



This is the beginning piece of Madrone. Air dried for over 25 years. It is about 24" long, 12" wide & 5/4" thick. You can see what I am trying to get out of it marked in pencil.



This is a side view of the beginning piece. You can see how twisted and cupped it is. Again, the piece I am looking to get is marked out in pencil.



Piece after being roughed ripped to width on the band saw.



End view after rough ripping.



Knocking off some of the high spots to help keep it from rocking off from where I want to start jointing the piece on the tailed jointer.



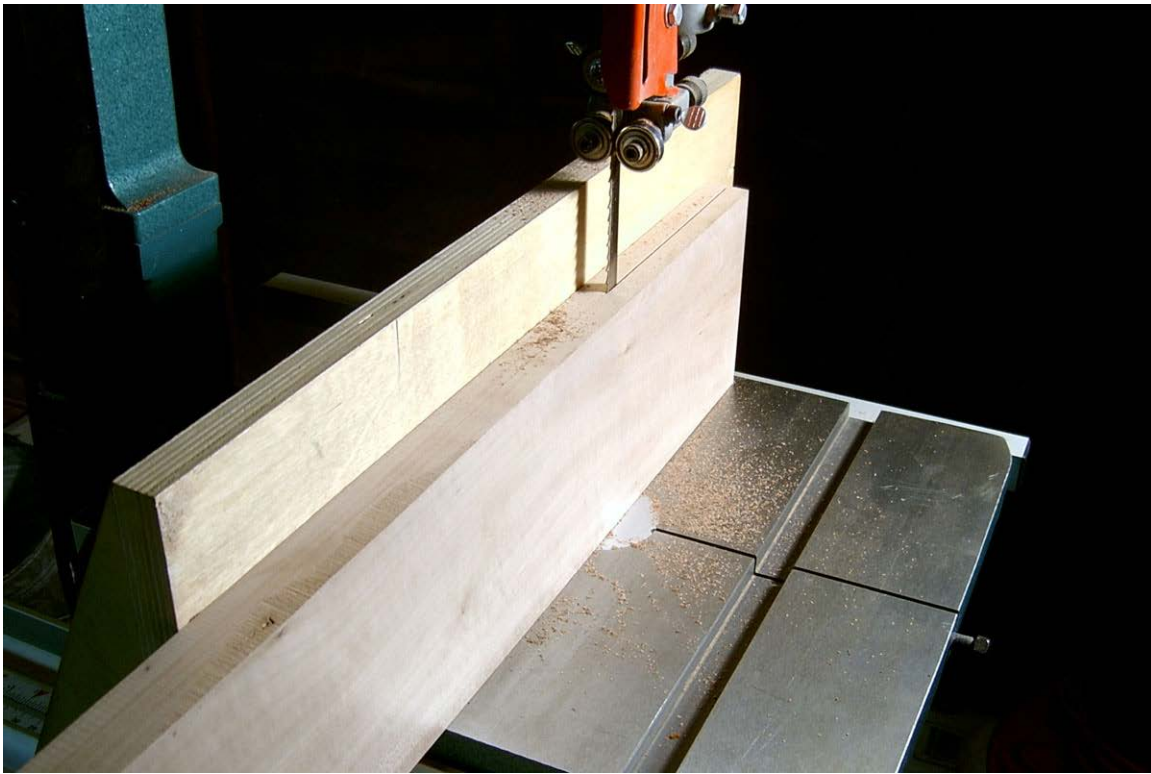
This is the piece after being jointed and planed on the tailed machines. Dimensions are $4 \frac{7}{8}$ " x 24" x $1 \frac{1}{16}$ " thick. This looks like it will allow for book matching the sides and allow me to get the top panel out of the piece as well.



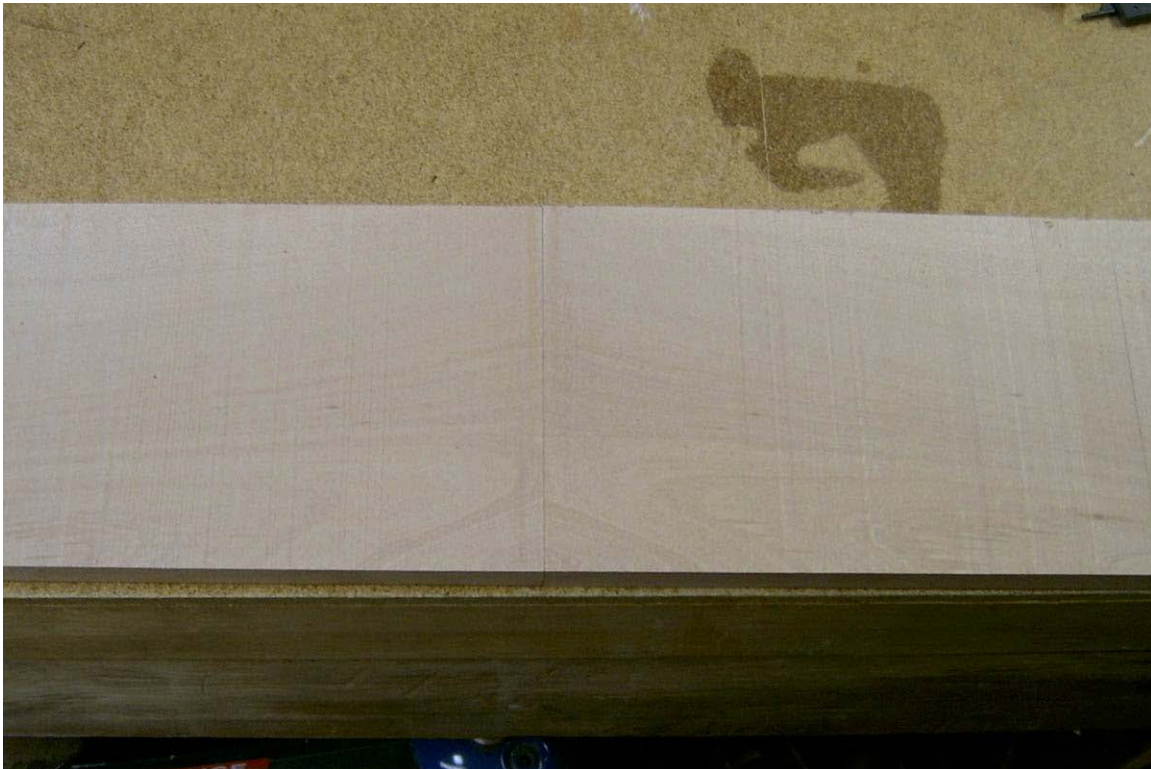
This is another view of the planed & jointed piece.



Here I show trimming the ends square to the sides.



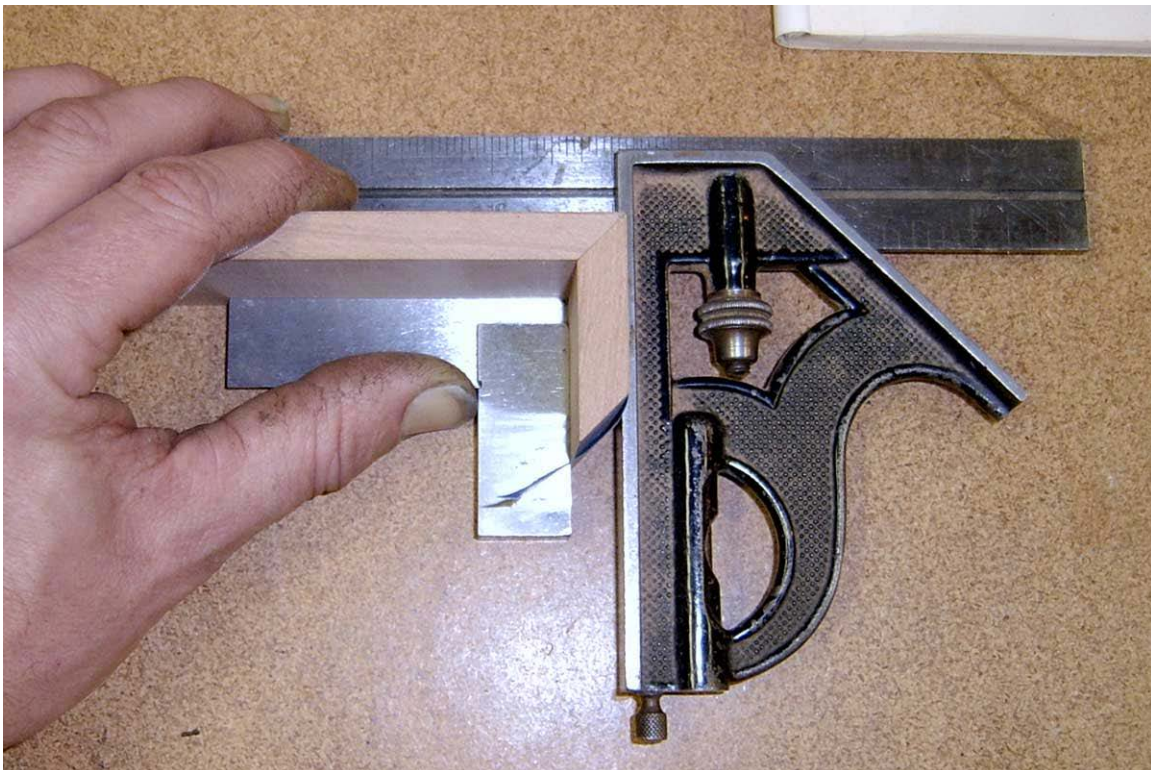
Here I show re-sawing the piece in 1/2.



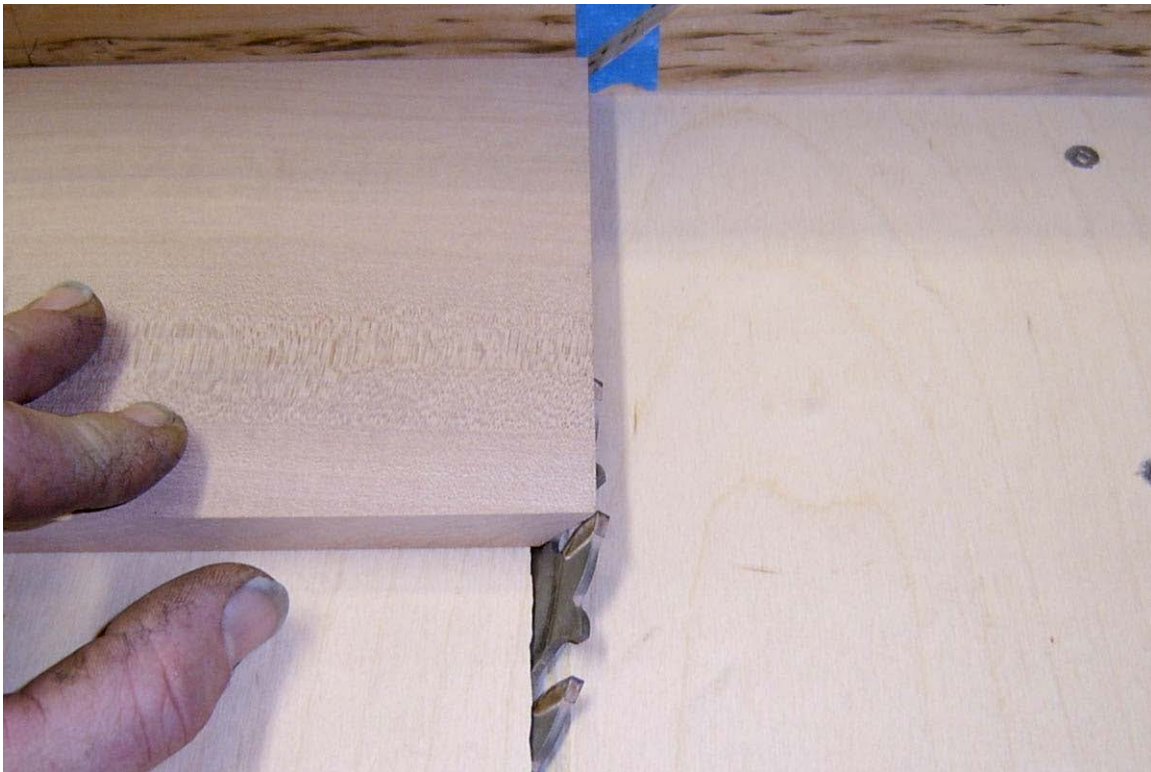
Here I show the piece re-sawn. Thickness for both pieces came out just under 1/2".



Here I show the boards re-sawn and planed. The pieces came out to be just over $7/16$ " thick. The match is pretty good. It looks great at the top and really close at the bottom. I am pleased how well these came out.



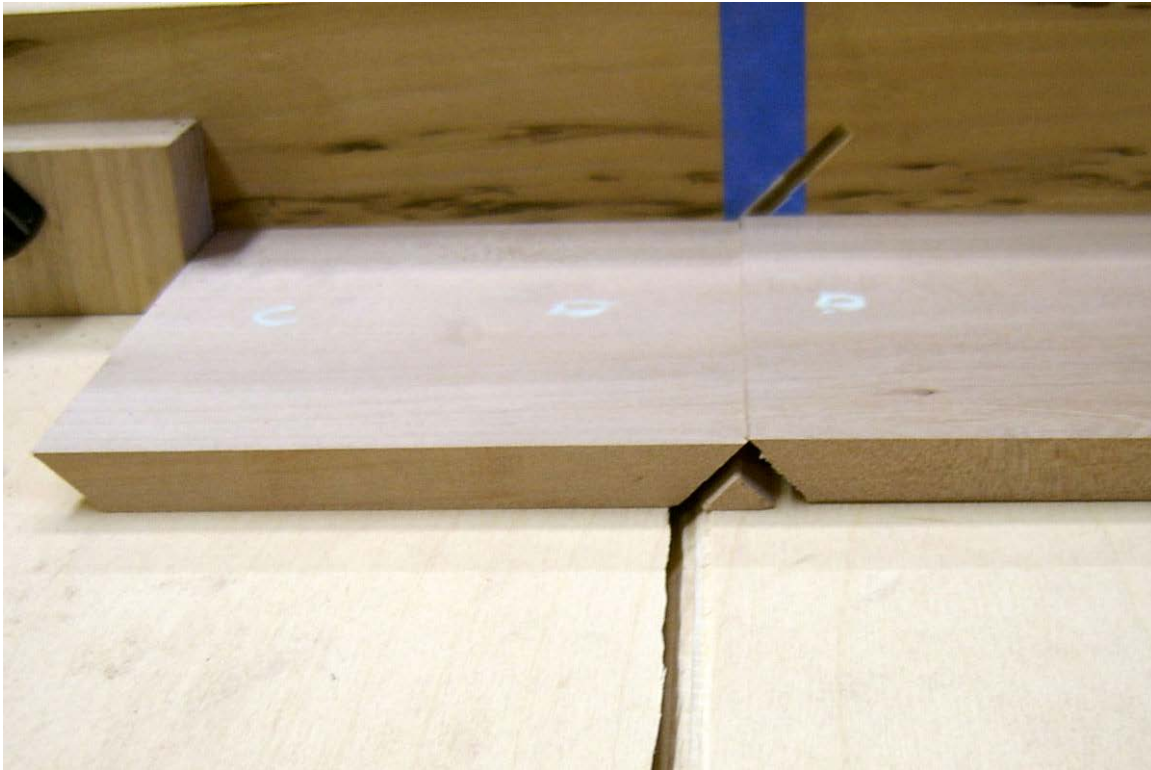
Checking to make sure miters are 45° . I cut one angle, flipped the piece over and cut the other angles. Then taped and checked with the squares.



Set the blade to cut just a hair under the thickness of the board.



First half of the miter cut. Notice the reason why you want the blade to cut just under the thickness. You won't lose any wood this way where the miters will come together.



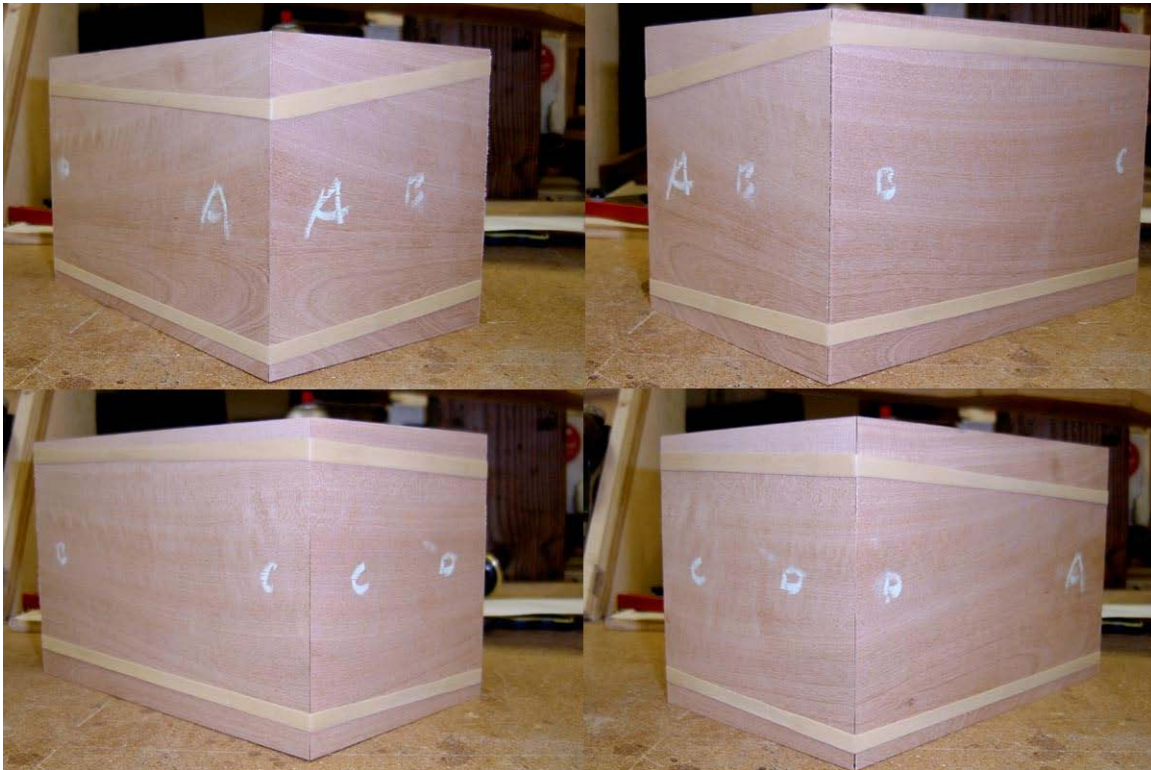
Second half of the miter cut. Notice the almost zero loss of wood at the miter.



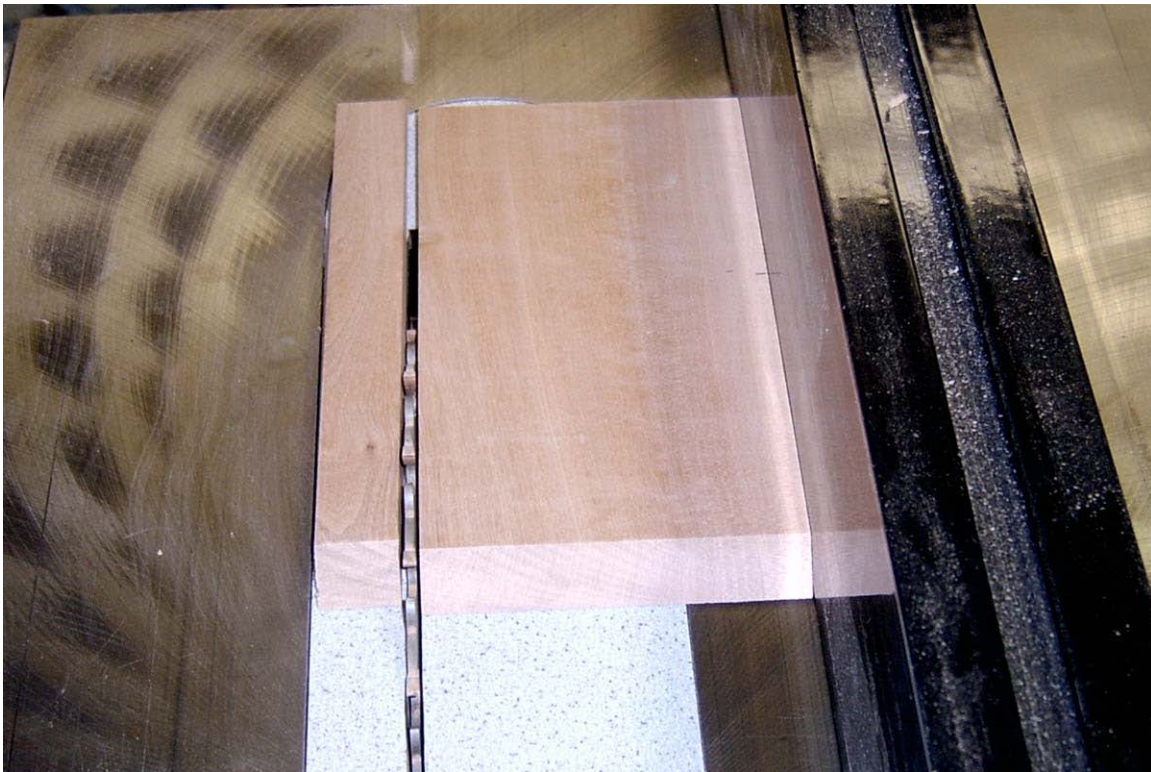
Showing the top view after the second cut.



Miters complete and box is squared. The small gaps at the miters are from a dull blade and will be closed when the fuzz is removed.



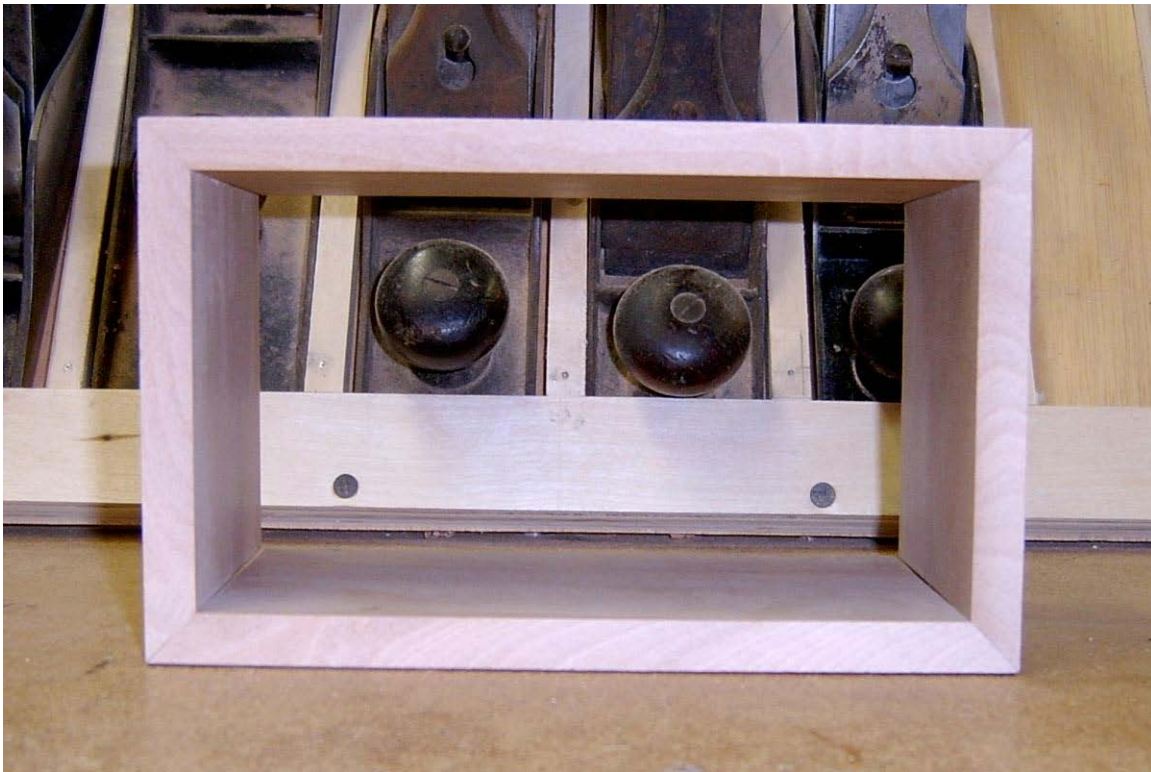
All four corners showing the grain match.



