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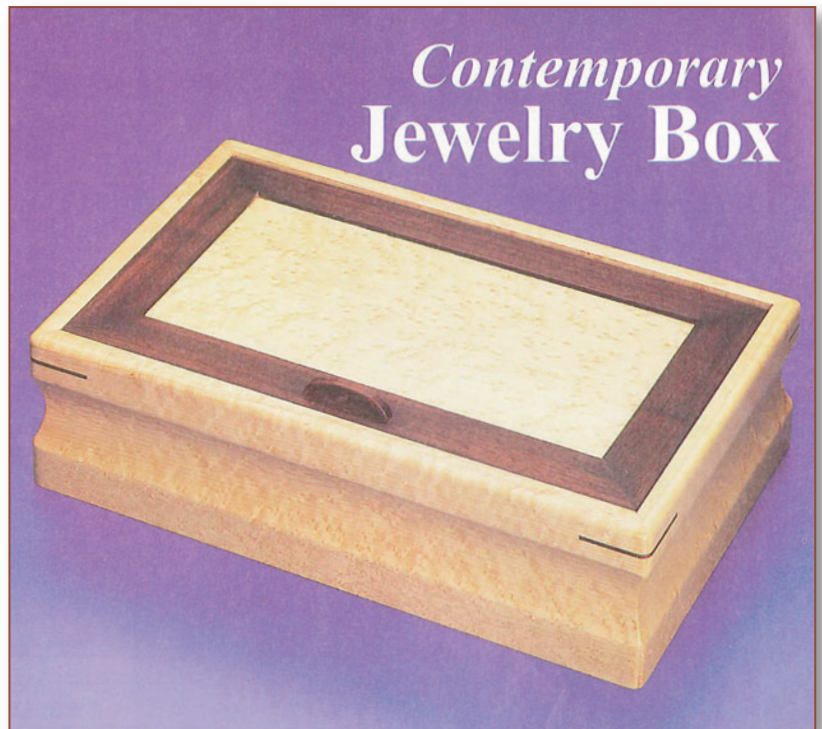
Classic Project



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.

Contemporary Jewelry Box



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Looking for the perfect Christmas gift for the lady in your life? From the ooh's and ah's here in the offices of *The Woodworker's Journal*, we've learned that the most appreciated gifts are often jewelry boxes.

In the case of this handsome contemporary box, by Bradley S. Bohls, of Austin, Texas, the combination of an attractive look, minimal material costs and a design that's easy to cobble together in a weekend add up to maximum bang for your woodworking buck. And, since there's no costly hardware to buy, with the holidays just around the corner, you can head down to the shop right now and get to work.

Our box is mainly bird's-eye maple, with a padauk frame capturing the bird's-eye maple lid, and padauk accents (the splines and lift) adding decorative contrast. But don't feel obligated to follow our lead. Bradley builds these boxes in many different wood combinations, and all look good.

A Simple Box

Box designs can't get much simpler than this. Select a choice board about 4 ft. long, mill it to a 1/2 in. thickness, then rip it to a 4 in. width. To establish the cove, position a length of scrap (as a fence) at 30 degrees to the blade, locating the fence 1 in. from the front of the blade, which should be raised to a height of 1/4 in. This setup is shown in the Cove Detail. Once the setup is complete, lower the blade so it protrudes only about 1/16 in., and make an initial pass over the

blade. Our illustration doesn't show them, but it's a good idea to employ featherboards both above the blade (to hold the stock down) and at the edge (to hold the stock tight to the fence). After each pass, raise the blade an additional 1/16 in. until you've achieved the final 1/4 in. blade height. *Note: Our setup assumes a 10 in. diameter blade. If your table saw is equipped with a different diameter blade, you'll need to alter the fence angle to achieve the desired 1 7/8 in. cove width.*

Next, angle your table saw blade over to 45 degrees and cut the front/back (A) and ends (B) to final length. Mark the parts to assure that they'll stay in the same order as you cut them from the board (this may not seem important, but it insures a continuity of grain around three of the corners—a nice detail).

