**Making a jewellery box with legs**

Order of work: This outline describes a box that has the sides level with the top of the lid, and the front and back supporting the lid.

1. Process the timber to final size if required.
2. Cut front/back and sides to length. Ensure cuts are square in both directions.
3. Reduce the height of the front and back panels by slightly more than the thickness of the lid.
4. Cut the legs square and to length, leaving ample for feet and above box if this is part of the design.
5. Rout a rebate to house the insert for the bottom of the box (all panels plus the corners of the legs).
6. Cut joints in legs and panels. These can be mortice and tenon, floating tenons or dowels. Tenons will need to be offset to obtain required length.
7. If the bottoms of the panels are to be curved, then make two curved templates (one for back and front, plus a tighter curve for the sides).
8. Draw curves on to the panels from the template and cut near the line with a bandsaw. Attach the appropriate template to each of the panels with double-sided tape and clean up the edge with a pattern-following router bit.
9. If the templates have been carefully made, they can be used as glue-up blocks for attaching thin strips of contrasting timber (or veneers) to the bottom edges of each panel.
10. The insert for the bottom of the box can be made up using your own veneers glued to MDF of plywood (4 to 6 mm). If you plan to cover the base with cloth or leather, then a second-grade veneer can be used for the inside.
11. Sand the inside and outside of all panels and the outside of the base. Apply finish to all surfaces.
12. Box can be glued up in two stages. The corner legs can be glued to the front and back panels first. Leave the legs square for gluing so you have direct pressure on them with clamps When the glue is dry, curves or tapers can be cut in the legs with a bandsaw. Curves could also be cut into the legs at right angles to the first cut but keep the pieces as glue-up blocks (attach them with hot melt glue so the do not come apart when clamping). Make sure that you allow for the joints when cutting curves or tapers.
13. The side panels can be glued and the bottom panel inserted
14. Make the lid. Mortice and tenon is a good joinery method for the lid on a box like this. Roger Gifkin has a good description of making these lids in his booklet on Dovetail Boxes (pages 15, 17 and 18). Roger describes using a floating panel insert but you can readily use veneer or a marquetry design on MDF or plywood (6 to 9 mm). The most attractive way is to have the full-length pieces with the mortices running lengthwise and the short pieces with the tenons running front to back. The long pieces can be around 30 mm wide and the short pieces 35 to 40 mm. If you wish to include a handle then make the front piece closer to 40 mm wide initially, which is then cut back to form the handle.
15. When the lid has been made and finished, it can be cut to size and carefully planed along the sides so that it fits neatly and at right angles. The hinges (butt or 950 stop) can be fitted at this stage.
16. Normally the sides of a box made this way would be planed down so that they are flush with the lid. In order to do this at this stage, the corner legs would have to also be planed flush with the lid. If the design calls for the legs to finish above the box, then the sides will need to be made flush with the lid before glue up!!
17. Finish the rest of the box (legs etc), make a tray and line the inside if required.