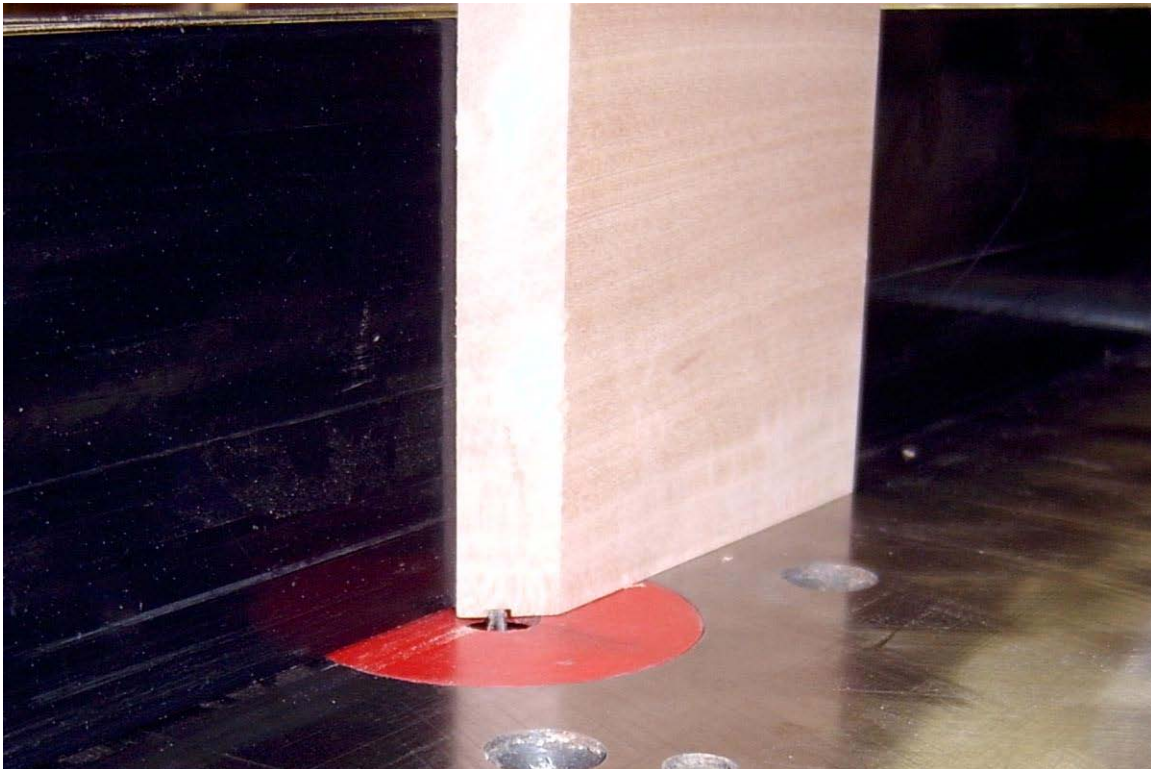
Here I show ripping to the final width. (Yes, I know there is no splitter. It is on the list.) I ripped both sides to get the best looking wood with the least small knots. The reason I ripped this after mitering is that I wanted to preserve the width on the drop for use as the top panel.



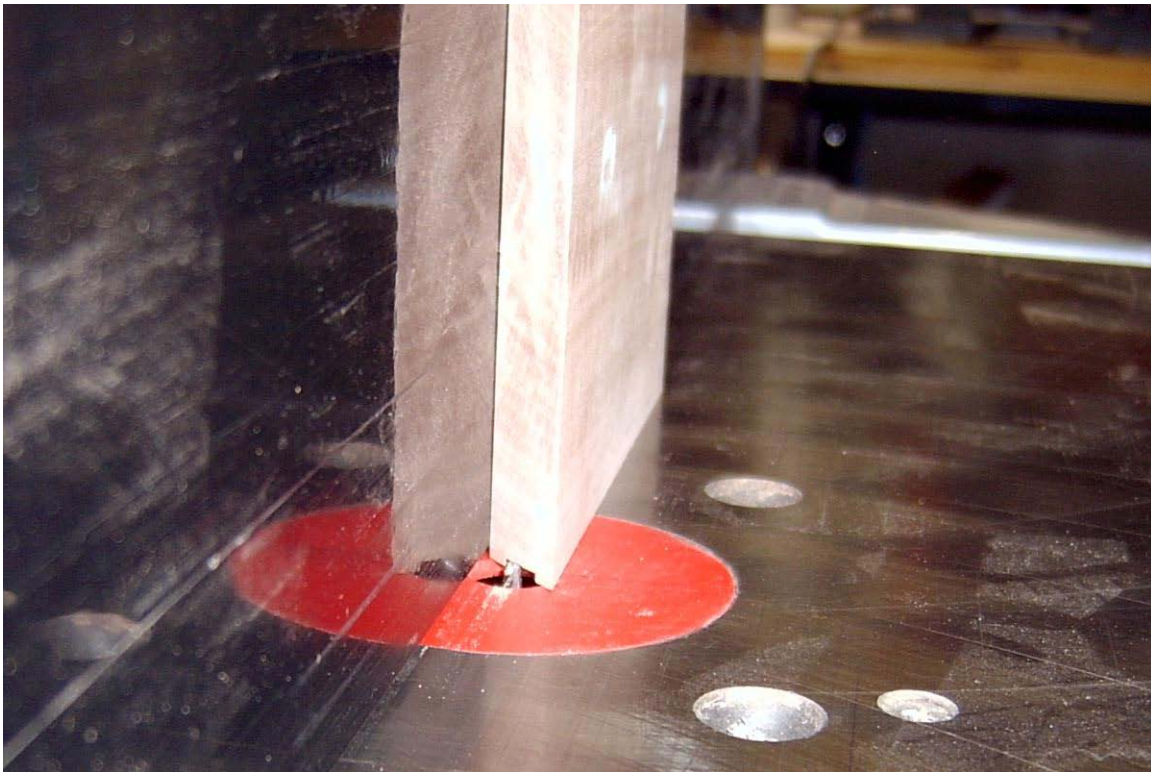
Here I show the final height.



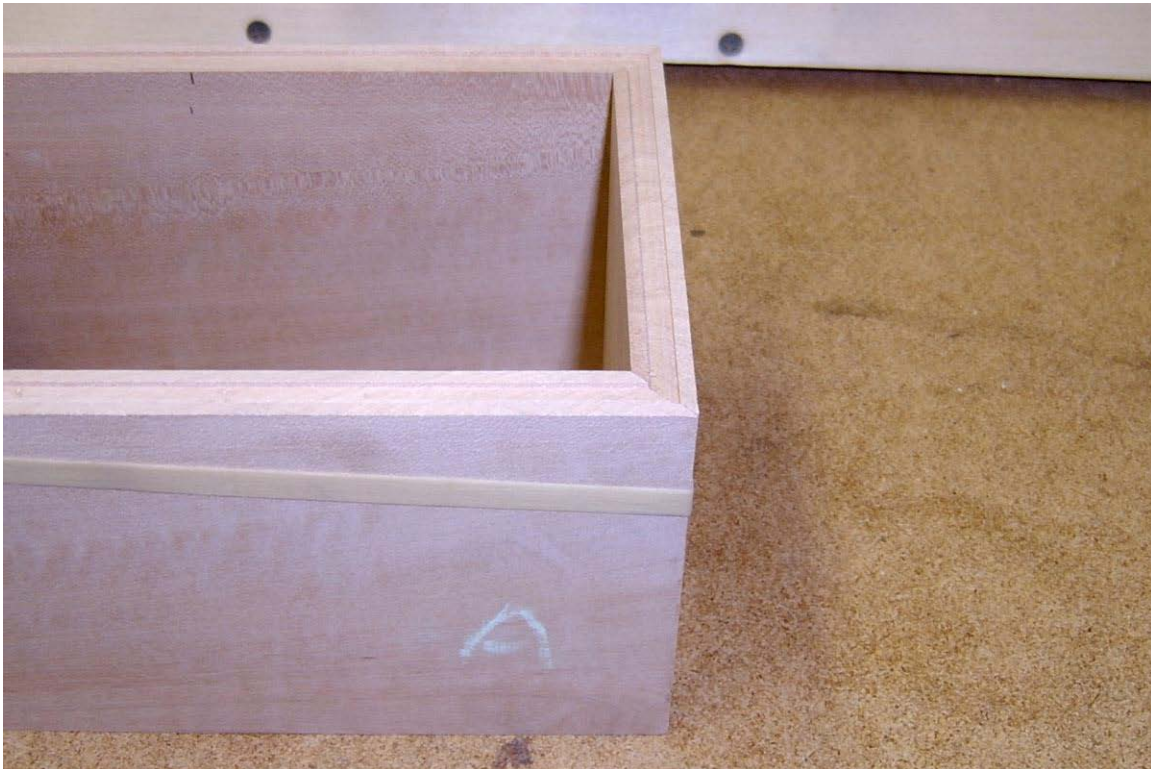
Showing how all the miters are now closed up nice and tight.



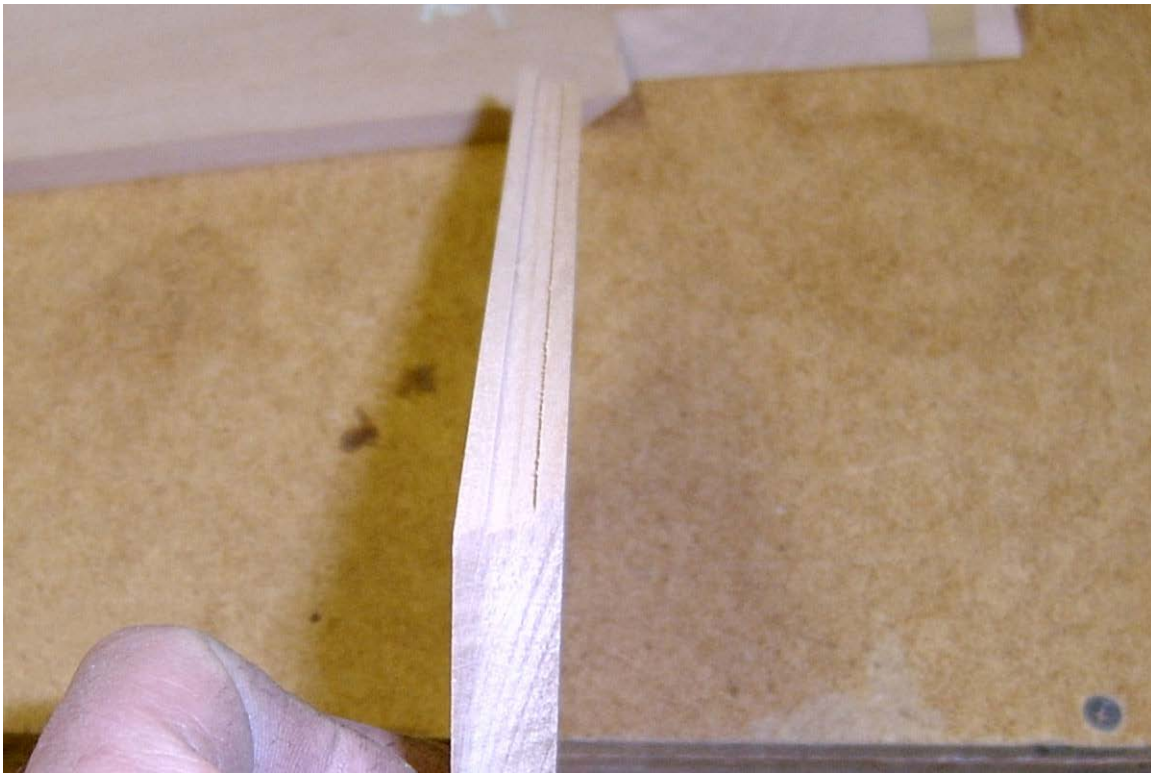
The first cut for the inlay on the top edge of the sides. I set the fence the thickness of the piece minus $\frac{1}{4}$ " divide by 2. The groove will be just less than $\frac{1}{4}$ " so I use a $\frac{1}{8}$ " up-cut spiral bit and do two passes to center the groove. The depth is about $\frac{1}{16}$ " deep. This gives me some depth to take off later if I need to flatten the top edges.



This is showing the second pass.



Showing how the groove looks around the top edge.



Here I am showing another view of the centered groove.



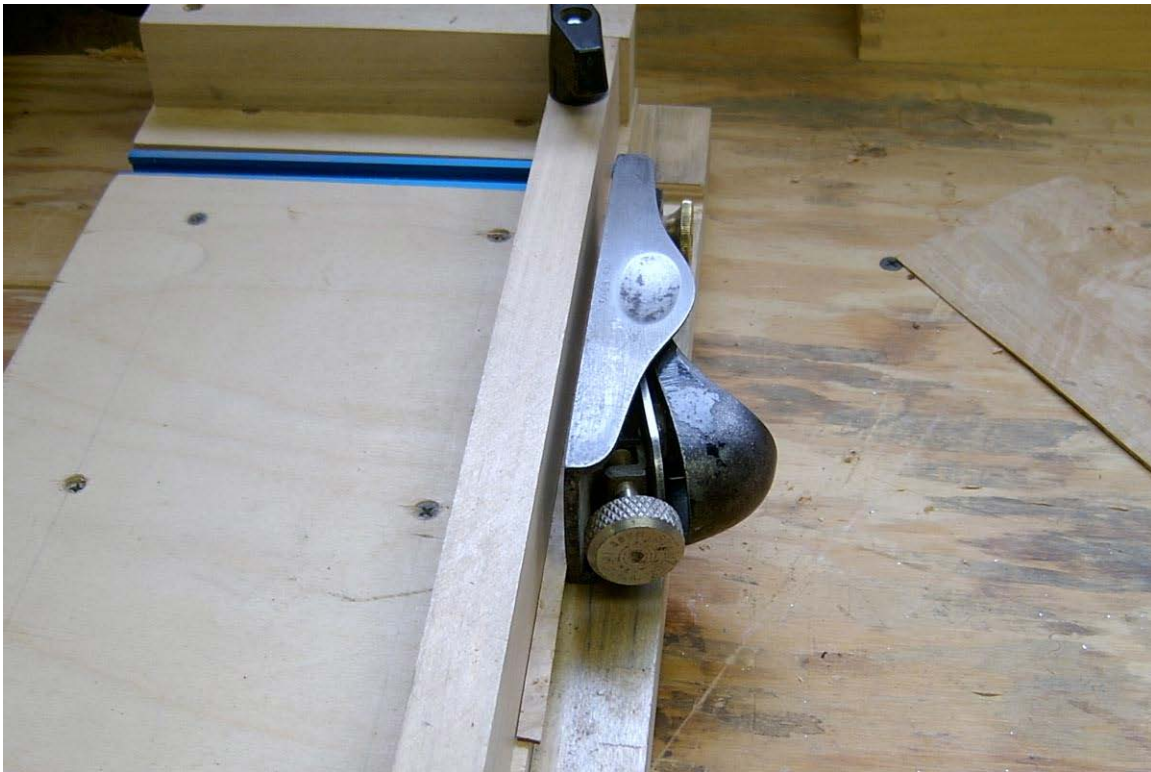
For the inlay, I take a piece that is just over in thickness the depth of the groove. Doesn't need to be a critical thickness as it will be trimmed off later. I flatten the edge with a plane before each cut I make on the band saw to give me a true edge.



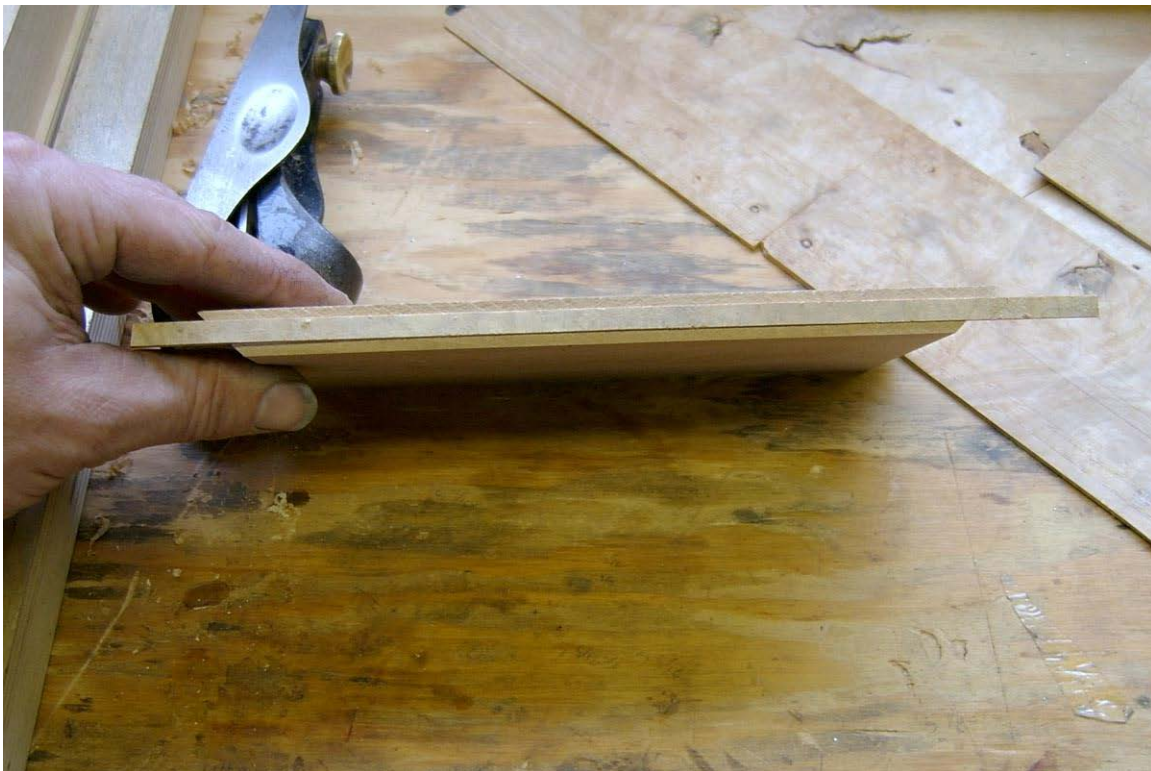
I use my small band saw to cut the strips just a bit wider than the width of the groove.



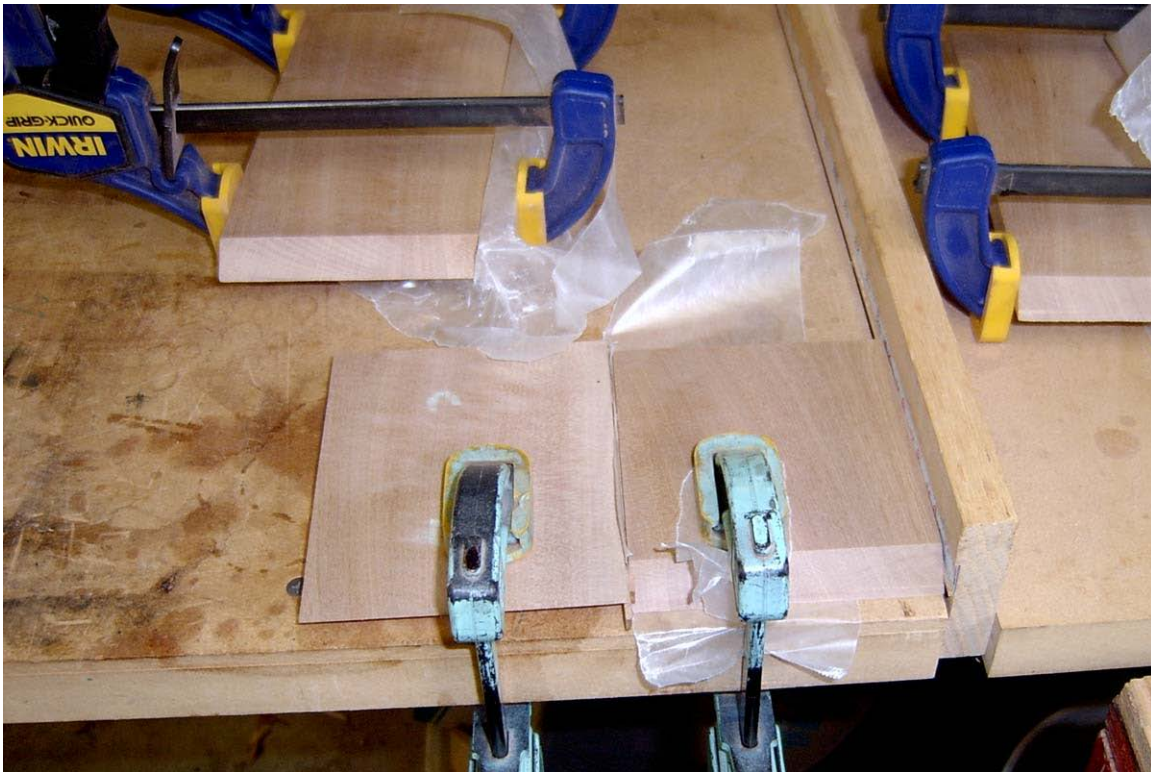
Here you can see that the strip is just a bit too wide which is perfect to get a tight fit.



I use my shooting board made for this process to make the band sawed edge true and to adjust the width.