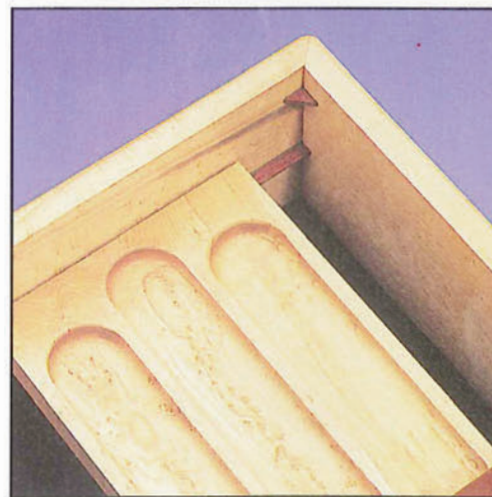
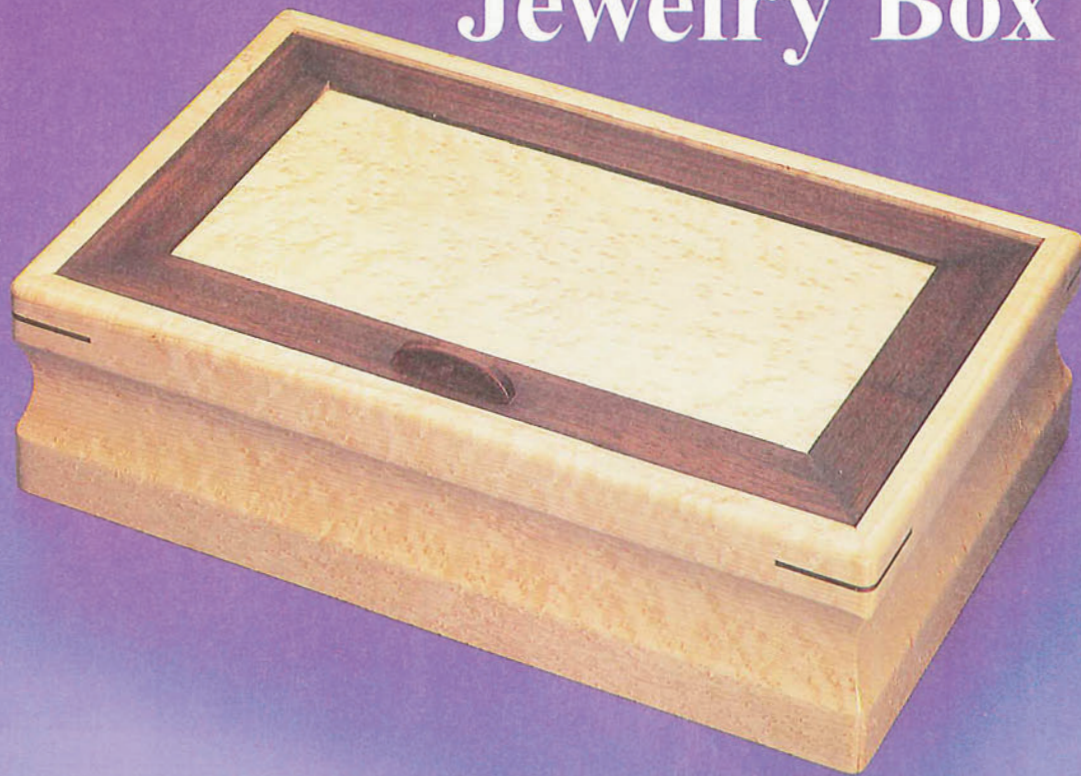
Once your front, back and ends are cut, establish the 1/8 in. deep by 1/4 in. wide groove for the bottom (C). You could switch to a dado head for this cut, but it's much quicker to just make a pair of passes over the table saw blade, relocating the fence 1/8 in. further from the blade for the second cut. Also, cut the

