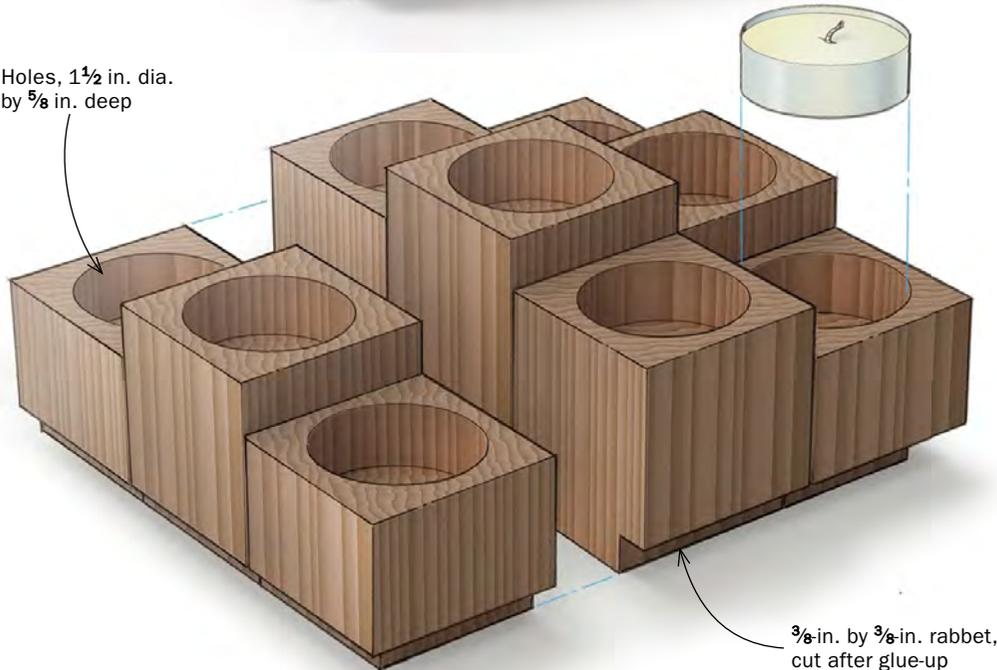


Finish it off. Becksvoort uses a block plane to smooth the bandsaw marks, leaving a hand-planed finish.

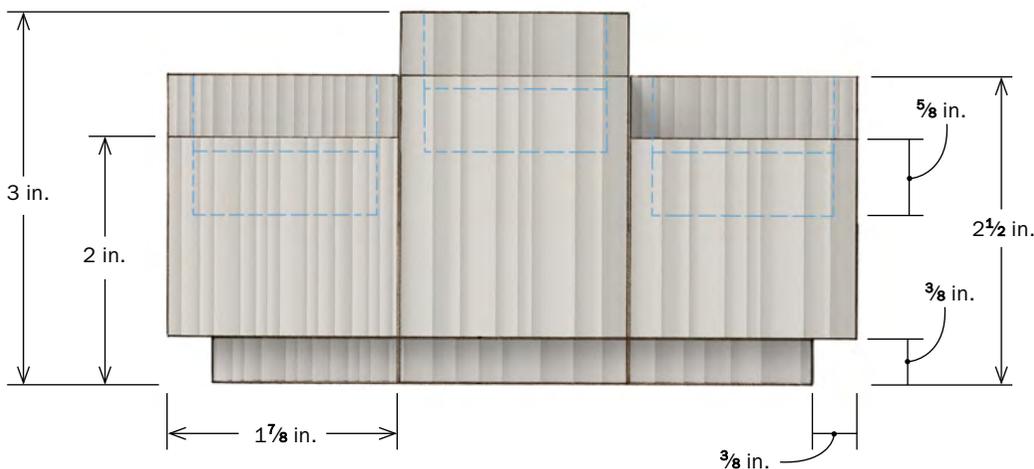
3 Tea light candle holder



Holes, 1½ in. dia.
by ⅝ in. deep



⅜ in. by ⅜ in. rabbet,
cut after glue-up



Here is a great chance to use scraps, no matter the species. It's also a chance to get creative. Although my tea light candle holders are all tidily rectilinear, feel free to offset the parts and expand the sizes, numbers, shapes, and layouts. If you're a turner, turn a disk and drill holes in it. If you're a carver, shape and carve a nice slab and drill holes to suit. Most tea lights will fit into a 1½-in.-dia. hole. If you want to get fancier (and safer, in my opinion), use



glass inserts. You can turn out a bunch of these gifts in a morning.

For my holders, I milled a stick 1 7/8 in. square by about 12 in. to 16 in. long, and cut it into short lengths on the tablesaw. I drilled one end of each piece with a 1½-in. Forstner bit. Then I glued three together with a hand-screw clamp, keeping them aligned during glue-up by holding them in a bench vise. When the glue was dry, I sanded the sides and planed the bottoms to get the unit perfectly flat. Then I glued the sub-assemblies together, and finally rabbeted around the bottom to create a foot.



Cut and drill. After milling sticks square, use the tablesaw to cut all the parts to length. Then take the parts to the drill press. A hold-down jig keeps the block in place while you use a Forstner bit to drill the recess for the tea light candle.



Glue up in two stages. First, glue together three rows of three. Once those are dry and cleaned up, glue the three rows into one block.



Adding a rabbet creates a base. Use the tablesaw to make two cuts on each side of the bottom. First, with the assembly bottom against the rip fence, make a cut on all four sides. Then with the bottom on the tablesaw top, cut along all four sides again.