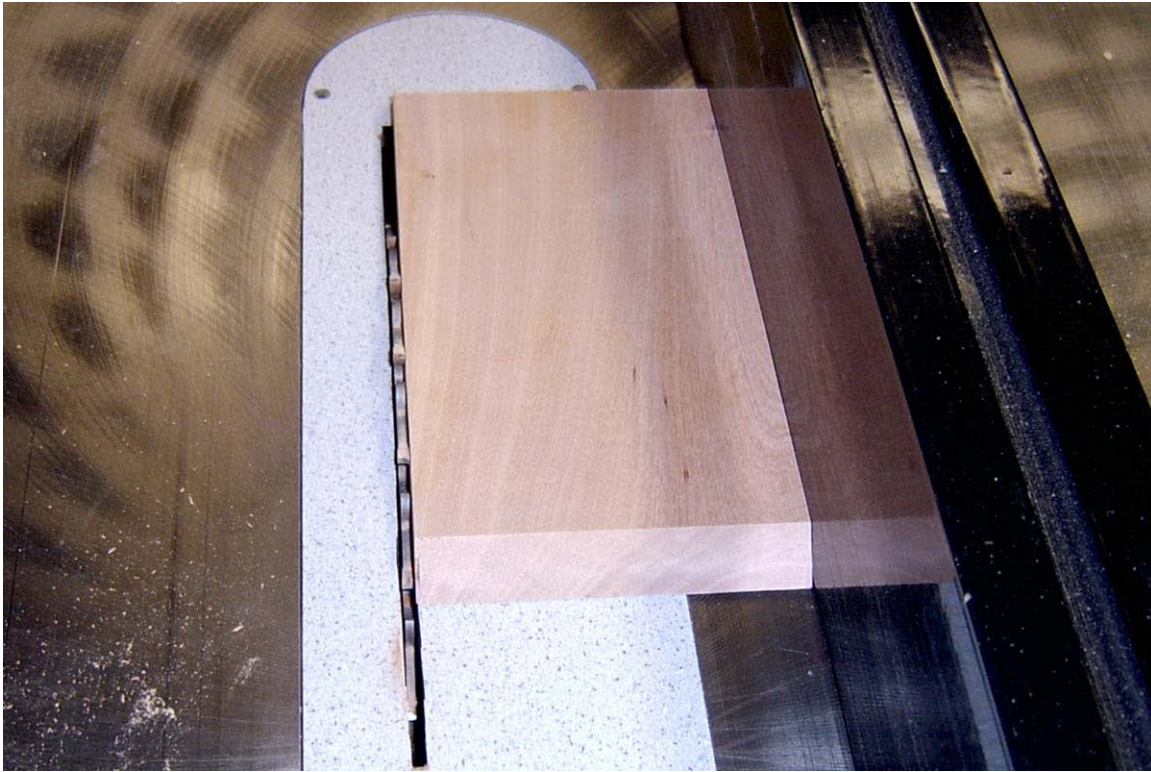
Here is the first one. It is a tight fit meaning that if I push it in all the way, it will most likely break if I try to pull it out.



I smear some glue in the groove and lightly tap the inlay in. Then I either push them together end to end with wax paper between them or clamp a strip of wood to them to get good even pressure on the inlay while it dries.



Trim the inlay with a flush cut saw. Make sure to back it up or it may break where you don't want it to.



Here I show trimming the inlay flush with the top.



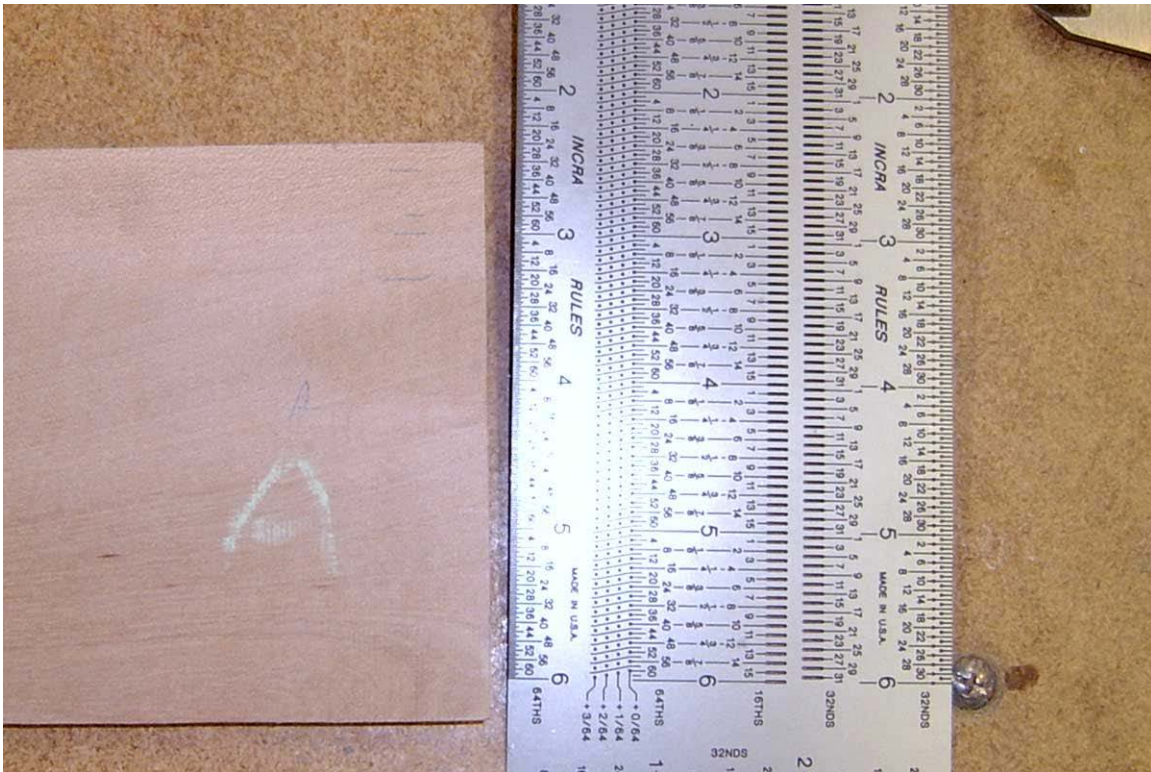
Here it is flush with the top, however there are issues. ☹️



Here is the top with the inlay cut flush. You can see the rough cut along the top edge and the tear-out on the top left corner. There is something defiantly wrong with the table saw blade. After checking it, it has a weird wobble to it. Only thing to do with this now is to re-groove the sides. This, however, does give me the chance to show a cool way of doing miniature barrel hinges. I forgot that step originally. Oops.



Ok. Sides grooved again. For the hinges the groove must be no less than 1/4" so the 5mm bit used for drilling fits inside the groove and does not cut into the raised edge.



To start the hinge process, measure down from the top the width of your lid. Then measure down the kerf your saw will leave when you cut the lid from the bottom. Then measure up from the top line and down from the bottom line 7.5 mm (1/2 the length of the hinge).



Chuck up a 5mm bit in your drill press and set it the distance from the edge of your choice and in the center of the groove.



Set the depth of the bit to the bottom line. Drilling a depth a bit less than this is ok, but do not drill deeper or it will cause problems when you install the hinge.



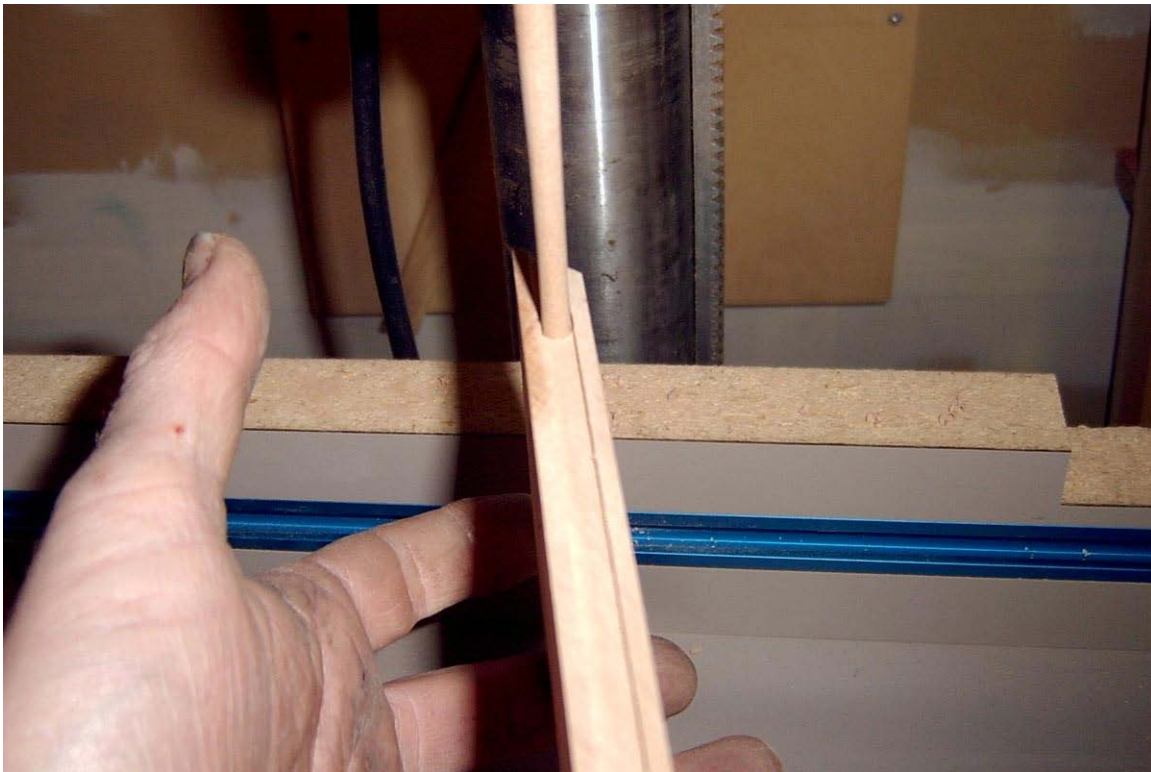
Holes drilled and now to fill in the top portion so the hole isn't too deep on the top.



To fill the hole on the top, you need a dowel. To make one, cut a piece of wood to 1/4" square. Then put a 1/8" round over bit in the router table. Set the fence so it is even with the bearing. Then take the 1/4" square piece and route all four sides. Leave it square on either end for support while routing.



Cut one end off the dowel and chuck it up in the drill press. Yes it will wobble but for short dowels, this works well. Use sandpaper to fine fit the dowel to the holes drilled earlier.



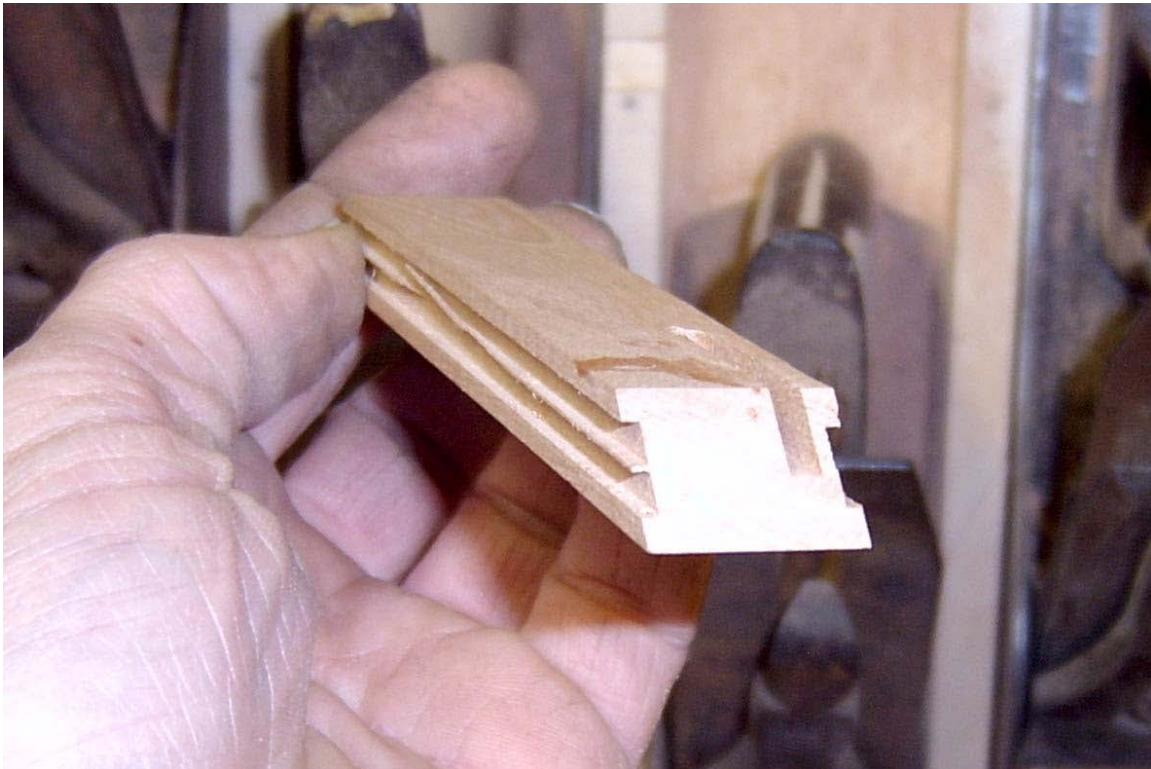
They fit a bit loose at the bottom but taper towards the top so the dowel is ready to go.



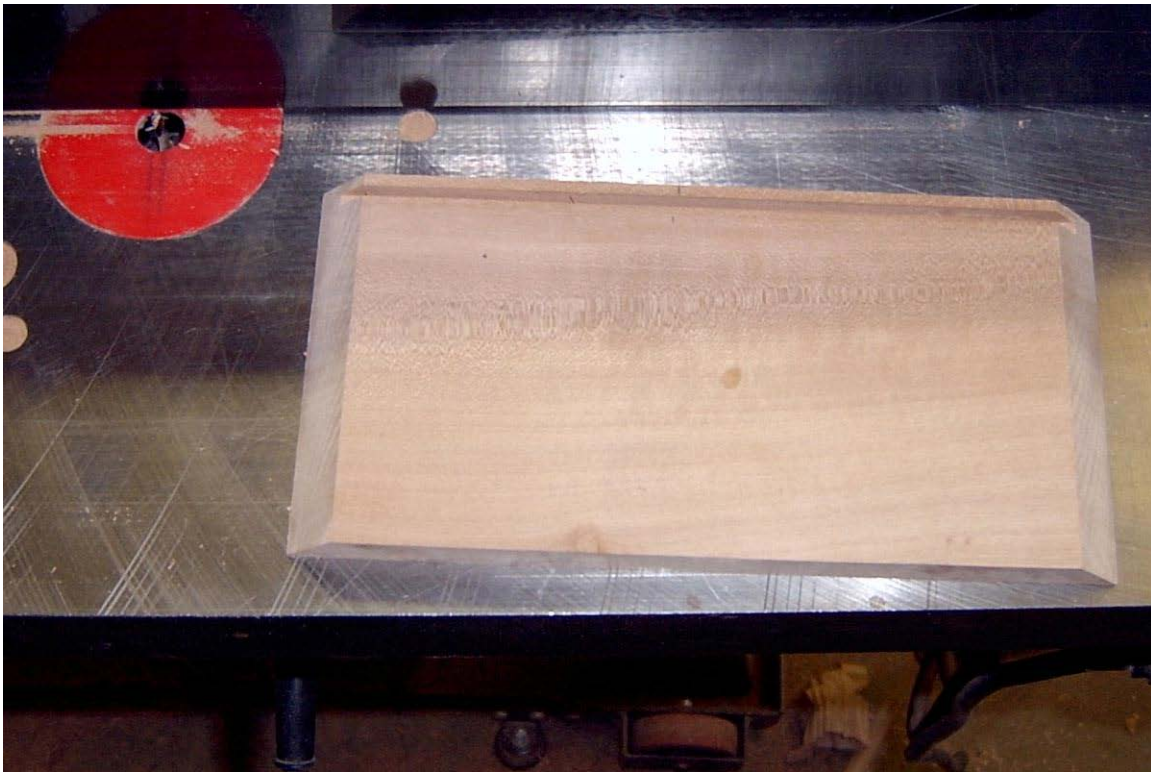
Cut short pieces that are as long as the distance from the top edge to the first line. Then glue them in. Don't worry if they go a bit too deep. They are there to stop the hinge from going too deep and can be adjusted later.



Ok. Got the inlay redone and the cut is much better.



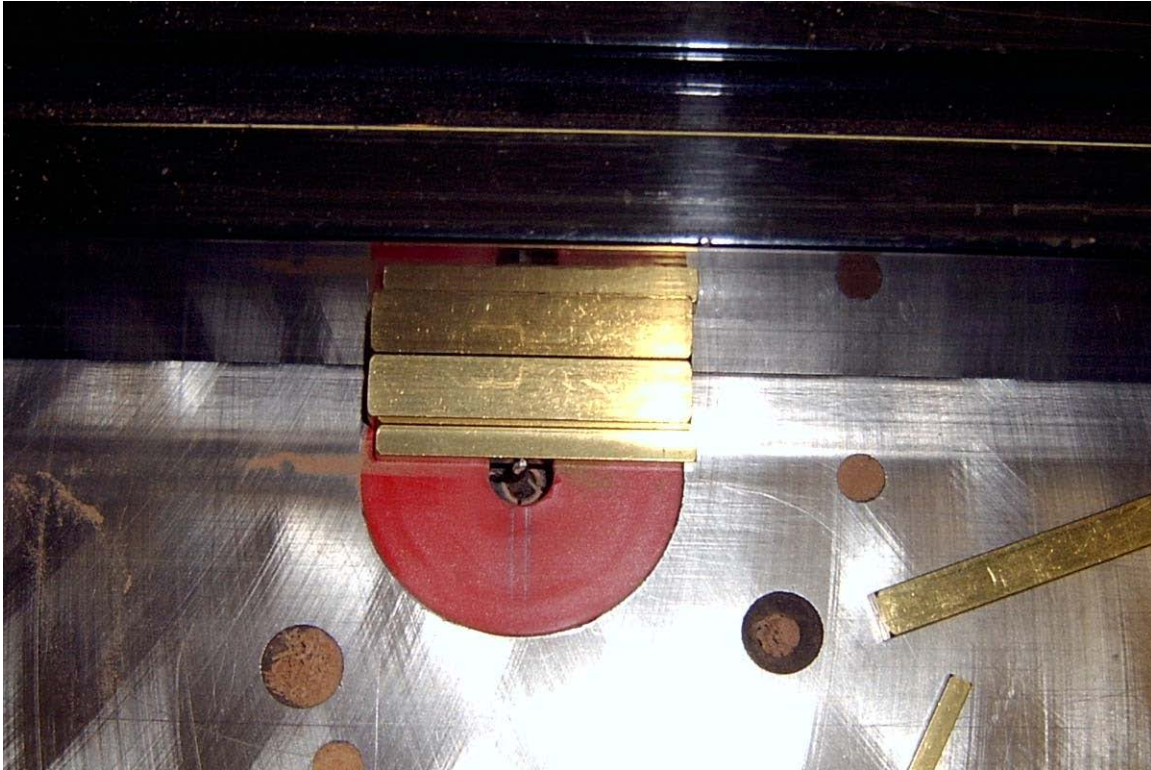
One thing I forgot to mention, the cut offs. I make sure I save the drop from the sides and use this to test set-ups as I go. This way the test pieces match the actual pieces perfectly.



Now I cut the grooves for the top and bottom panels. I chuck up a 1/8" up-cut spiral bit in the router table and set the fence to 1/8" from the bit for the top panel groove. I set the height to 3/16" and cut the grooves. Note that this makes for a fragile edge as can be seen in the previous picture. This will not be a problem when the box is assembled as the top panel will support the top edge but until then, be careful with not putting too much pressure on it.



Now I need to make the bottom panel groove. I need to set the groove up 1/8" higher than the top edge of the foot pattern I am going to use. This is the template I am going to use and it is 5/8" deep so my groove will be 3/4" up from the bottom edge.



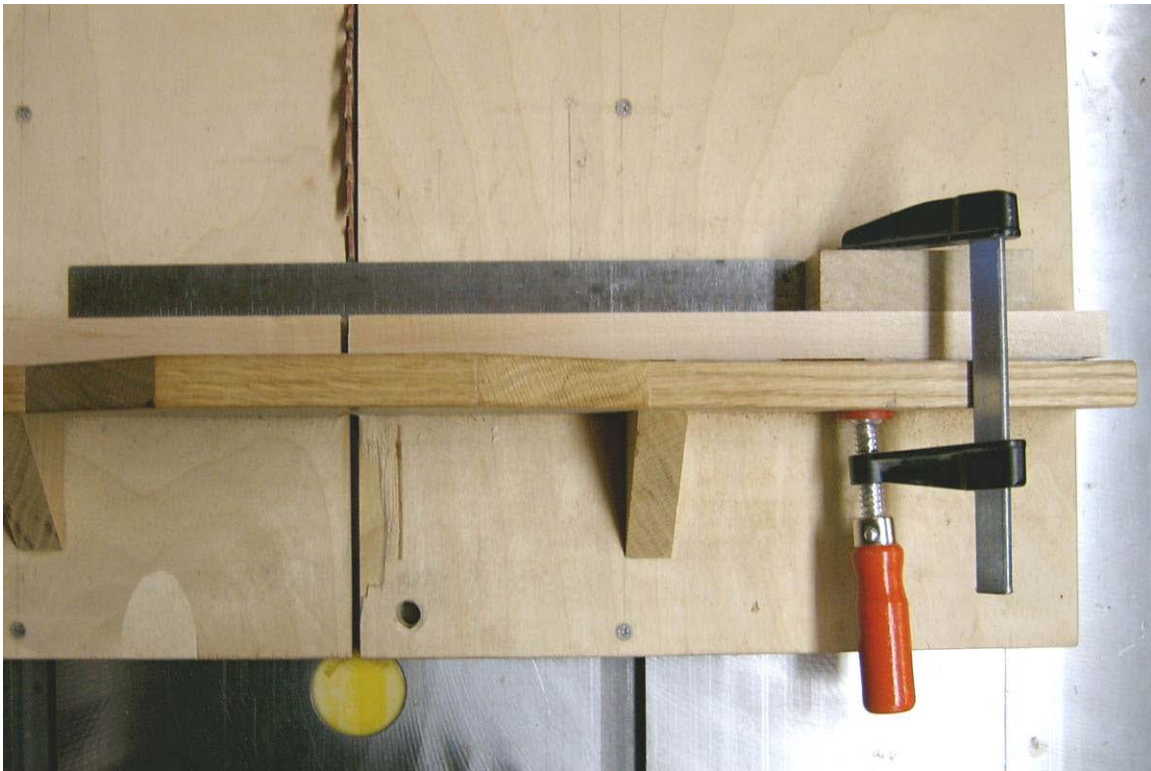
I set the fence 3/4" from the bit and route the grooves.



Here I show all 4 pieces with the grooves cut.



Now I am ready to cut the top panel. I measure the length of the grooves and subtract $\frac{1}{32}$ ".