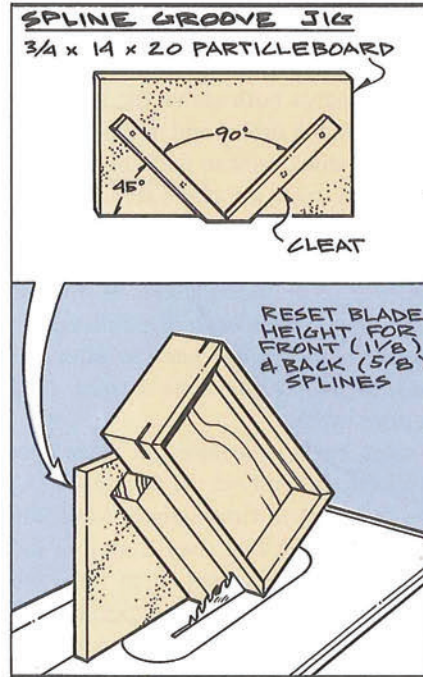
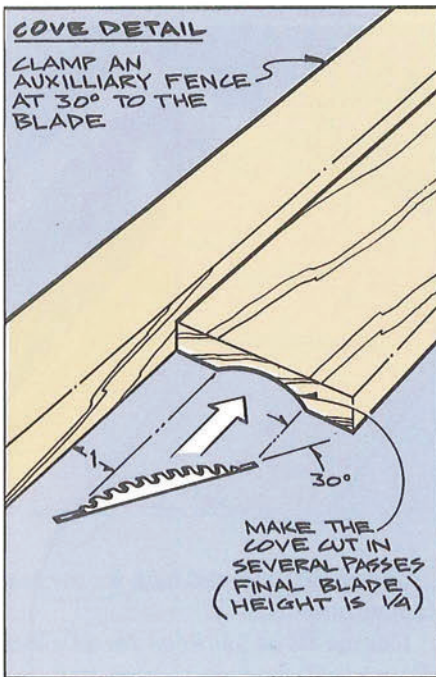
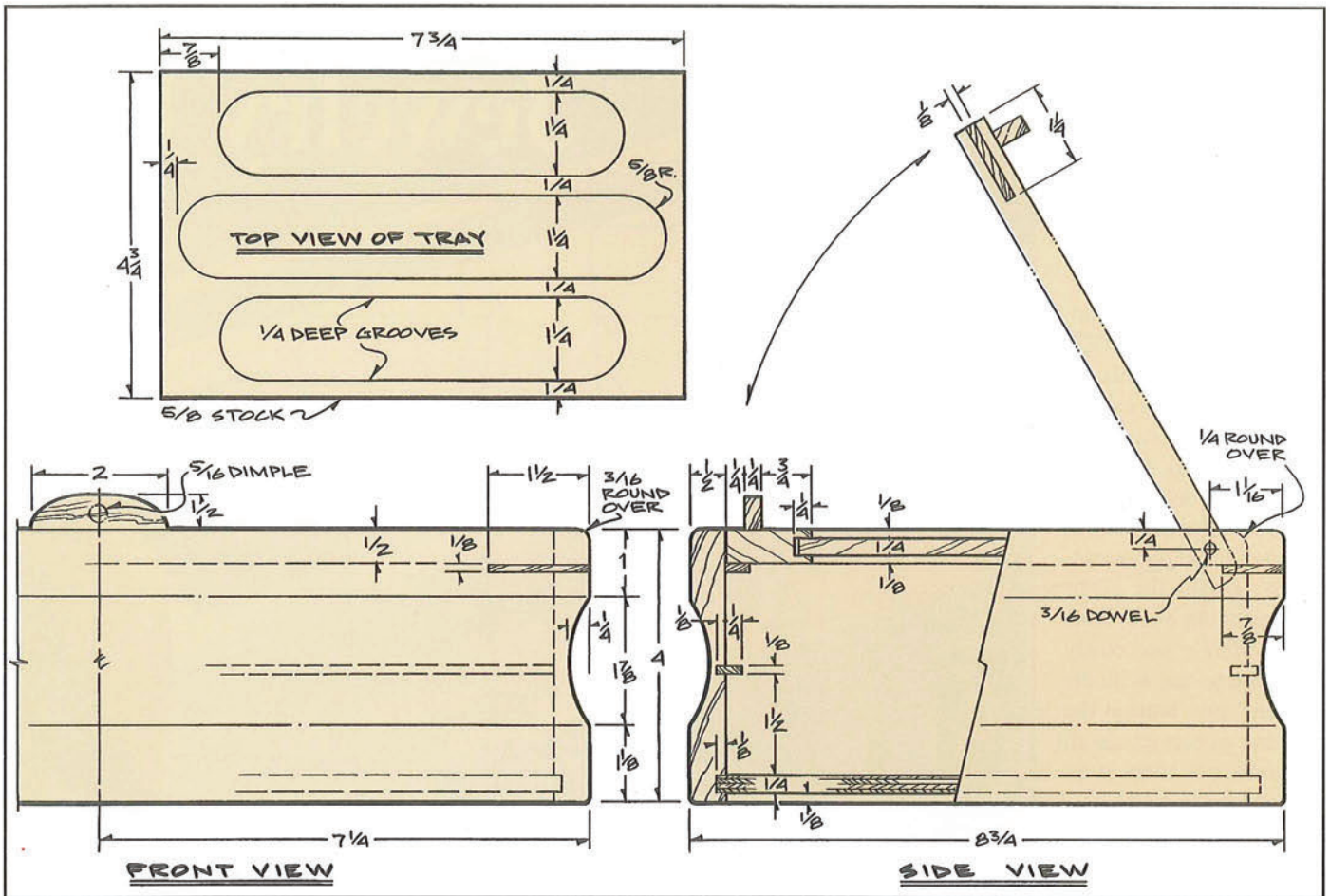
groove in the front and back for the tray support strips (D).

