

## PERPETUAL NOVICE

### ORDER OF WORK 4/15/2018

There are three words in woodworking that drive me to distraction: Order of Work. No matter how much time I spend planning, drawing, making a bill of materials and parts lists, and trying to think through how to build even a simple plywood box with a bunch of tray/drawers, I always get to a point where I say, “Oops, shoulda done that other step first.”

I worked on a saw blade storage box for a while last night, just for a distraction. This box is a simple plywood 5-sided box that will have 10 trays holding saw blades and dado blades and 1 drawer for odds and ends. The whole box will hang under the table saw side table. And yes, I do have that many blades; the dado set alone has 8, though I’ll store them 2 or 3 to the tray. When I count them up, in fact, “Oops, shoulda made more trays and skipped the drawer”. But, since at least 2 blades will always be mounted on the table and miter saws, I think I’m safe.

I made up the box months ago, dadoed the sides for the trays to run in, assembled the box, cut the plywood trays and mahogany tray fronts, stained the exterior of the box (4 different colors to try out various stains). I applied strips of iron-on veneer to the exposed edges of the plywood box front, carefully mitering the corners. “Ooops, the veneer covers the front of the dado slots – can’t insert the trays.” So I carefully used some sharp chisels and cut away the veneer from twenty-two  $\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{4}$  ” notches. It took more than an hour and gave me a sore back from bending over slightly while I was doing it, reminding me that I really need to build a good work bench.

Then I stained the veneer. “Oops, staining around those cutouts is messy – shoulda stained before cutting.”

Now all I have left to do is:

1. Cut a few (50) thin strips and glue to trays as guides to hold the blades in place. (or maybe I should redesign that concept)
2. Drill tray fronts for knob screws, then glue and brad fronts to trays.
3. Countersink wooden knobs (11), stain them (small round parts – how will I do that neatly?) and screw to tray fronts
4. Build simple 10 x 14 x 1½ drawer to hold miscellaneous stuff – wrenches, screws that fell out of someplace that I haven’t found yet, etc. Of course, I’ve learned that there’s no such thing as a “simple” anything. I built a table in 2006 that’s still waiting for one “simple” drawer to be made.
5. Shellac the trays and box (just for some experience with shellac)
6. “Oops, ...” (I don’t know what, but there’s got to be an oops in here somewhere)
7. Screw case to saw table
8. Insert trays and drawer
9. Find the saw blades that are scattered everywhere and put them in the trays
10. Figure out a useful labeling scheme to tell me what’s in each drawer (the tray fronts are rather thin to write on and wouldn’t be readily readable without the glasses I forgot to put into the drawer)
11. Fix all the “Oops” discovered during steps 1-10, or is this step 9 instead of 11? It is Order of Work that bugs me, after all.

By June it should be ready. What year? Don’t ask, please.

Don Michael, PN