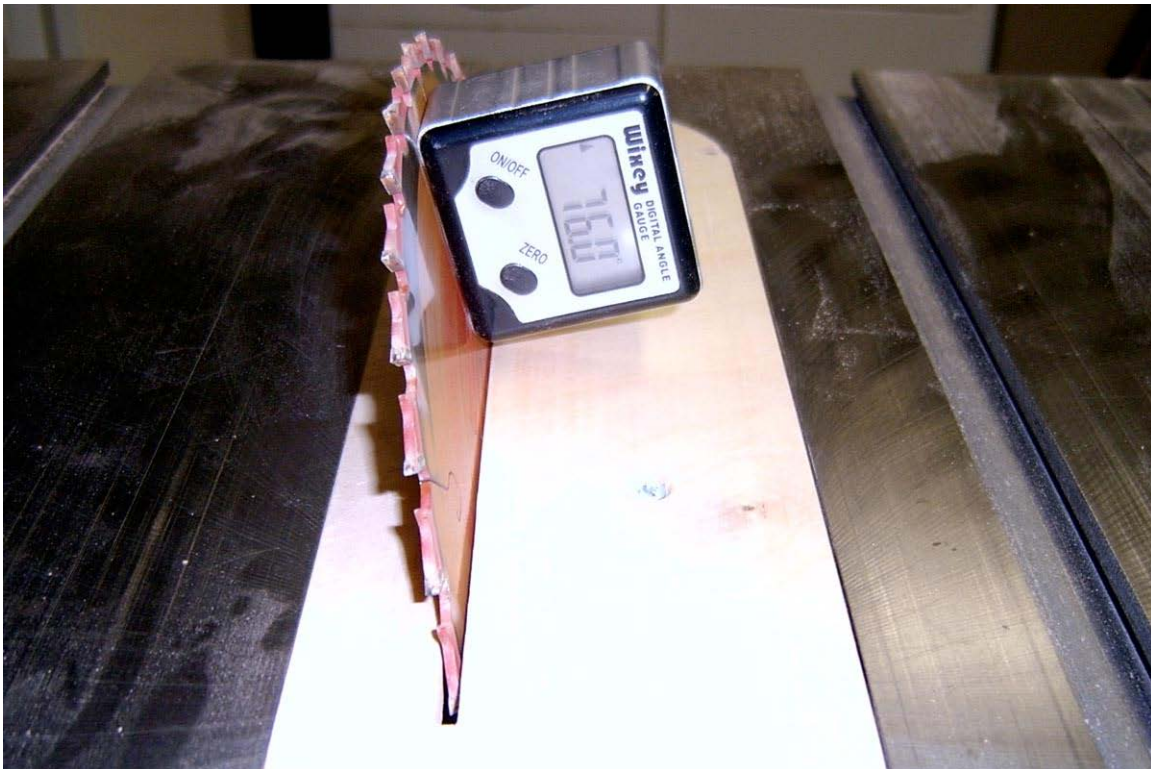


I set up a stop block for the length of the panel and cut it.

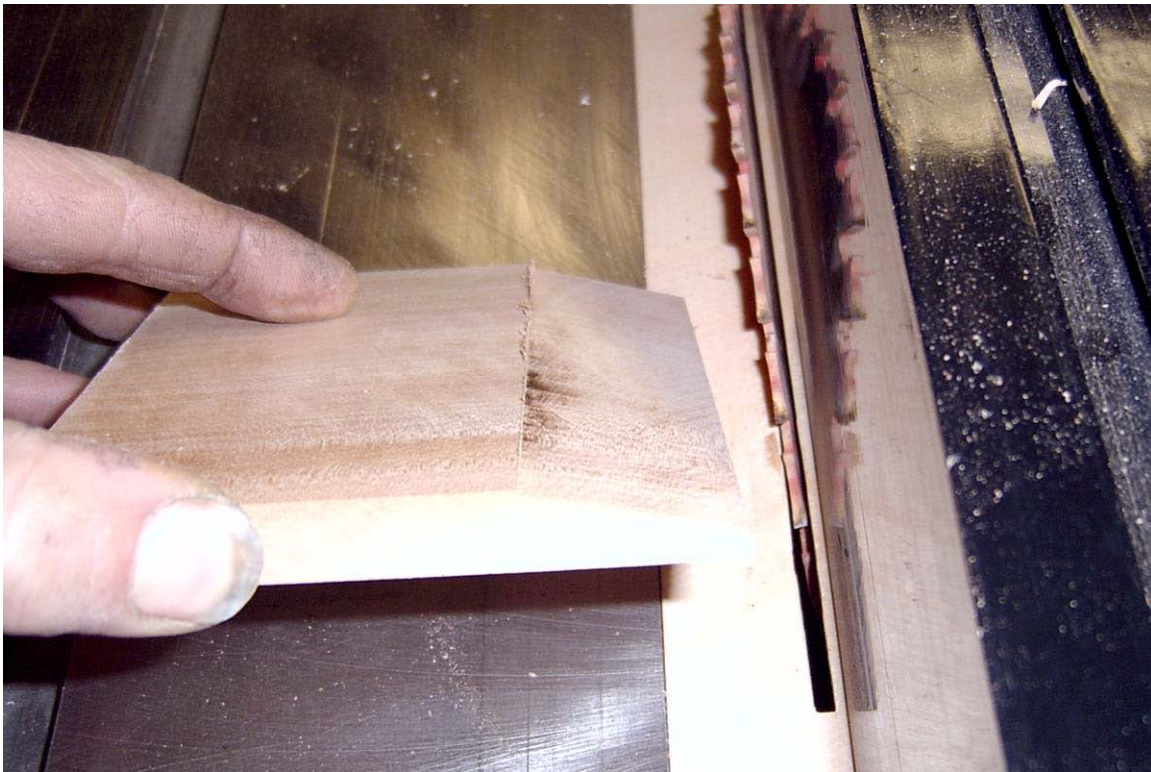


I do the same for the width of the panel. I use the sled for rip cuts on small pieces like this sometimes as it is there on the table already.

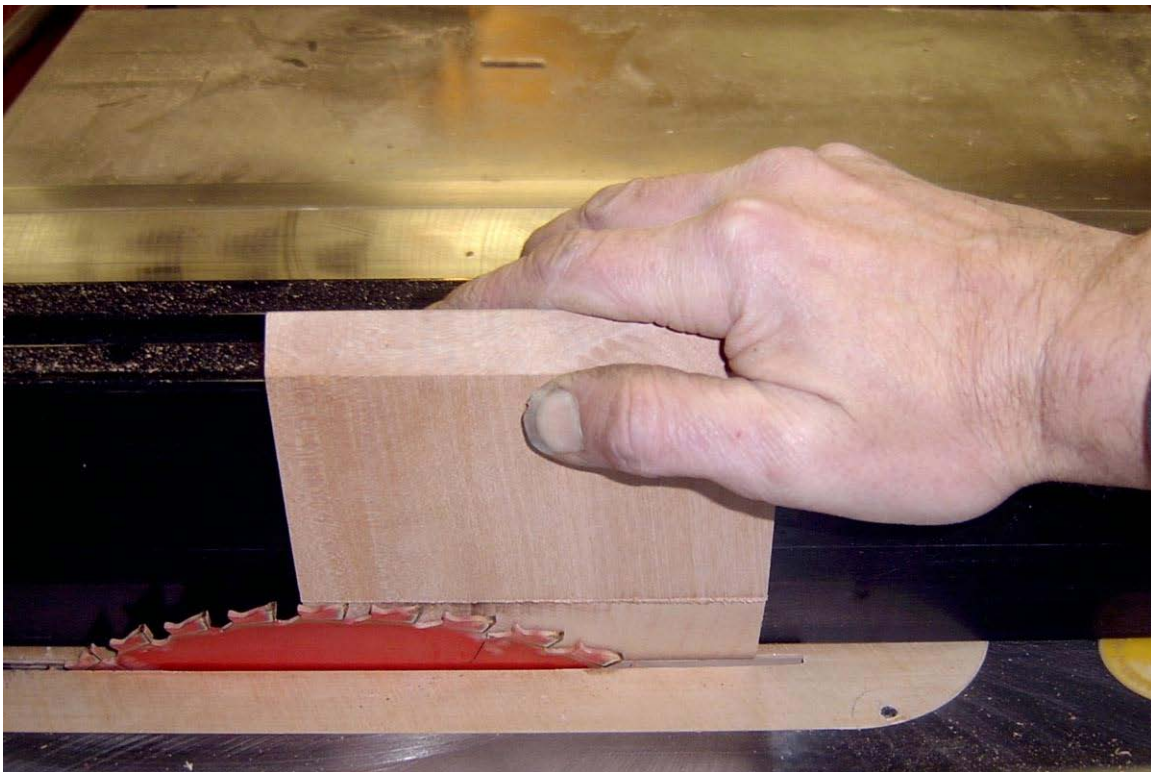
Note that this is the time to sand the inside of the top panel as if you do it later after the tongues have been cut, the panel could end up really loose.



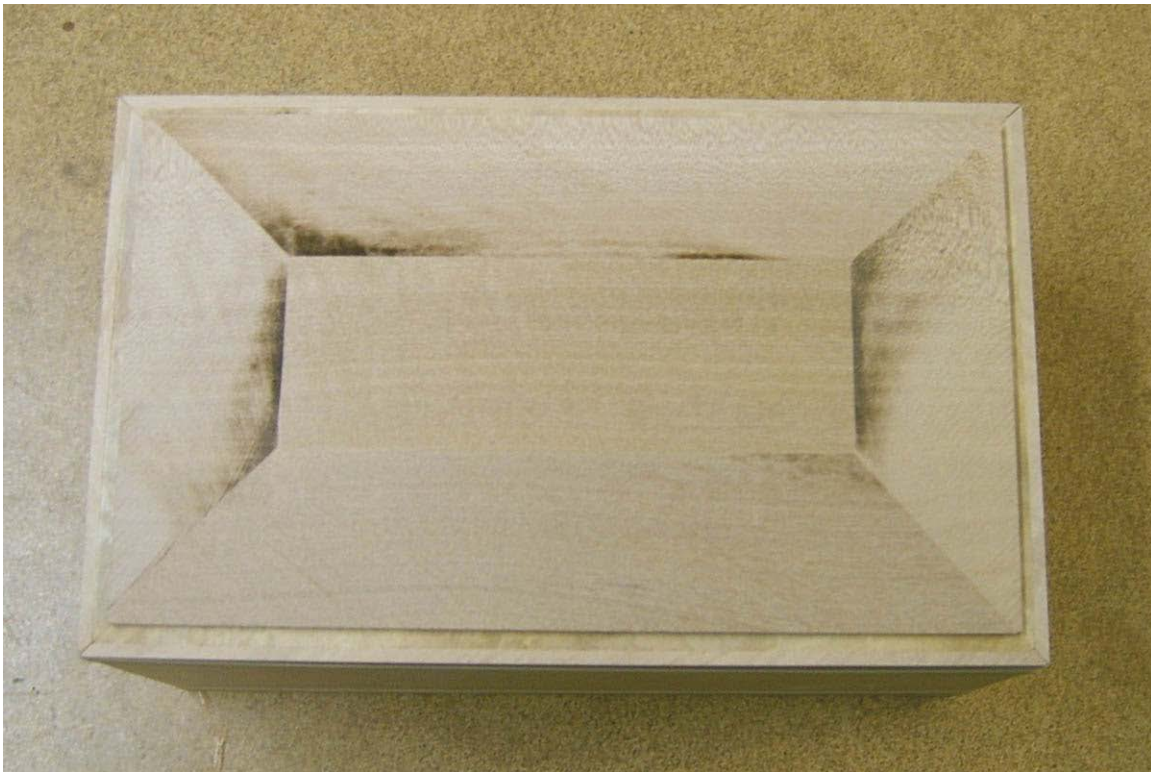
I want to give the panel a bit of a raised look. On this box I set the blade to 76° and then set the fence to $1/8$ " from the bottom of the blade. The $1/8$ " is for the tongue that goes into the groove on the sides.



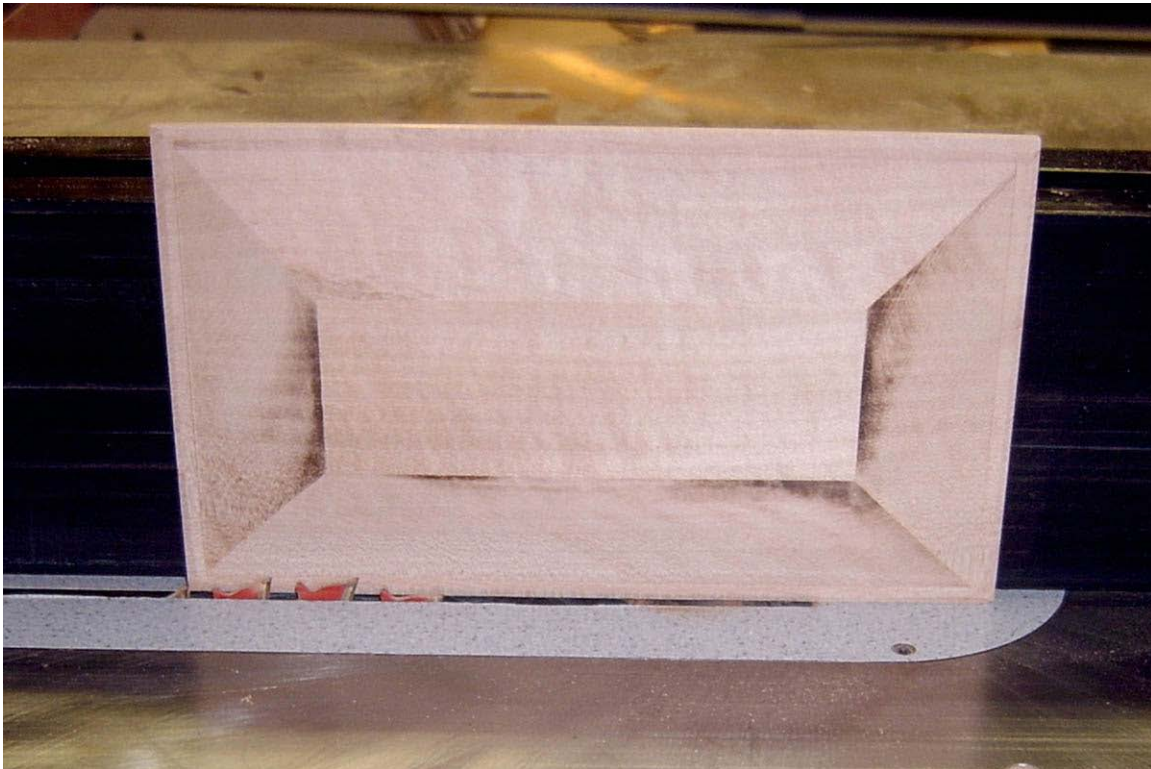
I make a test cut and check the thickness at the edge to see if it is 1/8". Notice that the blade wasn't high enough. This can be a nice feature, but I want it to cut all the way.



I then cut the actual piece. You can clamp a piece of wood to your piece that rides on the fence to hold it. I use my hand. I pinch the piece between my thumb and first finger and wrap the rest of my fingers around the fence and hold on. I use the base of my thumb to push the wood through. I also tend to stand at the end of the saw table when doing this cut.



After all four cuts have been made.



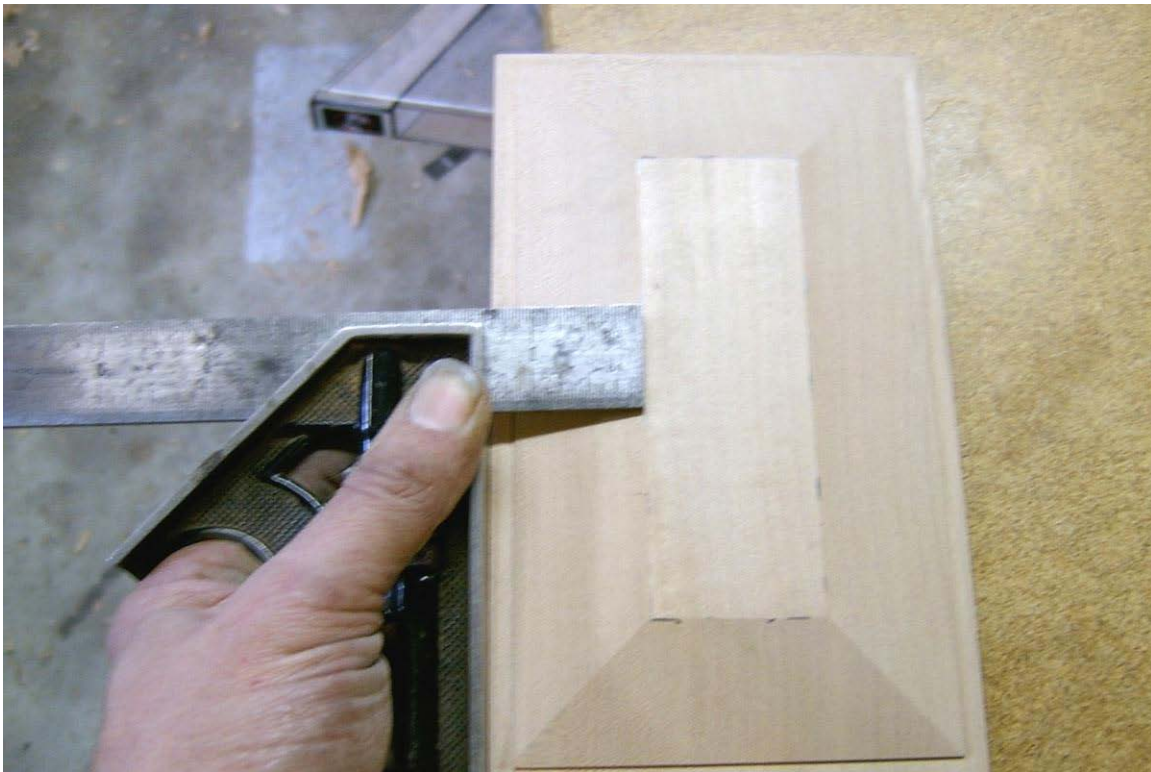
To finish the tongues, I set the blade to 90° and the height to $\frac{3}{16}$ ". The fence is $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the blade. I make my cuts and test fit. I keep moving the blade over a bit until the tongues fit the groove snug but not tight. This is where you really need to be careful of the fragile edge on the sides! **DO NOT** force the tongues into the grooves nor rock them at all or the edge on the sides will break. You want them to just slide in. A little loose is much better than to tight. The looseness will be overcome when actually assembling the box.



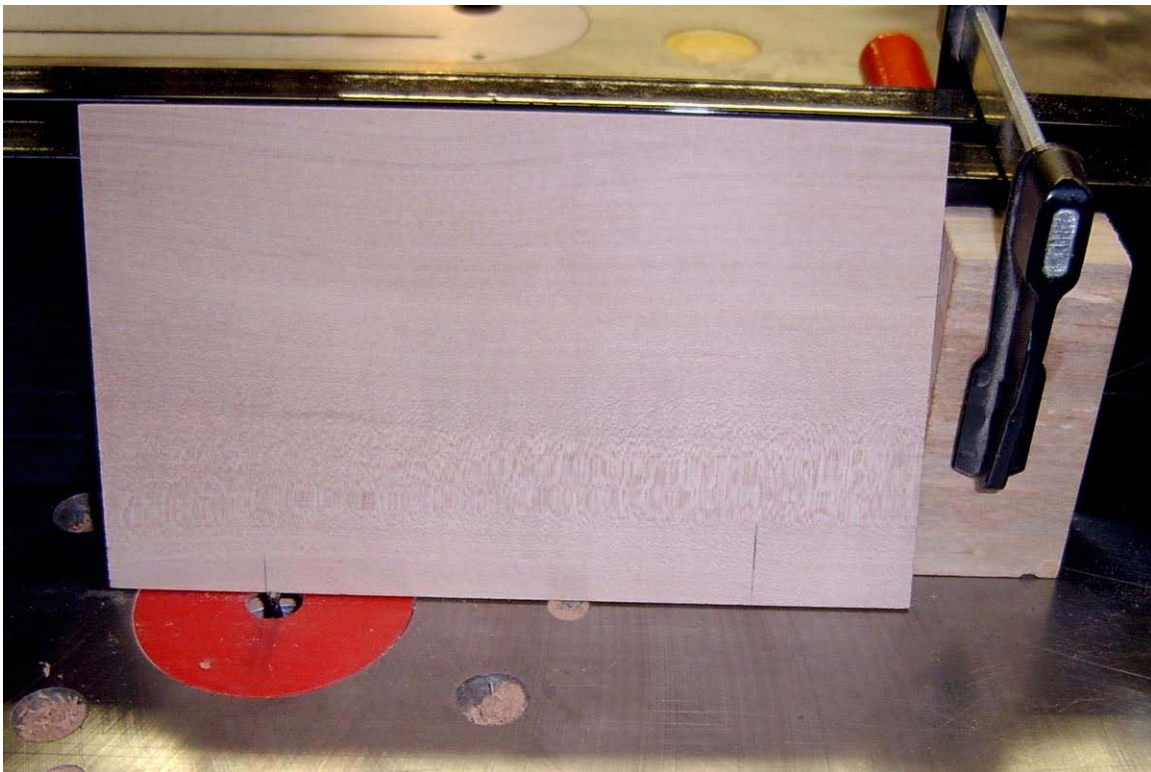
Here is the final look after the cuts have been made. The wood burned a little as the blade I am using was in line for sharpening and was only put in use as my other blade is now no good.



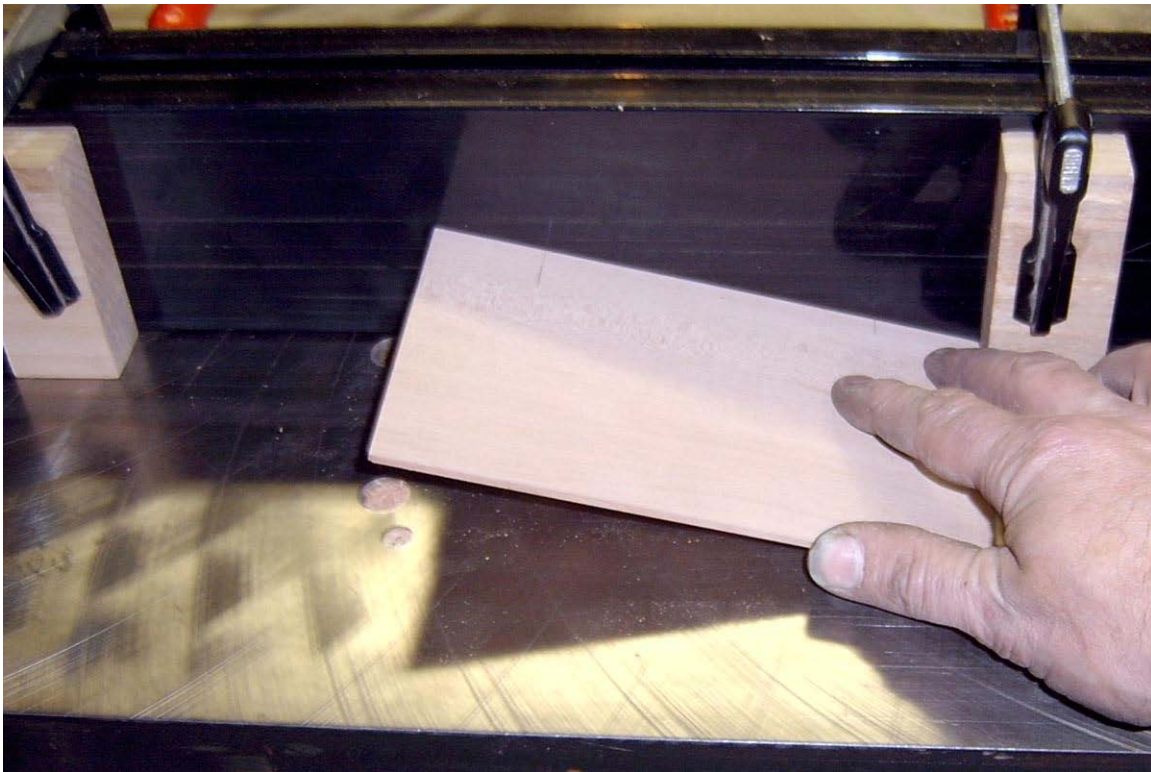
To sand the burn marks off, I use a board that I have 150 and 220 grit sandpaper glued to. So I don't sand the tongues too much (A little wont hurt) I hang the tongue over the edge of the sanding board.