Cut the 1/4 in. plywood for an exact fit, then test-assemble the front, back and sides around the bottom. If the fit is good, reassemble with glue and clamp securely with band clamps. Bar clamps aren't much good for mitered assemblies like this, since they tend to distort the parts and pull the miters out of register.

The spline grooves in the box are cut with a simple jig (see Spline Groove Jig

Contemporary Jewelry Box





from the top edge of the box. Once the two front corner spline grooves are cut, lower the blade to a $\frac{5}{8}$ in. height and establish the spline grooves in the two back corners of the box.

Glue the padauk splines into their grooves (be sure to wipe any glue from the section of the two front corner splines that protrude inside the box), then trim the excess when dry. Also, cut and fit the padauk tray supports, gluing them into their respective grooves, and apply the $\frac{3}{16}$ in. radius roundover all around the top edge of the box. Now is also a good time to final sand your box, and smooth out any roughness left from the coving operation. Note that the box corners at the cove itself are crisp, but the corners at the miters are rounded gently (see photo).

The Lid

The lid consists of padauk rails (F) and stiles (G) glued up around a bird's-eye maple panel (H). Mill a $\frac{1}{4}$ in. deep by $\frac{1}{4}$ in. wide groove in the frame stock for the panel, cut the miters, then glue and assemble the frame and panel. Note that the panel should be sized a little less in width than the actual groove-to-groove

Detail). As shown, the jig is just a section of $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick particleboard, with a pair of cleats screwed to it forming a right angle, fixed at a 45 degree angle to the saw table. The jig rides against the fence, which is positioned as needed to properly locate the spline grooves in the box. Note that the spline grooves in the

two front corners of the box are cut to a depth of $1\frac{1}{8}$ in. This enables the splines (E) to protrude slightly through the front inside corners of the box, where they serve as a stop for the lid to rest on when in the closed position. Make certain when setting up for these spline grooves, that they are located exactly $\frac{1}{2}$ in. down

distance, to allow for wood movement. The panel length can be fairly precise—just make certain that it doesn't prevent the frame miters from closing up tight. Once dry, use the spline groove jig to mill slots for splines in the frame corners. Your blade height should be about 1 in. Since the lid frame is only 1/2 in. thick, the saw blade will cut into the cleats on the jig, so make certain that you've not located any screws in the cleats that would fall within the blade's path. Glue the splines in place, then trim flush when dry.

