

Making a Shaker box

There will be a demonstration and an opportunity for members to make a #3 oval Shaker box at the EMGW December 2018 meeting. All are invited to watch but, if you like, you can make your own Shaker box at the meeting. **If you wish to do so you must notify Jim Tartaglia at: jtartalia@charter.net or 978-257-6505 in advance and bring the following materials to the meeting:**

1. A box band for a #3 box ready to be soaked
2. A top band for the same box ready to be soaked

All other materials to complete the steps we will be doing at the meeting will be provided. The box will be started at the meeting and completed at home.

Directions to prepare the materials:

You can either buy the stock needed cut to to size or make it yourself. To buy the materials go to: <http://www.shakerovalbox.com> In the section of the catalog that says "Shaker Oval Box Bands and Tops & Bottoms" In the column headed "Box Size" go to #3, in the column headed "Band Prices" you will see the price for either cherry or maple bands. You can also buy tops and bottoms but they won't be needed for the December meeting and are not hard to make.

To make the materials you need to select lumber, air dried is preferred but kiln dried can work. Typically the boxes are made of cherry or maple but I have had success with walnut, birch, and ash as well. Straight grain is best as some figured wood may crack at the two ends when it is bent to final shape . The final dimensions for the box band is 2 ½ wide by 23 long and just under 1/16 thick. For the top band, 1 1/16 wide by 24 long, same thickness as box band.

However you get the materials you will need to prepare the bands for soaking:

1. Trace the finger pattern and mark for tack holes on box band and top band. (Finger patterns are available in John Wilson's Shaker Box booklet. We will be making the #3 box.)
2. Drill tack holes with 3/64" or 1/16" bit . Smaller hole is preferred but either will work.
3. Band saw or jig saw the outline. Sand if needed.
4. Soak the fingers in a glass of hot water for a minute and trim edges and ends of fingers with a utility knife at an angle, 10 to 20 degrees not 45 degrees.
5. Feather the end of the bands opposite the fingers with a belt sander, disc sander or hand plane. Start about 1 ½ inches from the end and taper to a point. Do this on the **inside** of the band (the side where you **did not** bevel the fingers).
6. In pencil, write your initials on the part of the bands you just sanded.

For more information see:

J Wilson Shaker Boxes- on this website

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<http://www.shakerovalbox.com>