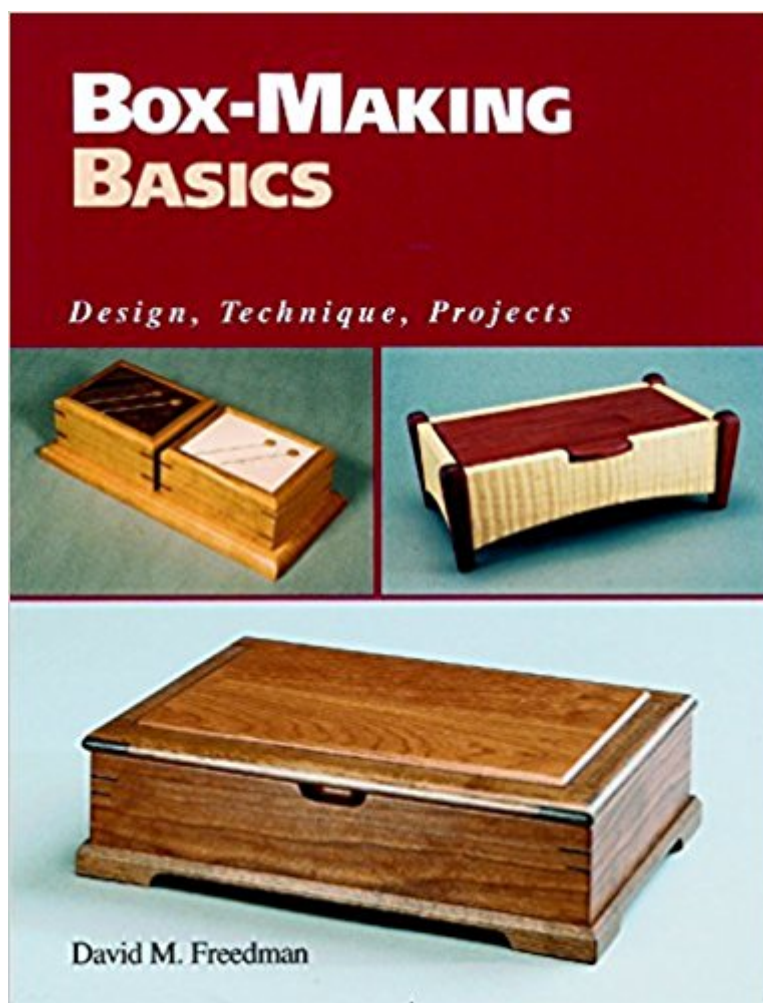


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# Box-Making Basics: Design, Technique, Projects



## Synopsis

It took years for woodworker David Freedman to develop and perfect the box-making techniques he shares in *Box-Making Basics*. Accompanying his techniques are detailed, step-by-step instructions on how to make 16 handsome boxes. In addition to Freedman's designs, there are also selected projects from a number of professional box makers. The book begins with the fundamentals of box making: the elements of good design, wood selection and preparation, and finishing. The basics are followed by tips and techniques on cutting, gluing, and reinforcing joints, decorating lids, and installing hinges. In later chapters, you'll learn more sophisticated techniques, such as making spectacular bookmatched lid panels, sprucing up the interiors with lining, dividers, and trays, using frame-and-panel lid construction, dovetails, and finger joints, and dealing with specialty hardware. Whether you're a beginning woodworker or an accomplished box maker searching for design ideas, you'll find this book comprehensive, easy to follow, and full of inspiration.

## Book Information

Paperback: 135 pages

Publisher: Taunton Press (September 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1561581232

ISBN-13: 978-1561581238

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 0.3 x 10.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 98 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #227,472 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #249 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Reference](#) #251 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Woodworking > Projects](#)

## Customer Reviews

David Freedman is a contributor for Taunton Press titles including *Box-Making Basics*.