4 Hanging mirror

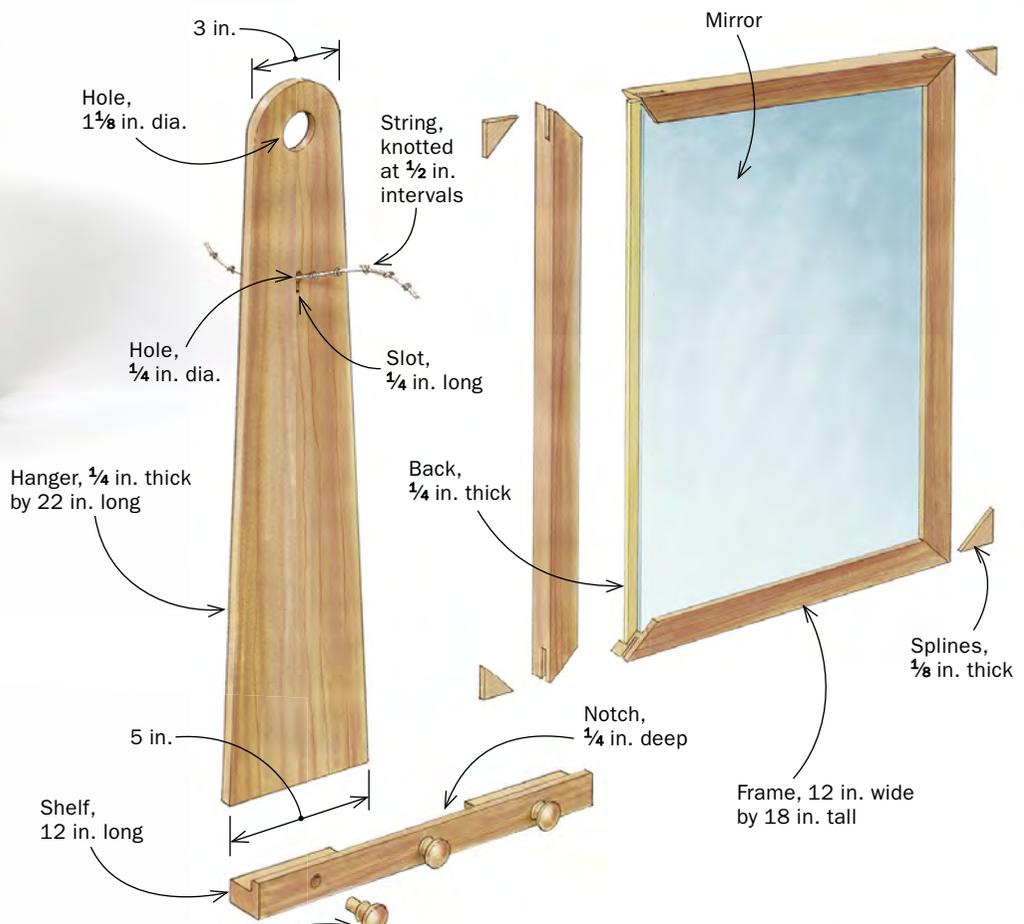


The Shaker wall mirror may take a bit longer than the other gifts, but it is well worth the effort. The mirror rests on a shallow hanging shelf, and its forward angle can be adjusted.

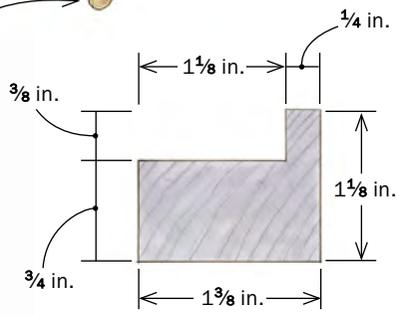
To make the frame, cut a double rabbet into the frame stock. Miter the four corners, glue up the frame using green tape to clamp it, and spline the corners. Add the mirror and the pine back. Near the top of the back, drill a small hole and insert a piece of string, with a large knot at the end to keep it from pulling out. The back is held in place by small brads, nailed

in at a 45° angle, and bent over. The top end of the tapered hanger has a hole that allows it to hang on a peg. At the bottom, the hanger is screwed to the shelf. Measure from the bottom of the mirror to the string, and drill a 1/4-in.-dia. hole at that height near the top center of the hanger. Use a file to cut a slot at the bottom of the hole. To make the mirror adjustable, tie a series of knots in the string and feed it through the slotted hole.

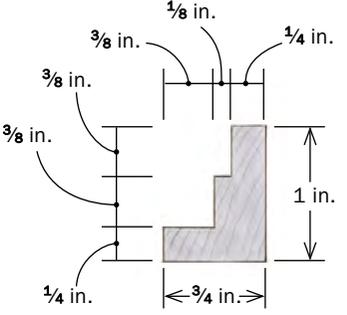
Finally, insert the pegs. You can use them to hang jewelry, trinkets, washcloths, and other items.



Adjustable angle. Knot the string at 1/2-in. intervals and feed it through the slotted hanger hole. Use it to adjust the angle of the mirror.



BASE DETAIL



FRAME DETAIL

FRAME FIRST



Rabbets, then miters. To cut the double rabbets, Becksvoort first makes two ripcuts in the wide face of the workpiece (left). Then he turns it on edge and makes two more rips (center) to finish the rabbets. With the rabbets done, he uses a miter gauge to cut the miters (right).



ADD A HOLDER



A two-part shelf to cradle the mirror. A shaped back with a hole for a peg hanger screws into an L-shaped shelf with Shaker knobs. When predrilling, use a bit with a countersink so the screws won't protrude.



Add the Shaker pegs. Turn three Shaker pegs, and insert them into the front of the shelf. Becksvoort compresses the tenons with vise grips to make it easier to fit them in the glue-up. A hand screw pushes them all the way in and holds them while the glue dries.