Here I am measuring the distance from the edge of the panel to the edge of the flat. I mark this on the other side to help set up the router fence and stops.



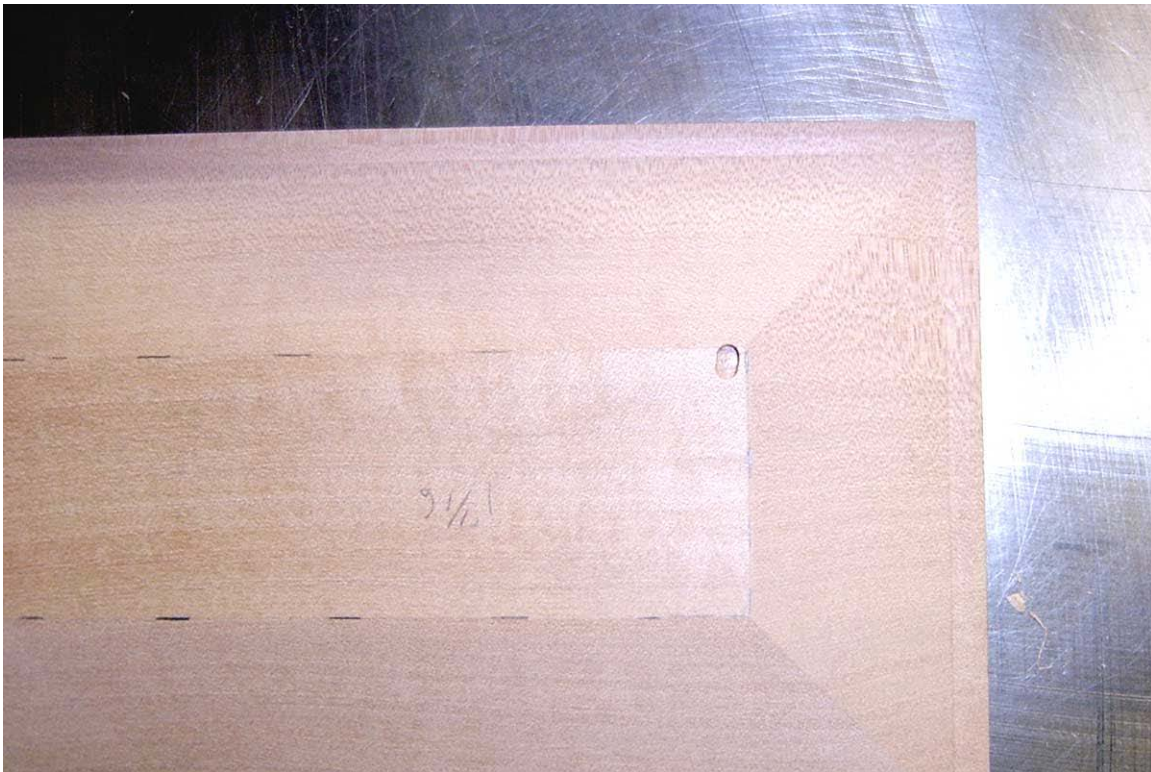
I set the fence so the outside of the bit is to the inside of the line. Then I set up a stop on either side of the bit.



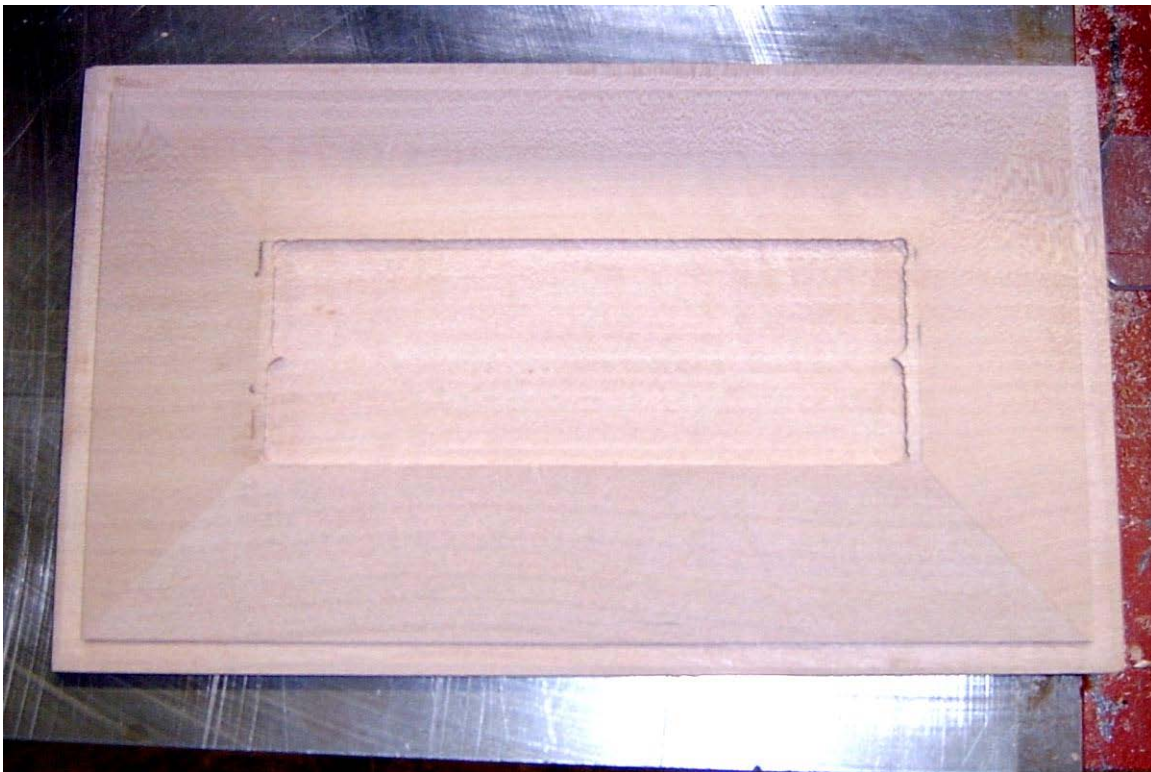
To make the cut, hold the panel against the stop and tip it down onto the bit. (Use both hands while doing this. 😊)



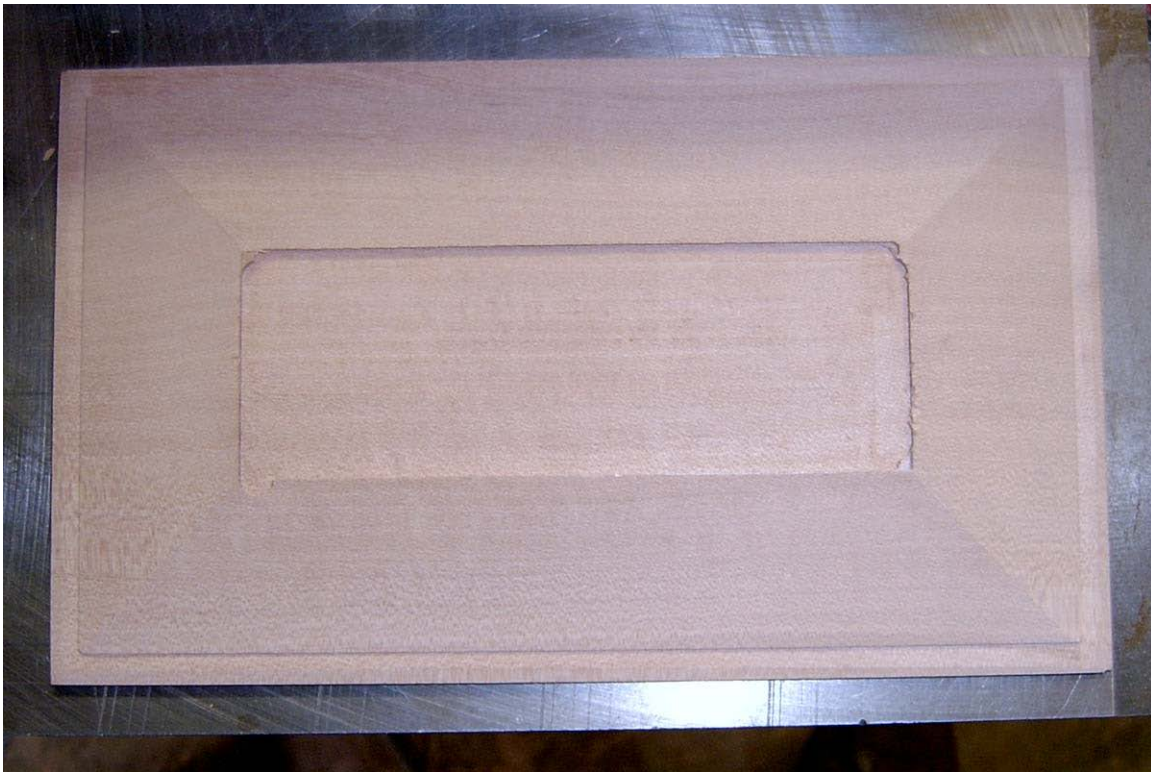
Don't make the full cut yet. Just lower into bit and then raise back up. Check to see if the fence setup is ok. Here I am bit off so I will move the fence out a bit.



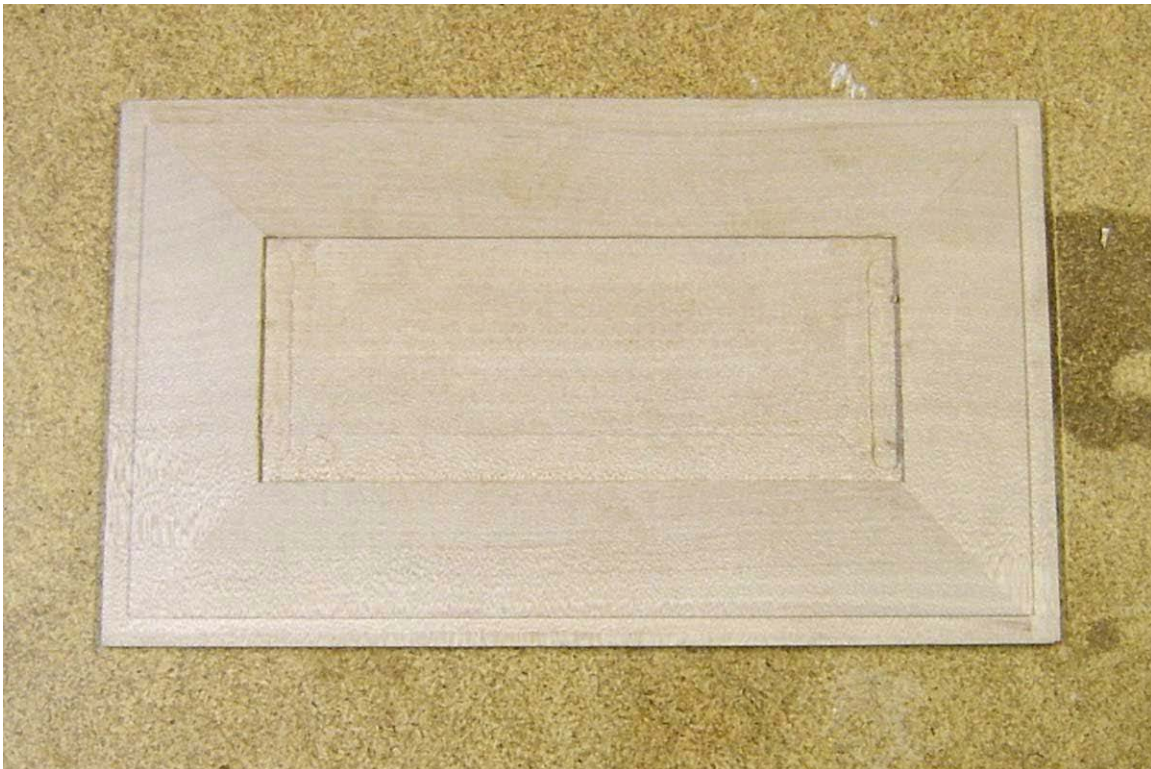
Oops. It is a bit far. No problem though. I will just roll with it. BTW, the cut shouldn't be all the way to the end. The little bit it is off will be cleaned up when the panel is turned 90°.



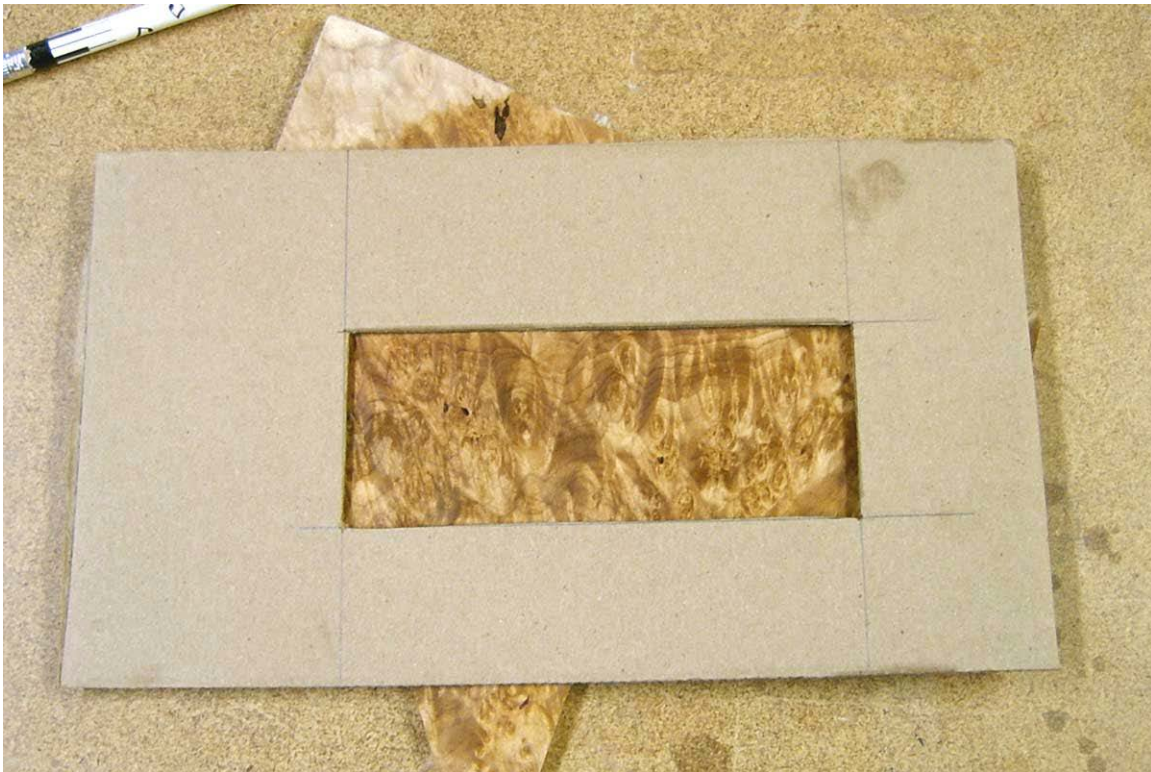
So, one thing I forgot is that I had a 1/8" bit in the router and really should have had my 1/4" in or I would be making a lot of extra cut. Oops. So chuck up the 1/4" and reset up. Now, back to what I was doing. Make a cut running the edge on the fence then turn 180° and do the same. Move the fence a bit and keep doing this until the waste is gone.



Now set the stops for the end cuts and make those. Then clean out the corners with a chisel. Here I once again have made a stupid error. I set the stops on the wrong side of the bit. I will have to cut the inlay hole bigger now to fix. Note: After doing this process, I realized that the ends should be done first before the sides. That way you don't have to reset the fence for the edge cuts. It is always a learning process.



Here is the piece after all the interior has been routed out. You can see that when you get to far off the flat part, the piece tends to tip a bit due to the difference in side heights after routing one side.



Now to find a piece of burl that looks good. I cut a hole in a piece of cardboard the size of the inlay and move it around until I find the look I like. Then I trace it out in pencil.



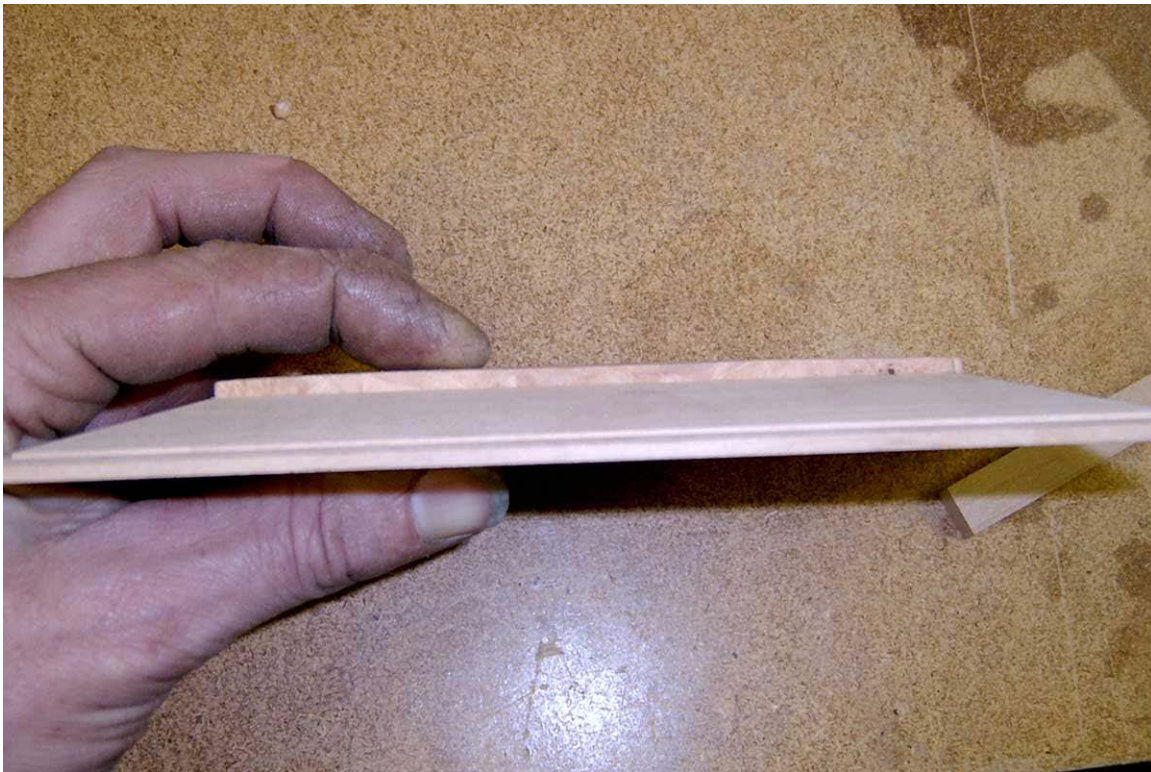
This shows the piece of burl I was working with and where I decided to cut it due to holes and grain patterns.



After rough cutting out the piece on the band saw, I plane one side straight. Then I cut it to size on the table saw with the sled.



Here is the piece fitted up.



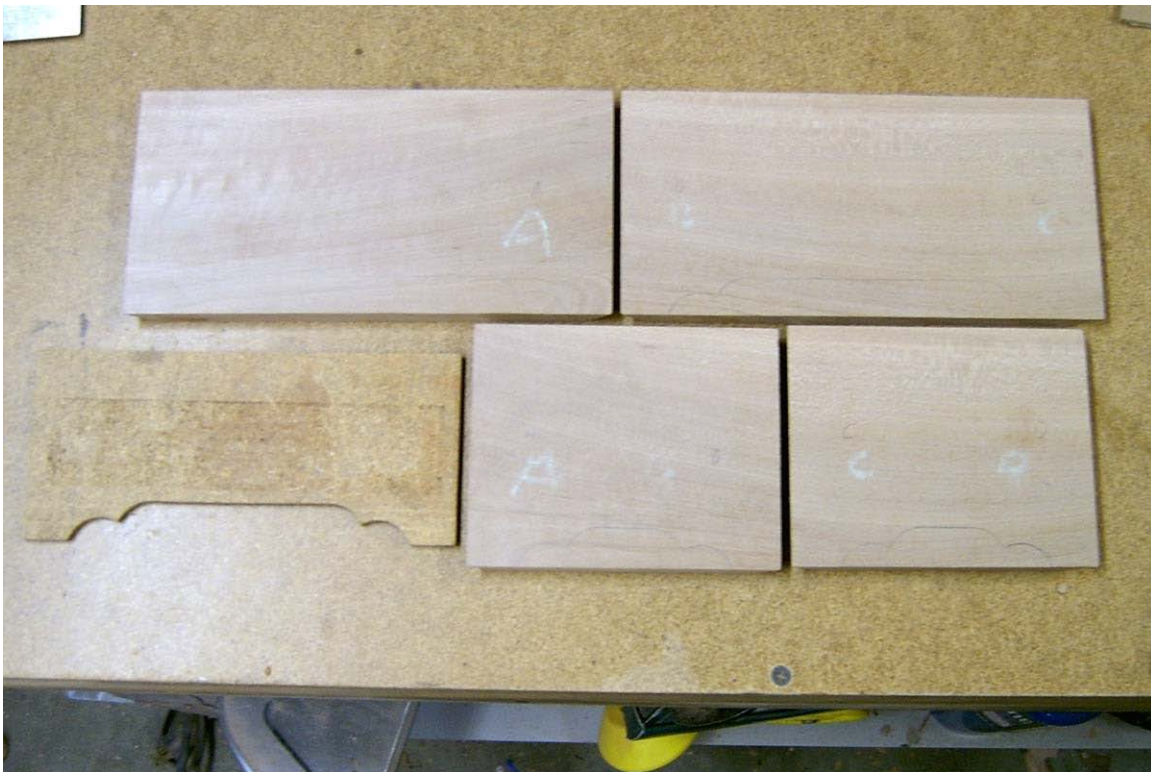
A side view. It is way too thick for this but to thin and small to thickness. I will do that after the glue up.