I purchased *Basic Box Making* and the companion DVD by Doug Stowe last year. I have made most of the boxes in his book, some of them several times. I found many of the boxes challenging. The instructions and pictures were good to excellent. Consider both the book and DVD. You will be glad that you did. The designs of sleds to use on the table saw are spot on and make handling tiny pieces much safer. I purchased the Freedman book *Box-Making Basics* a couple of weeks ago. He

takes a different approach than Stowe. Long on discussions but the instructions are not as detailed. The boxes are easier than those by Stowe. His discussions of wood types, finishes, hinges and veneers are excellent and are not discussed by Stowe. This book should be purchased first by novices. You will eventually want both books and the DVD if you find box making fun. I have been woodworking for over 30 years. I find box making some of the most challenging and enjoyable work I have ever done. It is ideal for woodworkers with limited room. Working on boxes has definitely advanced my skill level and all my friends and family are enthusiastic about the boxes I make and distribute.

This is a must read for anyone interested in making decorative boxes, or who would want to learn how to make a decorative box out of wood. It's one of the books recommended by my instructor in the decorative box-making class at a community college here in Southern California, and he actually uses many of the ideas and techniques outlined in the book. I plan to make a couple of boxes covered in the book sometime in the future, and am anxious to do at least one box from all hand tools. "Box-Making Basics" includes a cut list for each project, which is the most important first step, as well as step-by-step instructions in how to assemble once you have your boards milled and cut to length. This book doesn't cover really fancy boxes, which requires the accumulation of many skills in woodworking. But the boxes in this book will keep you busy for a long time.

I have both a softcover and kindle version of this book. The softcover version I would give five stars while the kindle version I would only give three. The reason for the difference is the drawings in the kindle version will NOT expand on my tablet. This makes it very difficult to see the measurements on my 7 inch tablet screen. The wording can be enlarged (just not the drawings for some reason). This is a great book for learning to make small jewelry boxes with each project becoming more advanced and building upon what was learned from the previous box project. I have made several of the boxes in this book and would recommend this book for those with beginner to intermediate woodworking skill levels.

Not one color photo (except the cover)! The instructions are adequate but lacks inspiration due to grainy black & white photos. Also, multiple angles of each design would have been more helpful. Some techniques are way outdated. That's what I get for not paying attention to the review date, especially the year 1997! Feels like reading a newspaper discovered in your grandfather's attic.

What I like about it. It goes through a chapter or two on basic skills you will need to build a box. It discusses this in a straight forward manner. Then using a plan for a box of an example you go through the building steps and relate them to the concepts discussed earlier. They start with Miter joints working your through to box and more complicated joints. The tops start of as slabs and you eventually use pins, hinges and other lid attachments. Does not go through the finishing process. Good book with a thorough introduction to the box making concepts supported with very good plans for making a box. Just a note, I didn't get the kindle edition, I have the paperback. They illustrations and diagrams, while not in color were very good.

I have quite a few books on boxmaking, and while all of them lend insight, this one proves to be the most useful, insightful, and one that I am repeatedly referencing. My only criticism is that the book is in black and white. The box designs are elegant, useful and very well explained. The jigs are easily made, well described, and very useful.

Excellent step-by-step on most of the skills needed to make small boxes. Good tips for beginners, intermediate and experienced woodworkers. More oriented to small boxes than chests, though. For example there is no information on working with softwoods. The book's focus is on smaller hardwood boxes rather than the larger softwood chests I work with yet I found his explanations for some basic shop techniques to be the clearest and easiest to follow of any I've come across.

My expectations of this book were met. It was delivered promptly and at a reasonable cost. It illustrates some wonderful designs, and it does a good job of explaining some of the techniques and has some interesting projects. I have already made one of the projects and am more than satisfied as to how it turned out. I will be making at least three more projects from this book before adding it to my library for future reference. Personally I buy these book to get new design ideas for box making, and if I can pick up a technique that I haven't used before or reminded of one that I haven't used in a long time, I consider it a plus. I fee this is a worthwhile purchase and a good addition to my arsenal of box making books. I would not hesitate to use this vendor again.

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