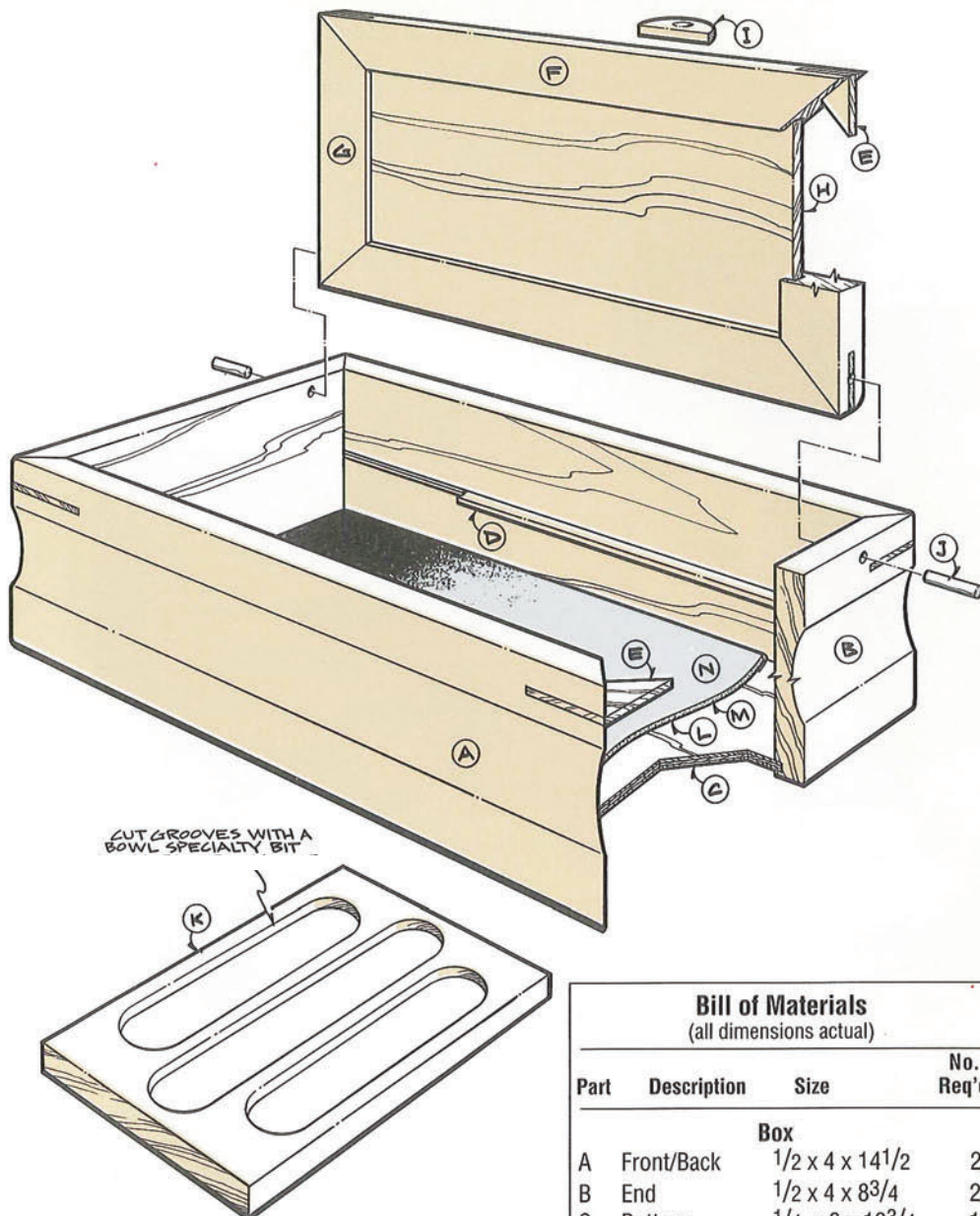
Cut the lift (I) from a piece of padauk scrap, shape it to the approximate profile shown, and use a countersink to mill a small dimple into the front and back. Rout a 1/4 in. radius on the top back edge of the lid, glue the lift in place, then with the lid in the closed position on the box, drill for the pivot pins (J). You'll need a pair of scrap blocks to hold the back of the lid up for this operation. Apply glue to one-half of the pin length, then insert them in position. A little wax in the holes in the lid will insure smooth operation and reduce the likelihood of wear.

The Tray and Liner

The tray is simply a section of bird's-eye maple board, with three wide grooves milled into it. The grooves are cut with a special bowl, tray and dish bit,


This handy bit is useful for any task where you want to hollow out an interior with a minimum of fuss. Simply set your router table fence, establish a pair of stops to limit the travel of your stock and make the cut. For the 1/4 in. deep groove specified, it's best to use several passes, each removing about 1/16 in. of stock. The same fence and stop setting is used for both the outside grooves (just flip the stock around). You'll need to relocate the fence and stops for the center groove.

The liner in this box is a little finer than the usual felt liner that we show. It consists of a stiff cardboard base (L) topped with a thin layer of foam (M), and wrapped with suede (N). The actual sizes



of the cardboard and foam will need to be a little smaller than the dimensions listed in the Bill of Materials, to allow for wrapping the suede.

Finish

Our box is finished with several coats of tung oil, followed with wax. 

Bill of Materials

(all dimensions actual)

Part	Description	Size	No. Req'd
Box			
A	Front/Back	1/2 x 4 x 14 1/2	2
B	End	1/2 x 4 x 8 3/4	2
C	Bottom	1/4 x 8 x 13 3/4	1
D	Tray Support	1/8 x 3/8 x 13 1/2	2
E	Spline	1/8 stock	8
Lid			
F	Rail	1/2 x 1 1/4 x 13 1/2	2
G	Stile	1/2 x 1 1/4 x 7 3/4	2
H	Panel	1/4 x 5 5/8 x 11 1/2**	1
I	Lift	1/4 x 1/2 x 2	1
J	Pivot Pin	3/16 dia. x 1 long	2
Tray			
K	Tray	5/8 x 4 3/4 x 7 3/4	1
Liner			
L	Cardboard	7 3/4 x 13 1/2***	1
M	Foam	7 3/4 x 13 1/2***	1
N	Suede	9 1/4 x 15	1

** Panel width allows 1/8 in. for wood movement.

*** Actual length and width must be smaller to allow for suede wrapping.

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