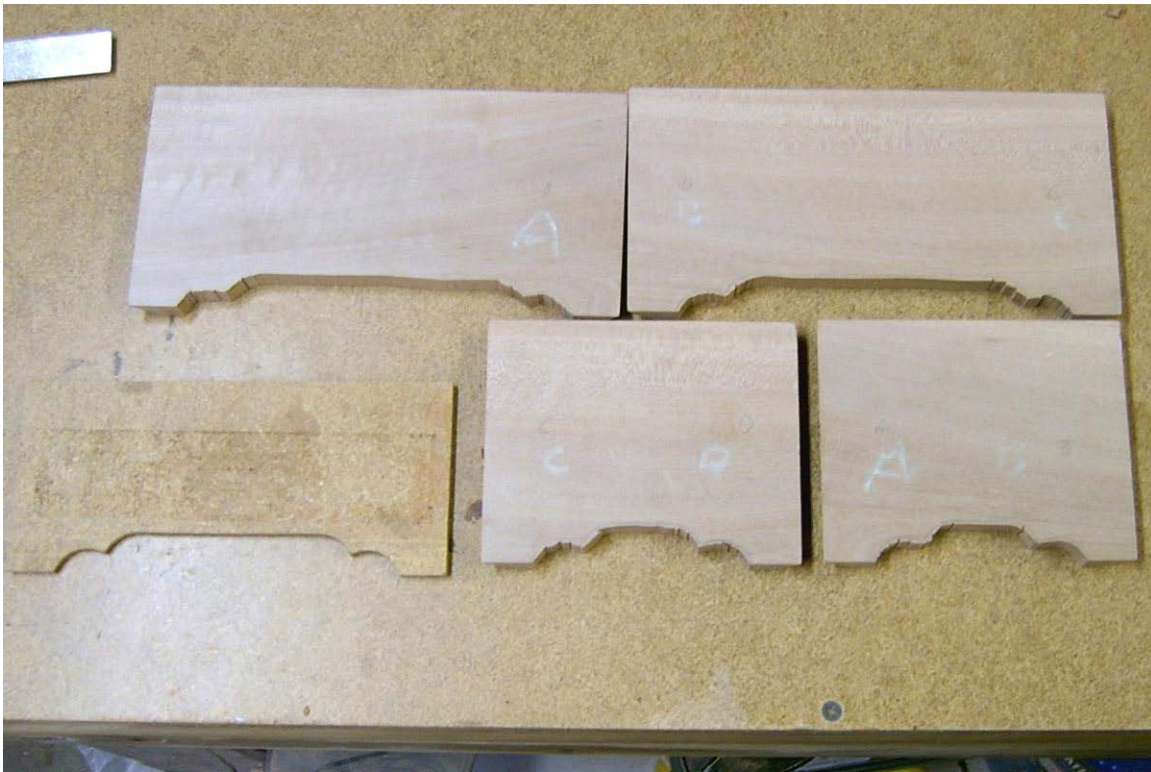
All clamped up with small cauls to help get good pressure.



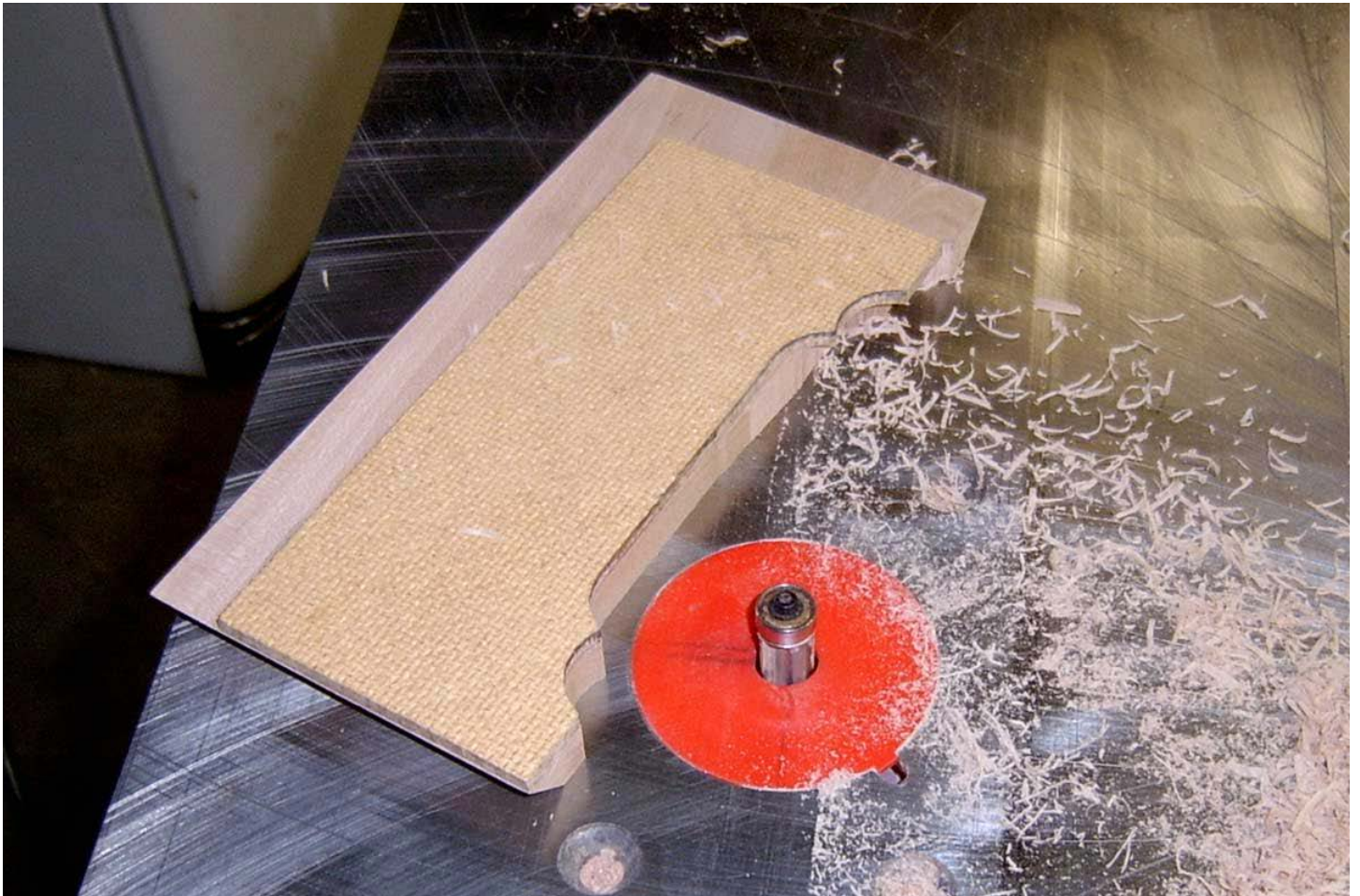
Here is the finished piece after planing. I am not really happy with it. There are some flat spots in the Madrone around the burl but they are not even. I will leave it be for now and ponder my options.



Here I have marked out the feet on the sides.



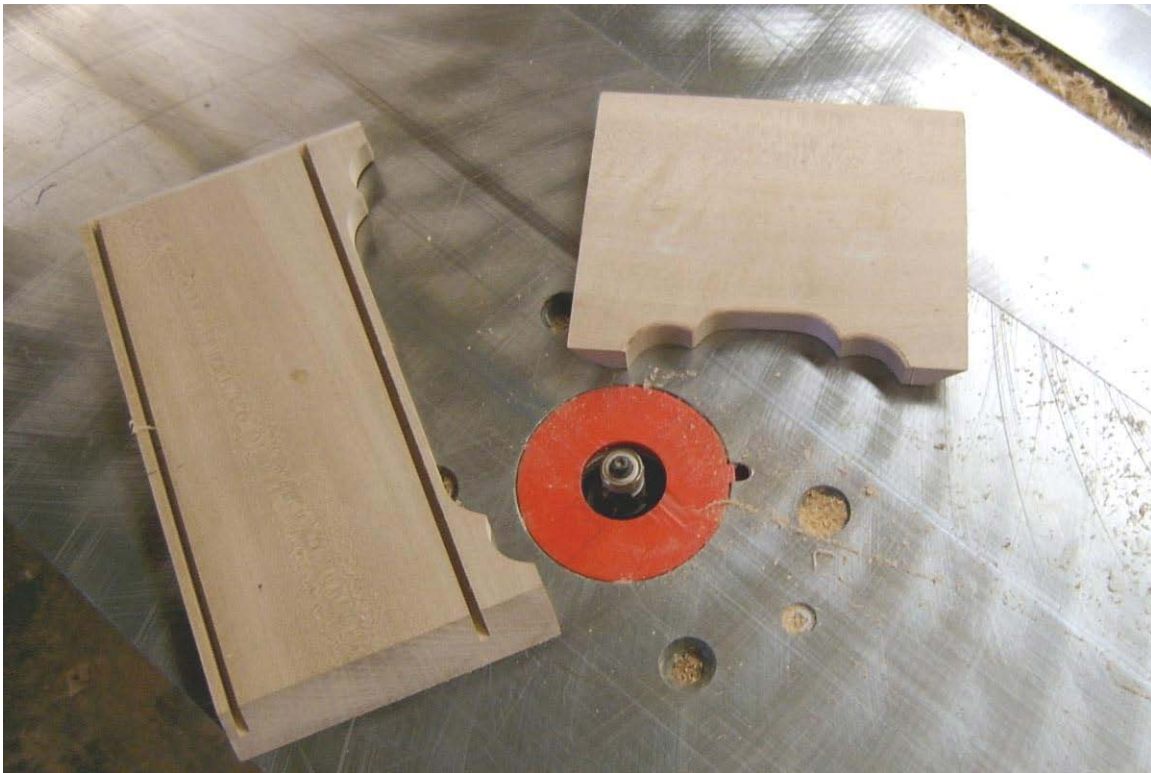
Rough cut them out within 1/16" of the lines.



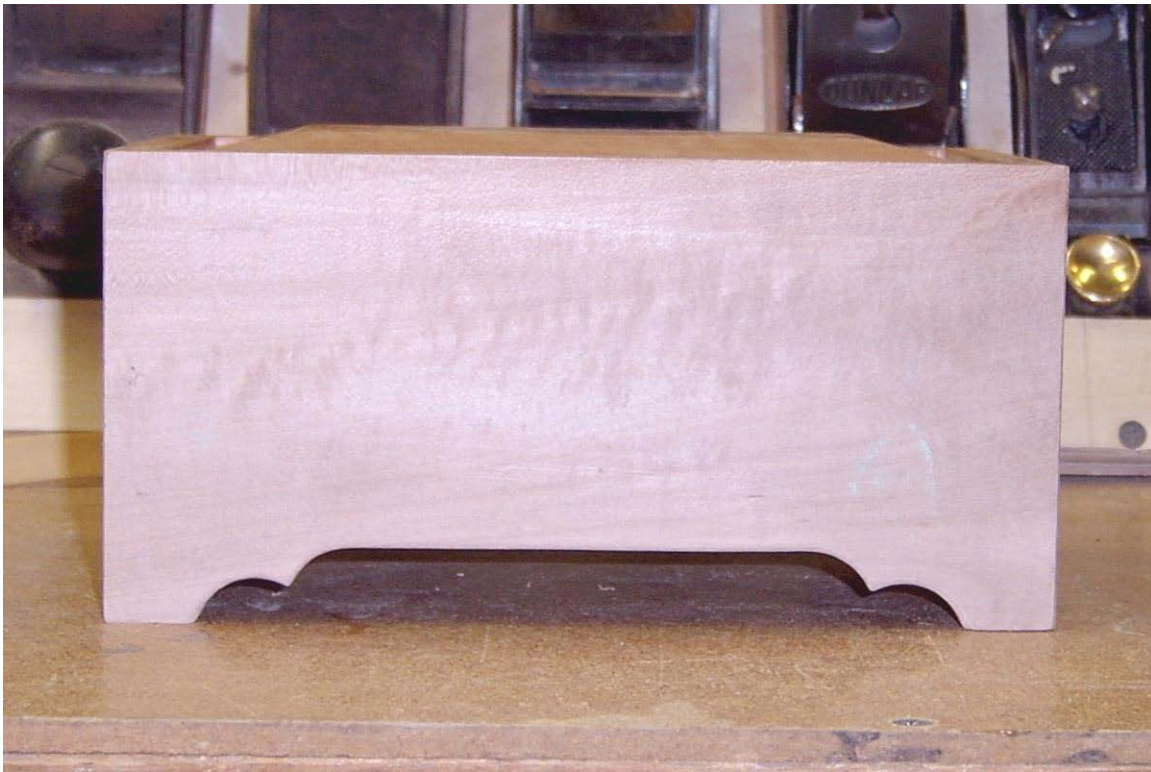
I take the pattern and use double back tape to attach it to the sides and cut one side at a time with a flush trim bit. Then I move the pattern to the other side and repeat. Be careful when coming into the corner shown at the bottom of the picture. This is where you need to do light cuts as tear-out will happen here if it happens at all.



Here are the feet after routing.



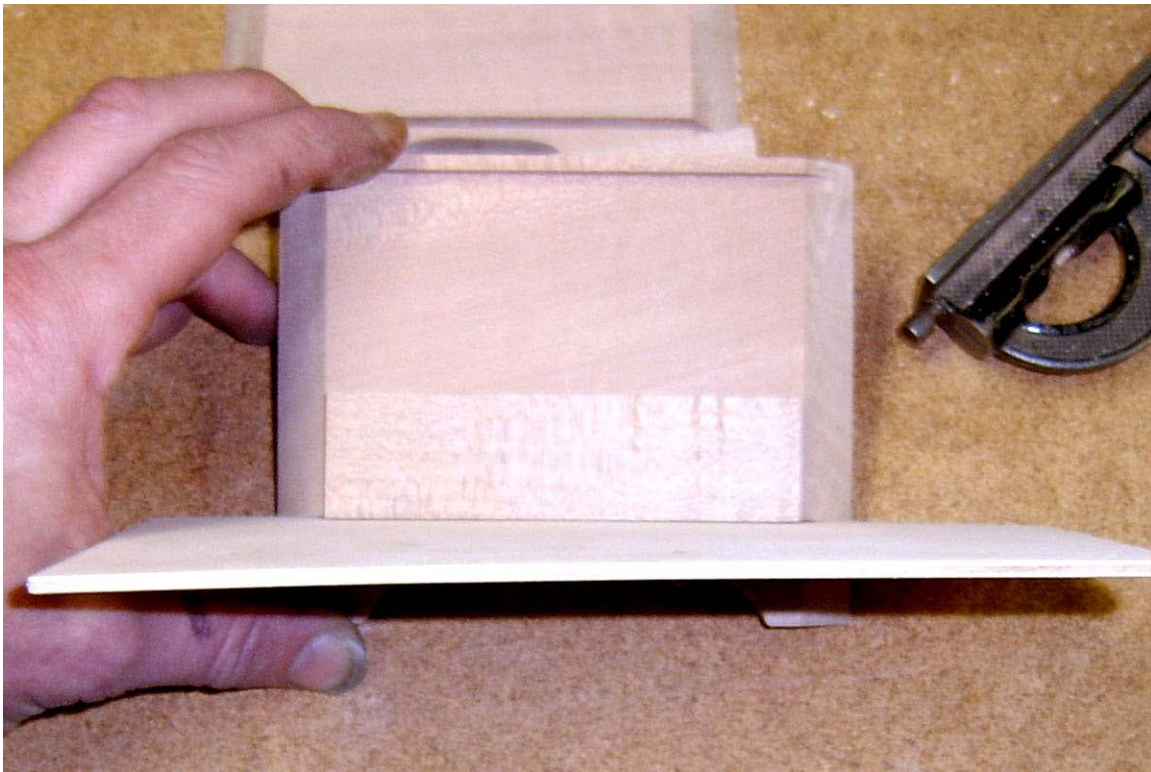
Now I chuck up a 1/16" round-over bit and ease the edges around the feet.



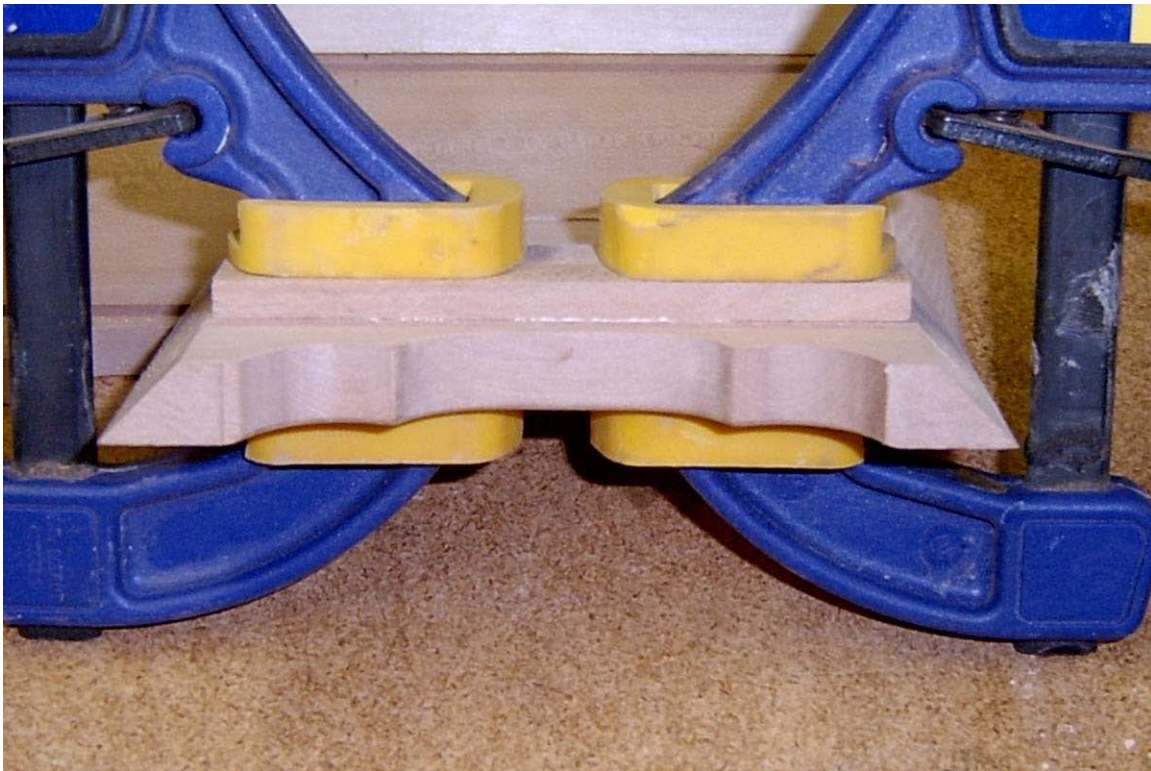
Here is how the feet look when done.



Here is how the top panel looks with a bit of mineral spirits on it. You can see the flat spots on the lower left side and on the bottom right side.



Here I am showing the piece to be glued on to support the tray. I usually use 1/8" thick material but I had some Madrone that was 3/16" thick and already faced so I used that. I cut the piece about 1/16" short of the length of the side to avoid it causing problems when gluing up later. I have also cut the bottom panel to the same dimensions I used for the top panel.



Here I show the glue-up.



Well I decided that I really didn't like the flat spots on the top panel so to fix it, I set the table saw a little under 76° and re-cut the bevels.

Then I planed the burl so it would be flush. Of course issues happen as this panel seems to want to cause me problems. The burl tore out at the top left corner and I hit a serious hole in the burl on the right. Only thing to do now is to re-do the inlay.



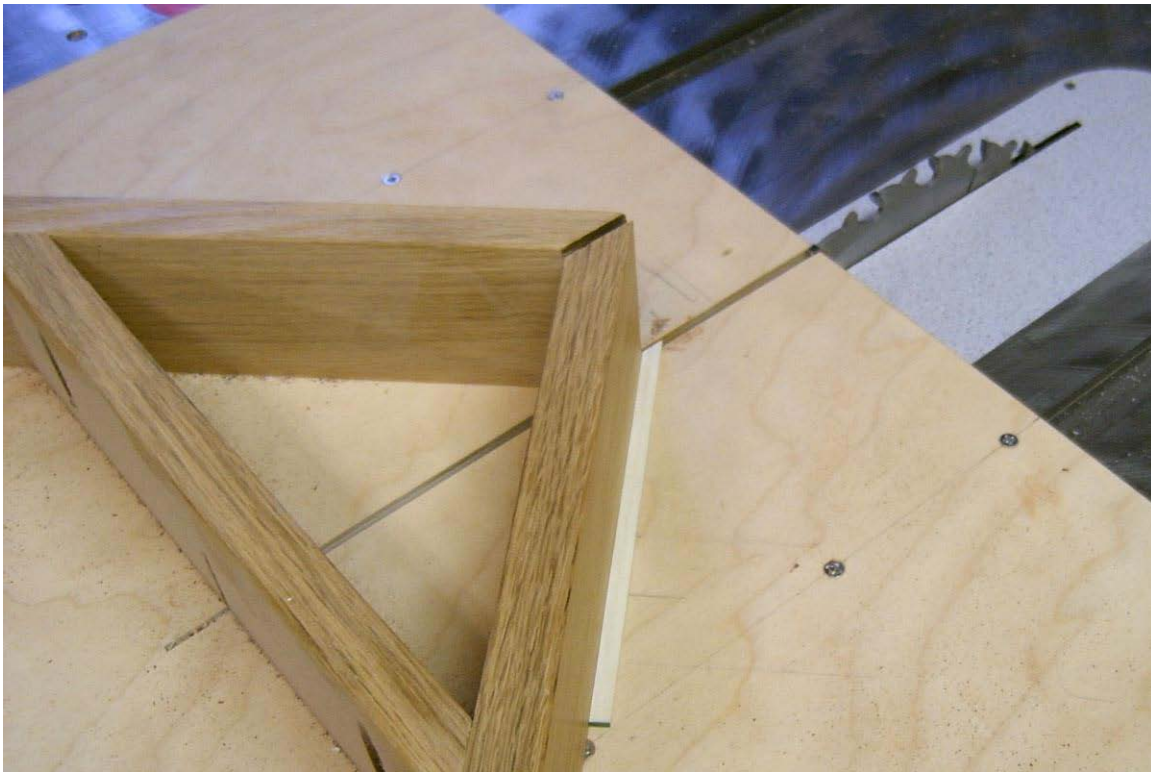
This time I am doing it in the right order. I set up the router like before and make the first cut right to the edge of the burl. I then do the other end and sides.



