

Five Drawer Miniature Chest

Len Nyren April, 2020

This tiger maple five drawer miniature Chippendale chest was inspired by a similar chest I found several years ago. The original was made by a reproduction period furniture maker – with a hefty price tag of \$1600.00. I decided it was worth my time to make my version of the chest. The chest features ogee feet, a period style fan carving, through dovetail case construction, graduated drawer sizes and a faux triple drawer front on the top drawer.



Using overall measurements from a catalogue, I developed rough sketches to refine the final proportions. The chest measures 28” high, 24” wide and 15” deep. Case construction consists of dovetail drawer dividers with floating runners and hand cut dovetail drawers. The wood is tiger maple highlighted with Trans Tint dye and tinted shellac.

Although there are several ways to make ogee bracket feet (shaper, molding planes, etc.) these were glued up and then profiled on a band saw. I found this process provided the most consistent results. The fan carving was my first attempt at using carved embellishments. I combined traditional carving techniques with a small hand held router to rough in the basic shape. Finish carving was accomplished with traditional carving chisels.

Since the chest was to be used with other similar pieces getting the final color to match the existing furniture was more challenging than anticipated. By using dye with water I was able to add or remove color as needed. The finish is tinted shellac. The hardware is reproduction brass from Horton Brasses.