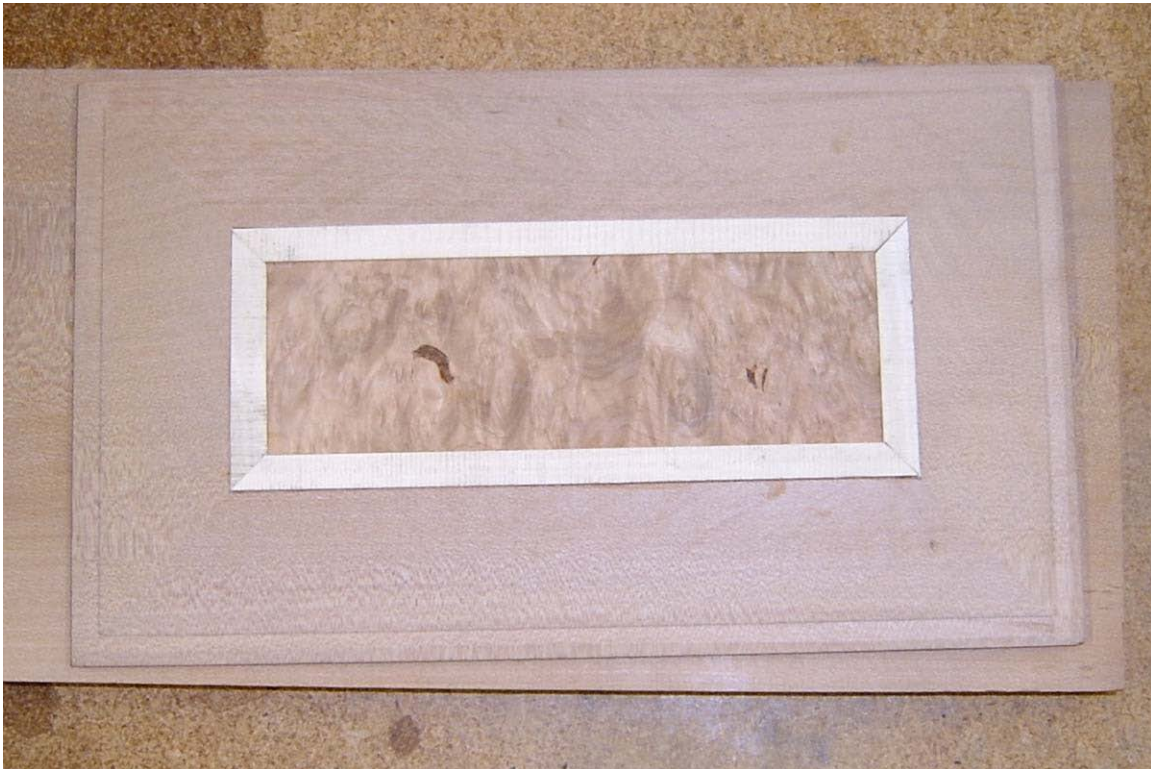
After doing the first 4 cuts, I thought that it looks like a frame. I wonder what it would look like if I framed the burl with another wood like Holly as this is another wood from around here.



Well I showed the test to the family and the wife and son like it a lot and my daughter says "it rocks dad!". Since she has a good eye for design, I am going to go for it. Here I am fitting the pieces in like I did for the edge of the sides with the exception of the 45° miters which have to be done first.



I use me table saw and my 45* sled to cut the miters.



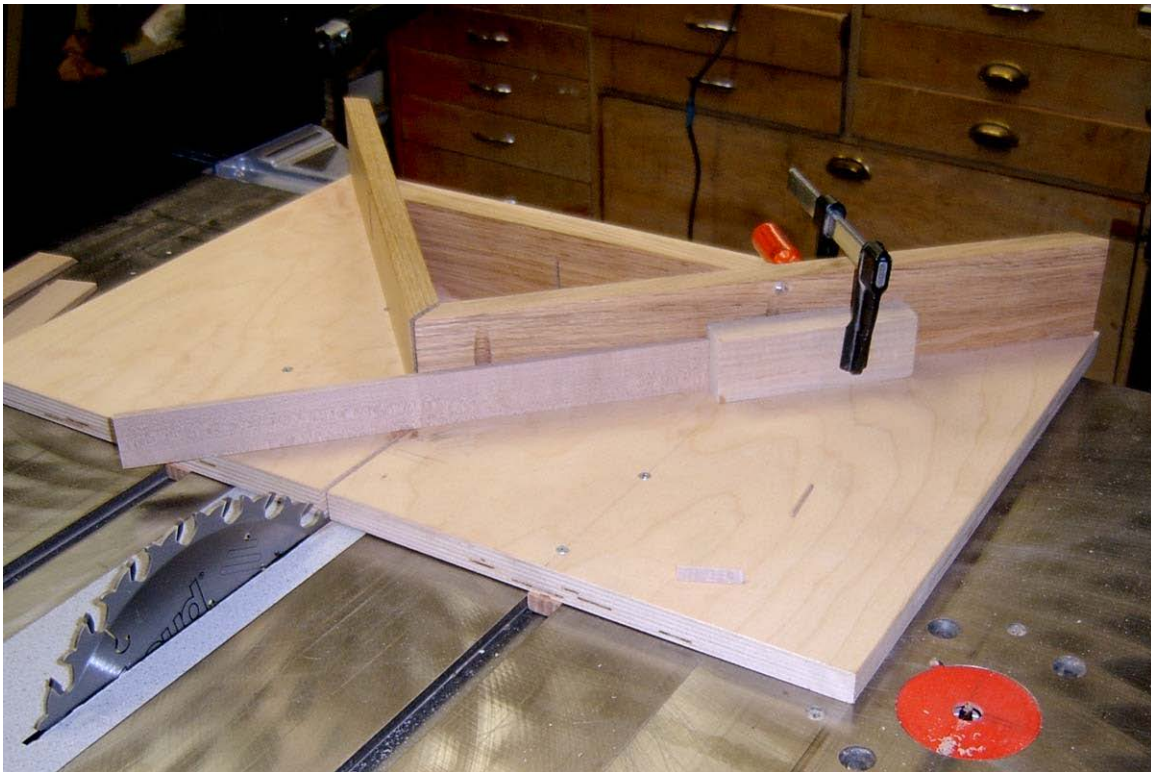
All fit up and ready to glue up.



Here I show the glue up. I sandwiched the piece between to boards with a piece of 2mm foam against the inlay to help get even pressure on the rough cut surfaces.



Now the lid is done. It came out reasonably well and I am done messing with it. Or messing it up as may be the case on this one.



Now to make the tray. I am using 3/16" thick material for this. Since the sides are short enough, I cut the miters with my sled. It saves time setting the blade over to 45°. Note that the tray isn't going to be book-matched.



Sides all cut and the groove for the bottom is cut. The groove is 1/8" up from the bottom and is about 3/32" deep. Cut with the 1/8" up-cut spiral bit.



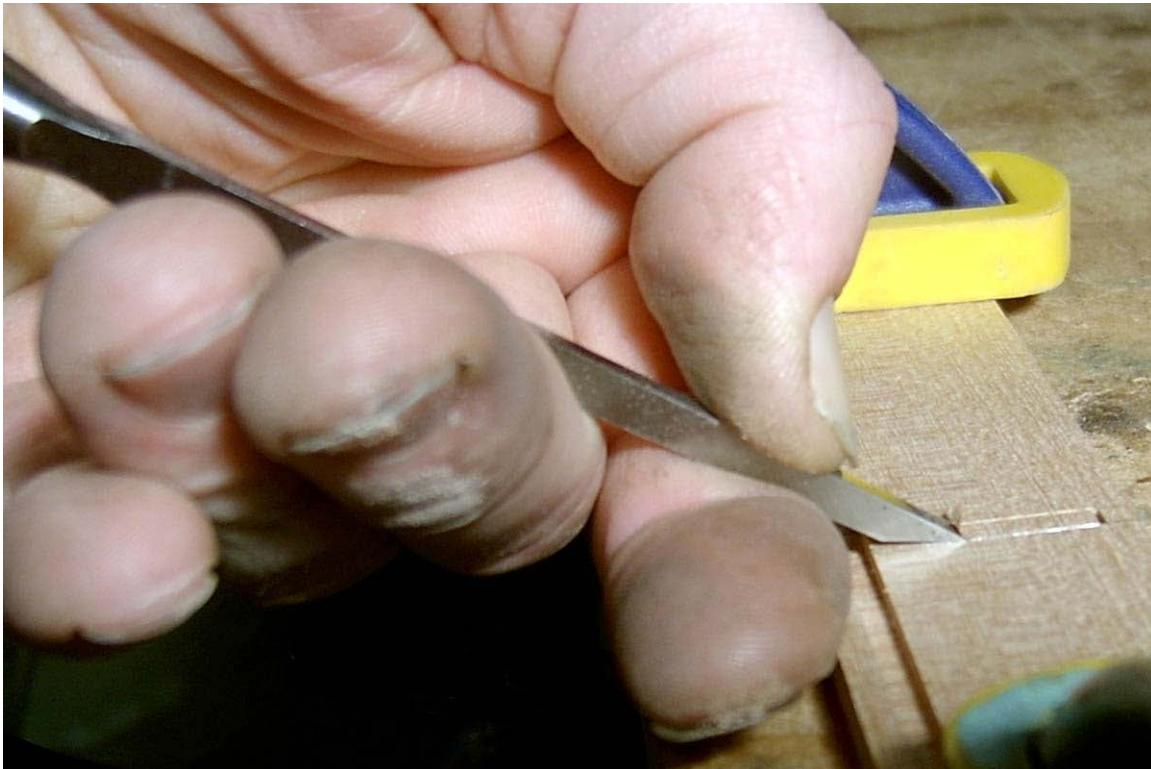
Now it is time for a little fill on the top panel. I make a little sawdust and mix it with 2# shellac. I like it runny so it flows into the voids better. It dries fast but adding shellac as you need it to keep consistency works well.



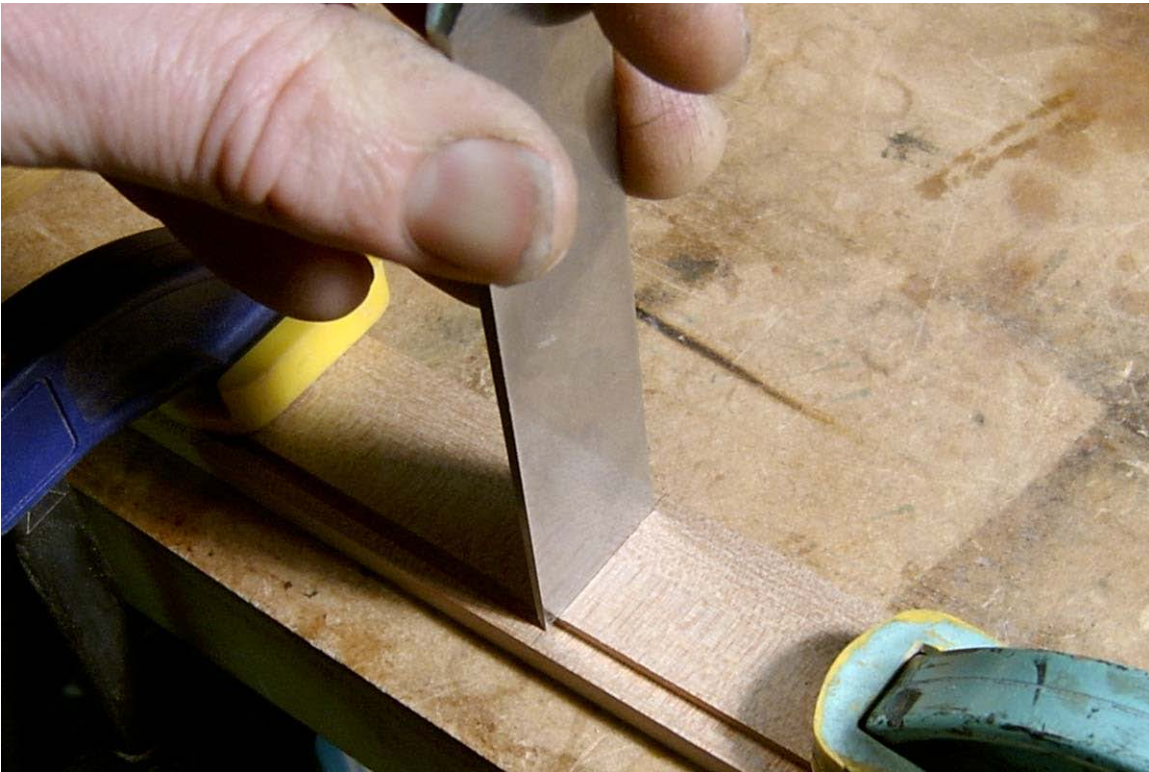
Here I am showing the main hole that needs to be filled. It is a bit large for filling but with the grain pattern of the burl, I think it will go un-noticed when complete. You can see I filled a bit around the inlay. I use the same wood for fill as the wood next to it. That is why the hole hasn't been filled yet.



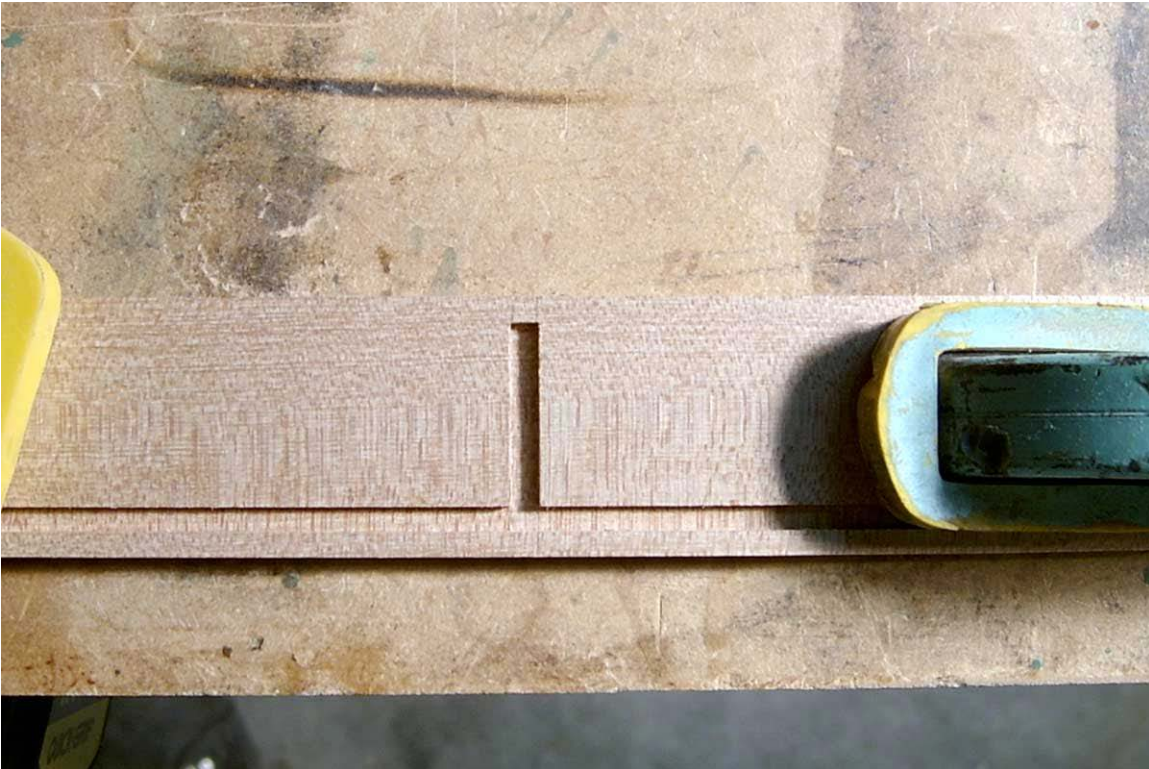
The fill is complete now and drying.



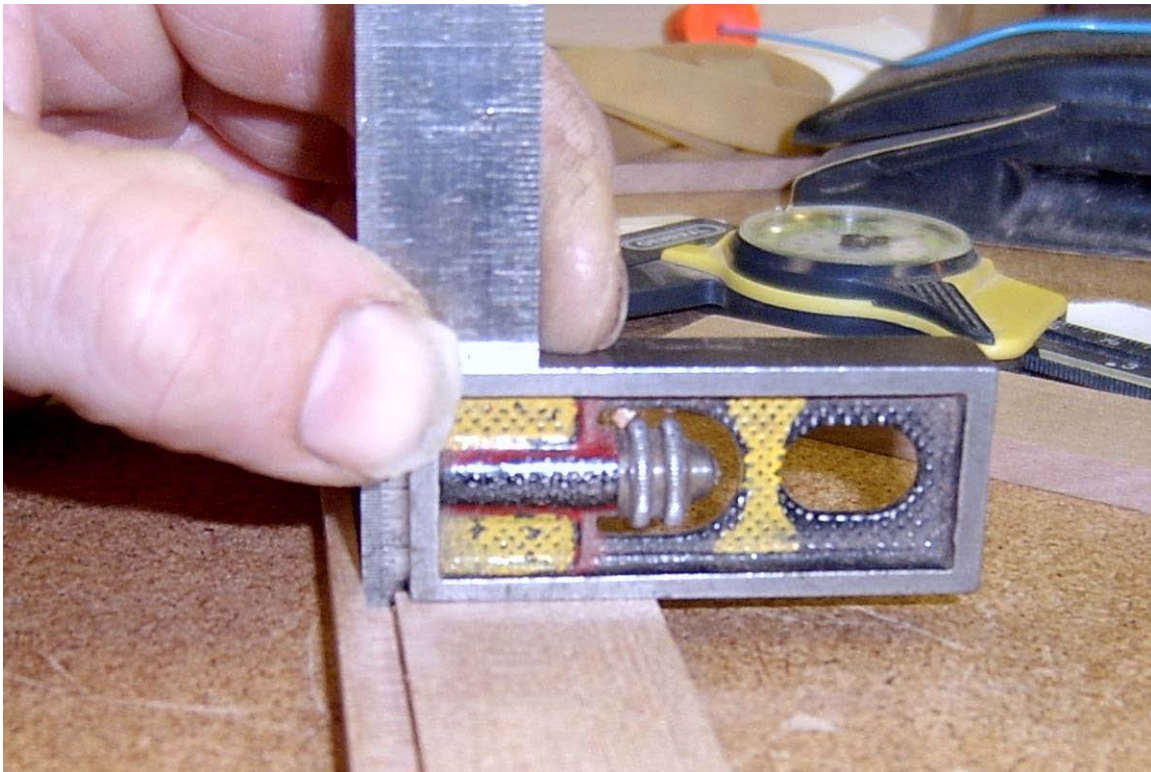
Now to make the mortises for the tray divider. I prefer to cut these by hand. You can see I have defined the edges by making shallow cuts. Now I will remove a thin layer between them. I have found that the defining cuts are really important and not to get too carried away by the depth of the removal cuts. If you try to remove too much at once, you will tear the edges out. You will also see that I brace the chisel against my finger and start the cut near the middle. This gets more important as the cut gets deeper. By bracing the chisel against your finger, you get better control and it keeps you from bracing the chisel on the wood while cutting which leaves dents. Working from the middle toward each end allows flatter, smoother cuts. Note that a sharp chisel really helps when doing this as you don't need to push as hard to cut the wood hence better control.



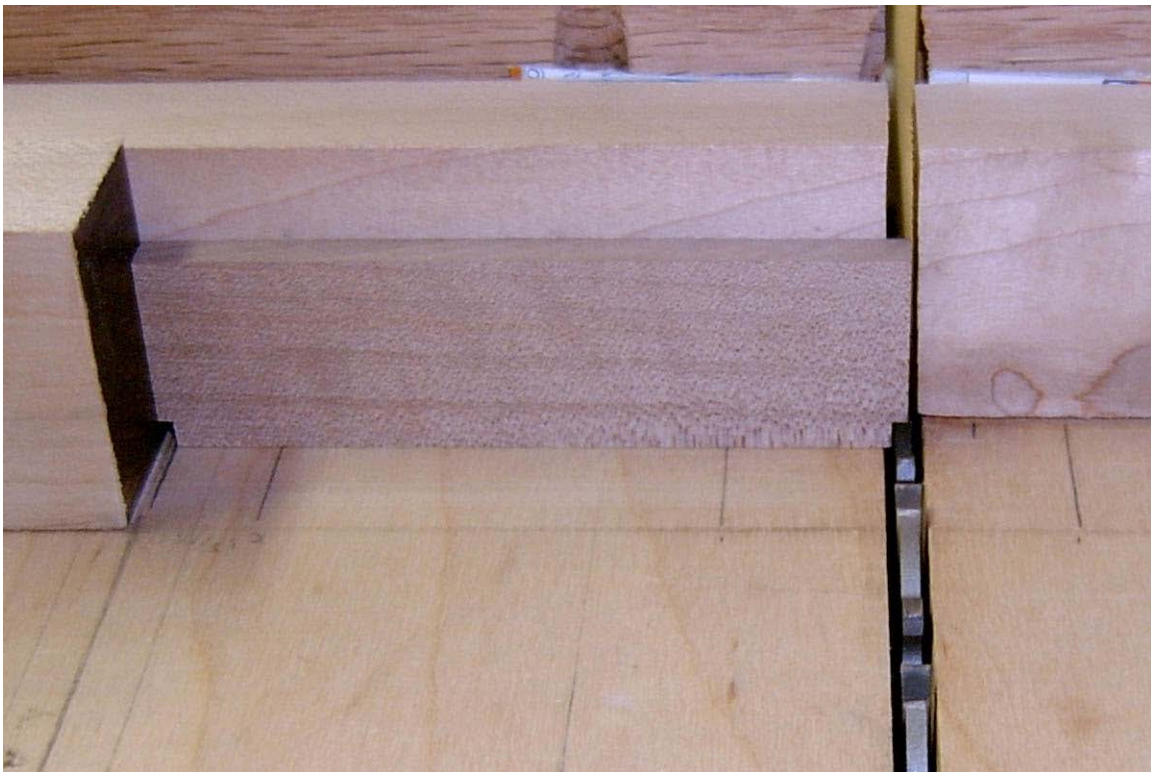
To make the defining cuts I use a large chisel for the sides and tap with a mallet a couple of times. I use the smaller one for the end. Then I remove the waste and repeat. I use a caliper to make sure the depth is correct and even.



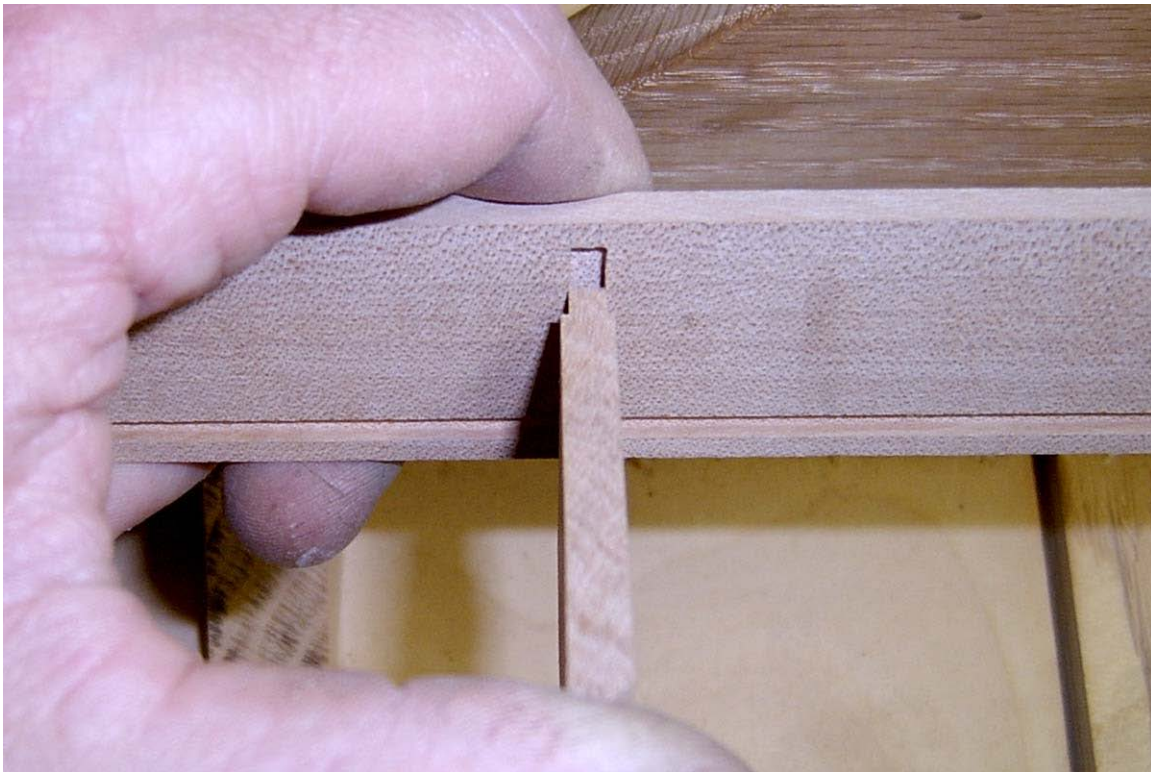
One mortise is cut and ready for the tenon.



For the divider, I measure the width of the box. Then I set a square to the depth of the mortise. I cut the divider to length and width; then transfer the depth of the mortise to the divider. I do the same for the distance from the top edge to the top of the mortise.



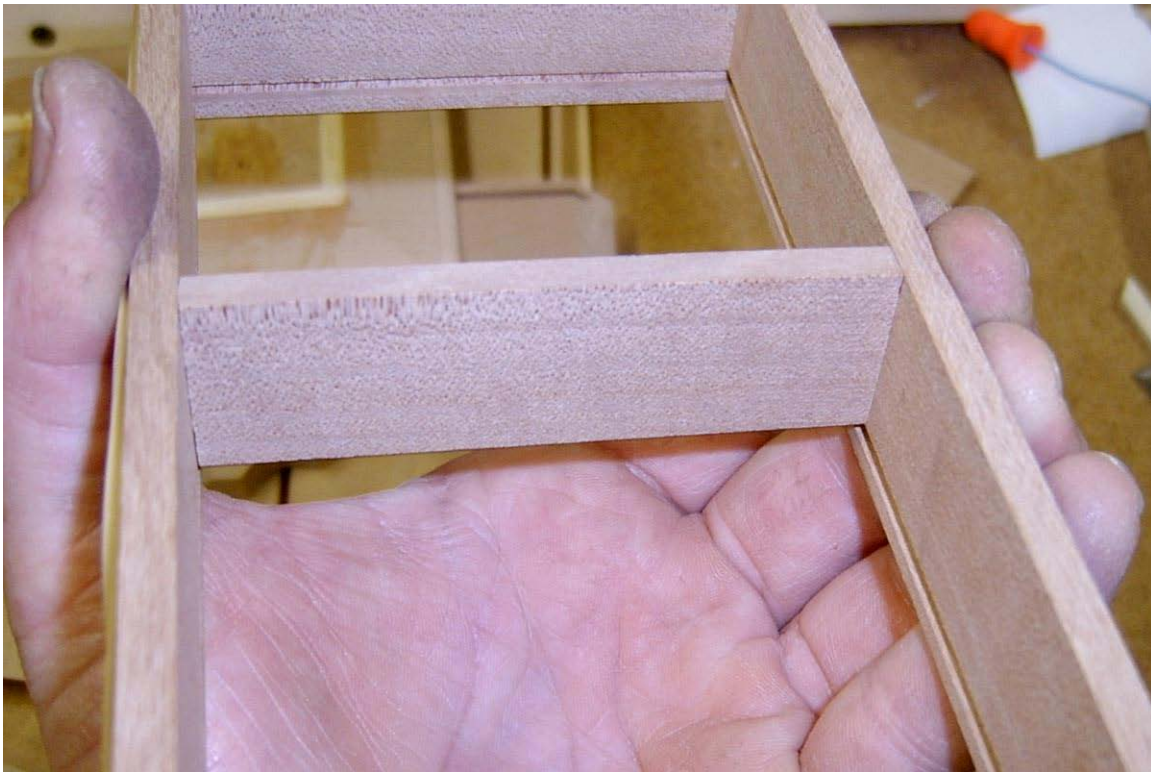
Using the 90° sled, I cut the waste out defining the shoulder.



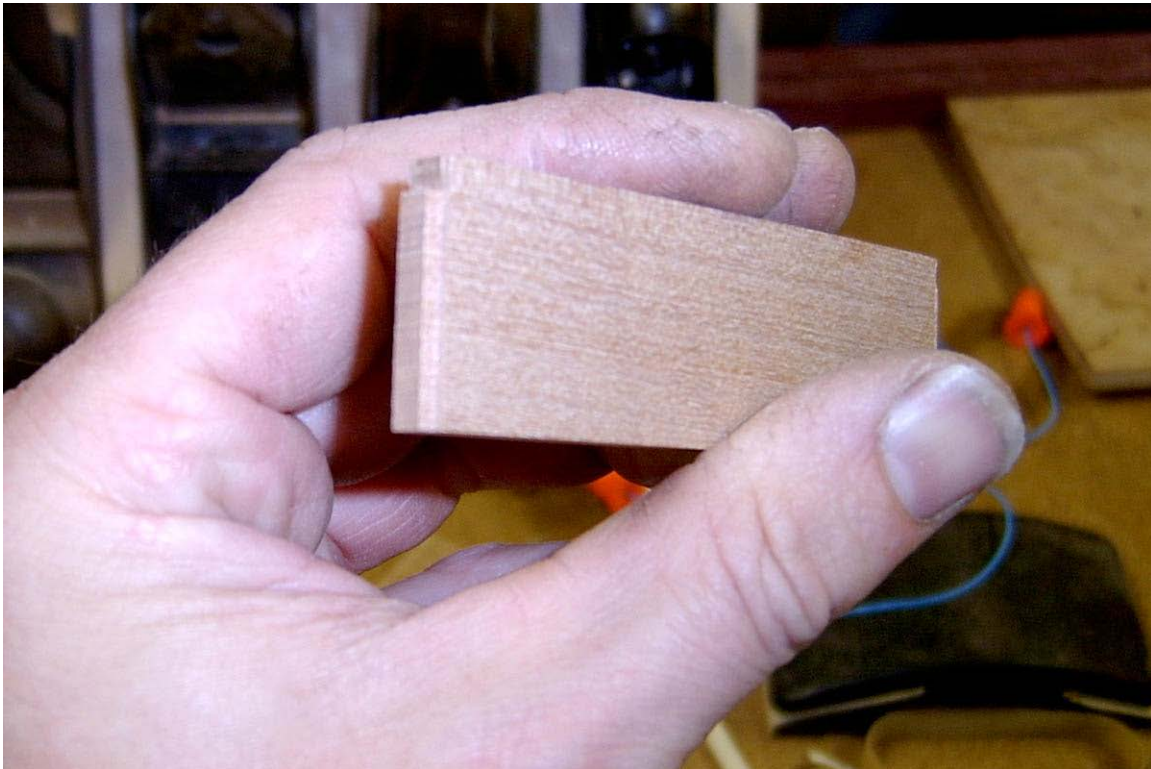
Using a piece of drop from the divider, I set the table saw to not cut at all and set up a stop so I will only cut the width of the tenon. I slowly raise the blade up a bit at a time until I have the tenon cut to the right thickness. Then I cut the actual piece.



The tenon wasn't quite long enough so the sides bowed out a bit. Here I put a couple of thick cards against the stop. I put the divider against these and hold it down tight. I take the cards out and move the stop up against the divider and then cut the tenon again. This will leave a bit at the shoulder which I remove with a chisel.



The divider all fit up.



Here you can see the tenon that was made.



The fill all sanded down. You can see the fill if you look for it, but once finished, it will look good. Without the fill it would look like the inlay didn't fit quite tight enough.



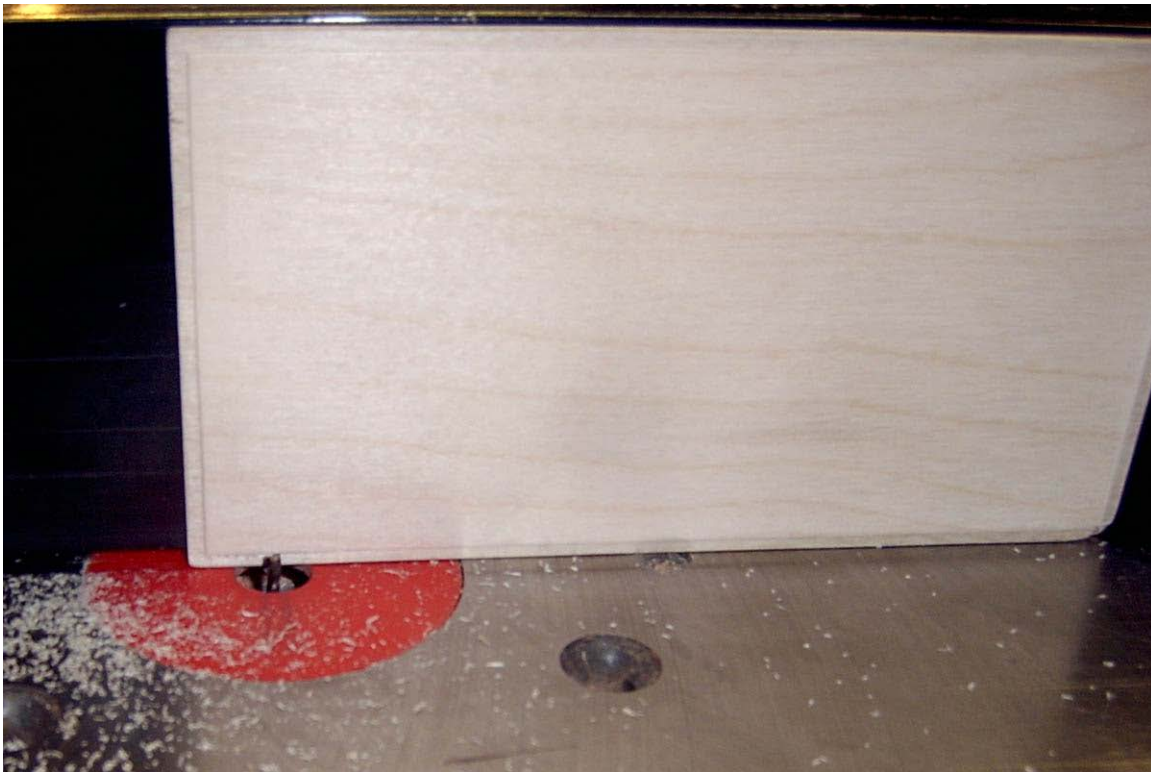
Now I have sanded all the inside surfaces to 220 grit and the outside of the top panel to 320 grit. I put a light coat of Watco Danish Oil on all the insides being careful to not get any on the glue surface. When doing this, watch out for the wick action of really porous woods. They will allow the oil to run out the miters. I wet sanded the oil on the outside of the top panel with 320 grit. I did this to fill any small scratches in the Madrone and to help fill in and smooth out the Maple burl.



Here I have finished the insides. I used a French polish technique with 2# shellac and brought it just up to a shine but didn't cut back to a full perfect gloss. I then did a quick rub with a grey Scotch-Brite pad and then a white Scotch-Brite pad. I waxed with Staples dark brown Carnauba wax. Note when using Carnauba wax, just a little goes a long way or you will be rubbing it out for a long time. This stuff is hard when it dries.



Here is the top panel. It was finished with a French polish technique to an incredible shine. It was also waxed. This is the first time I have achieved a really good French polish and am quite pleased.



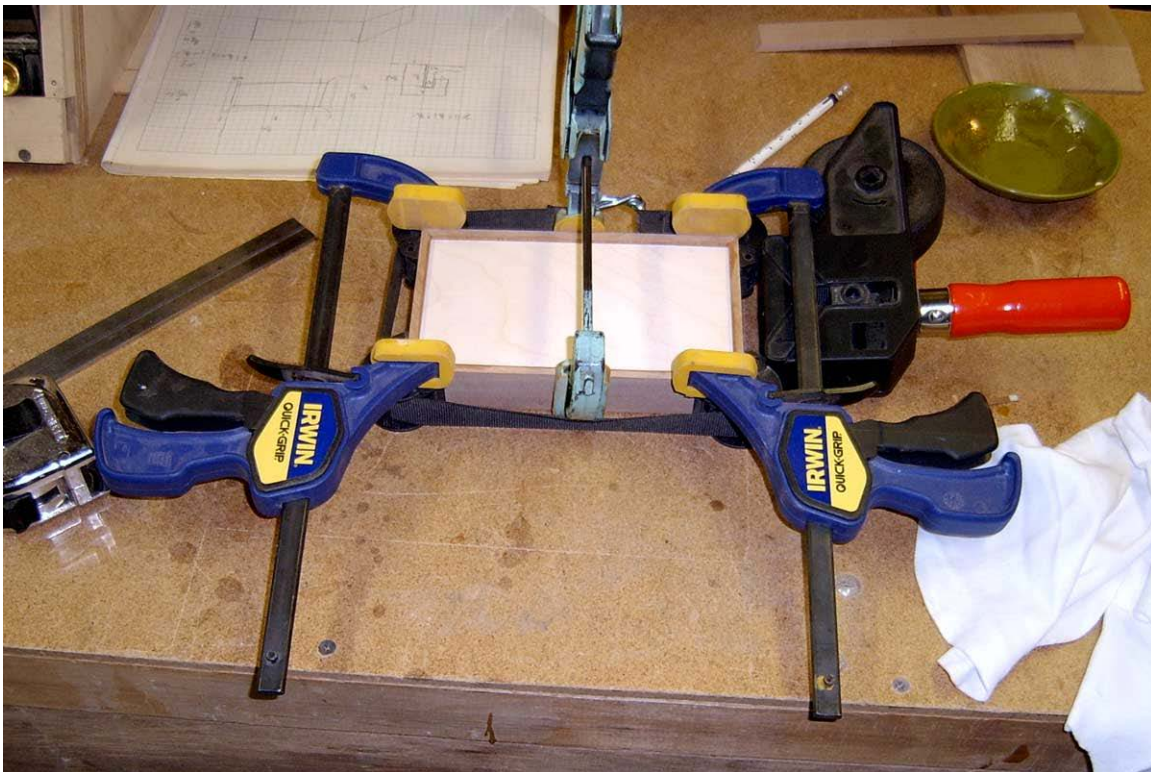
I have cut the bottom panel for the tray. Here I am thinning the edge to fit the 1/8" groove. I could have widened the groove on the sides instead but wanted to show how this could be done. If I am lining the box, I cut the rabbet a bit longer than the groove so it fits all the way in for. The liner will cover it later.



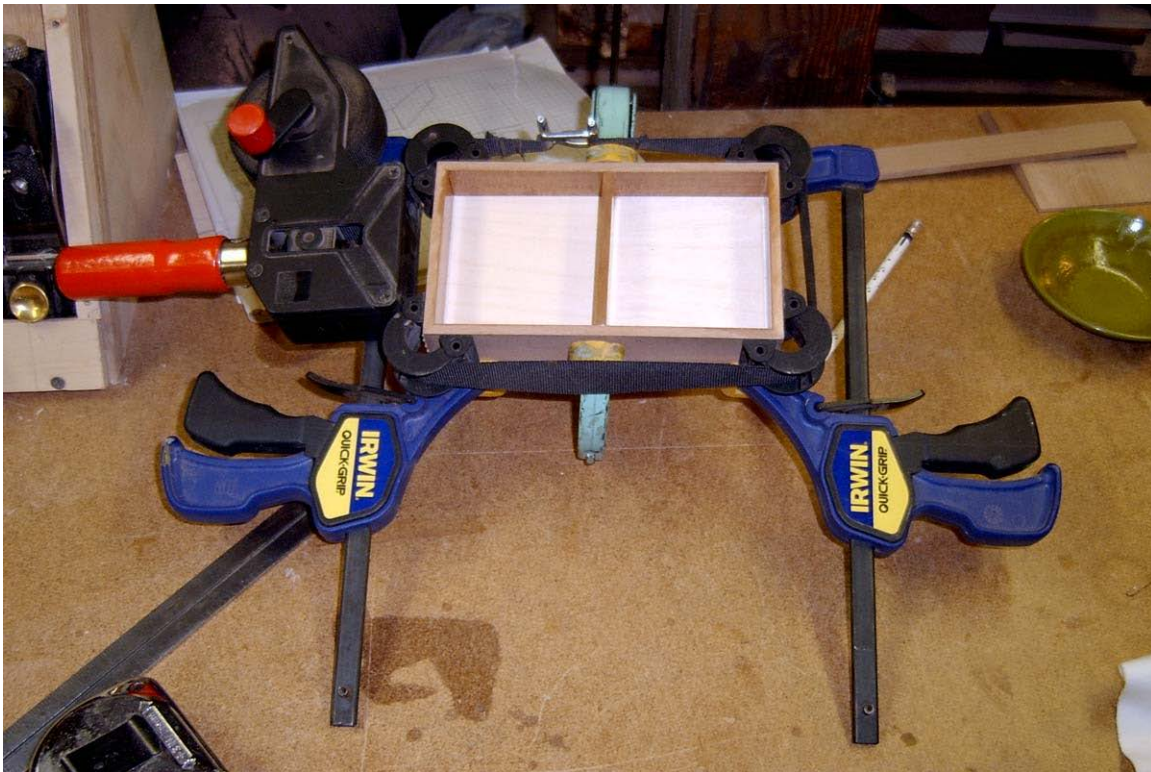
A side view of the rabbet.



Here is the tray getting glued up. I have found a match is a great glue spreader for small grooves. Note the few spots of glue where the bottom panel will go.



A bottom shot of the glue up. The clamp in the middle is there to hold the sides in to the center divider. The ones on the side are there because the miters on the bottom wanted a little more clamping pressure to close up 100%.



A top view of the tray glue up. Here we see some issues with this tray. They will cause this tray to be remade. The first is that even though at dry fit the divider seemed long enough, when clamped up so the shoulders touched the sides, the sides bowed. This is easy enough to remove with some sanding. The second error I didn't see till I had it glued. You can see the divider looks to be out of square. It is. Now the reason for this is that my divider mortises are about $\frac{3}{32}$ off the middle. No big deal except when I laid them out, I had the grooves on the bottoms of the sides of both pieces close to me. I should have had them touching each other so that they mirrored each other. As it is, the error compounded by two making it really obvious that the divider is wrong. The sides would have to be remade anyway and I only lost time is finishing and that was good practice so no big deal. I will use it as a parts tray in the shop.



Before glue up, I need to scrape some of the shellac off the edge where it goes into the groove on the sides. I take some off the top side but do not go all the way to the inside of the edge or the reveal will show unfinished wood. On the bottom I scrape the shellac off the whole tongue where it goes into the groove. I keep scraping with a chisel until it once again fits snugly into the groove.



I lay down a couple of strips of blue tape. Then put the glue on the miters and a few spots on the bottom groove. On the top groove, I put a spot of glue only in the center of each end. This holds the panel centered yet allows it to expand and contract. I then lay the sides on the tape with the miters touching.



I set the top and bottom panels in the grooves on one long side and "roll" the box together.



I add a couple of band clamps and adjust the box so the miters are even and the box is square. Note: this box didn't need it, but here is a trick to get the top panel square. When doing a dry fit, get some playing cards and use pieces of them to shim the top panel on all four sides so that it has an even reveal all around. When you do the actual glue-up use these shims to center the panel and then remove them after all the clamping is done so they don't get glued in. This saves trying to move the panel after clamping which can sometimes be a real problem.



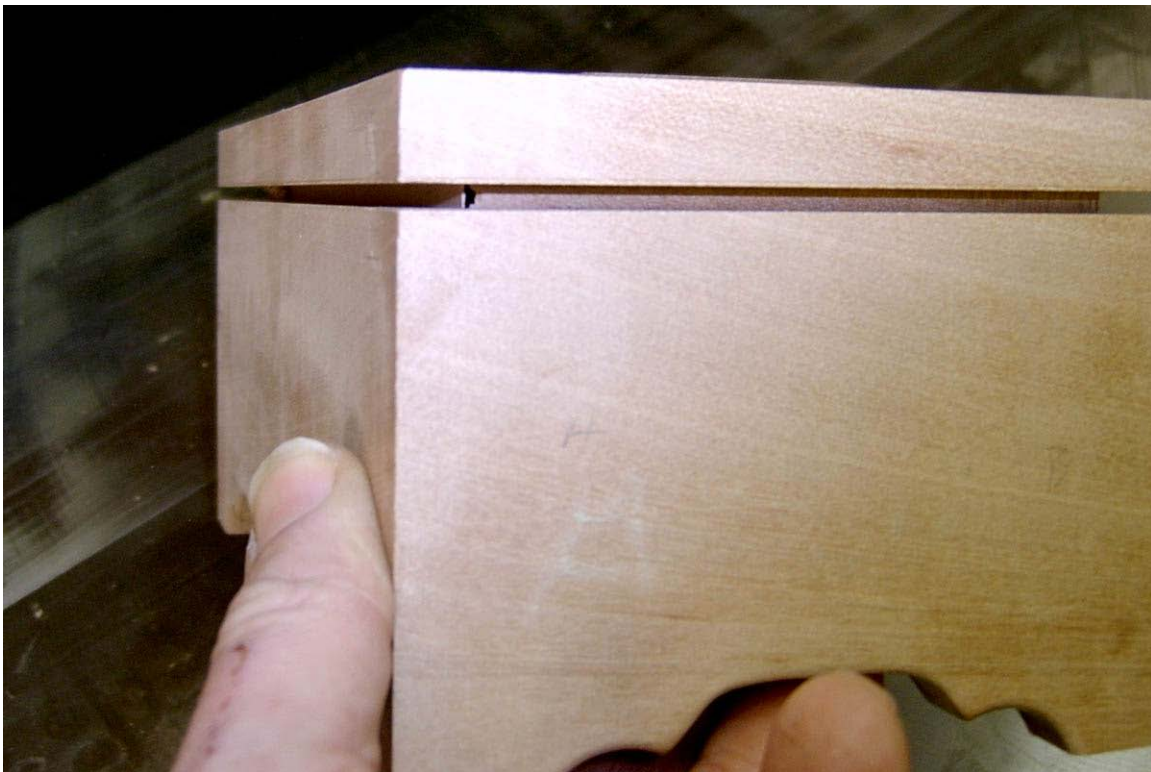
Here I am using a small Stanley #101 plane to even the sides down.



I use sandpaper glued to a piece of 3/4" plywood to flatten the feet down. I will use this to flatten the lid and body when they are cut apart later. This set up has both 150 and 220 grit on it. I use it all the time for my sanding.



To cut the lid from the box I set the blade so it is just under the thickness of the sides. I then set the fence referenced from the feet of the box to where I want the cut. Then the box is run through the saw.



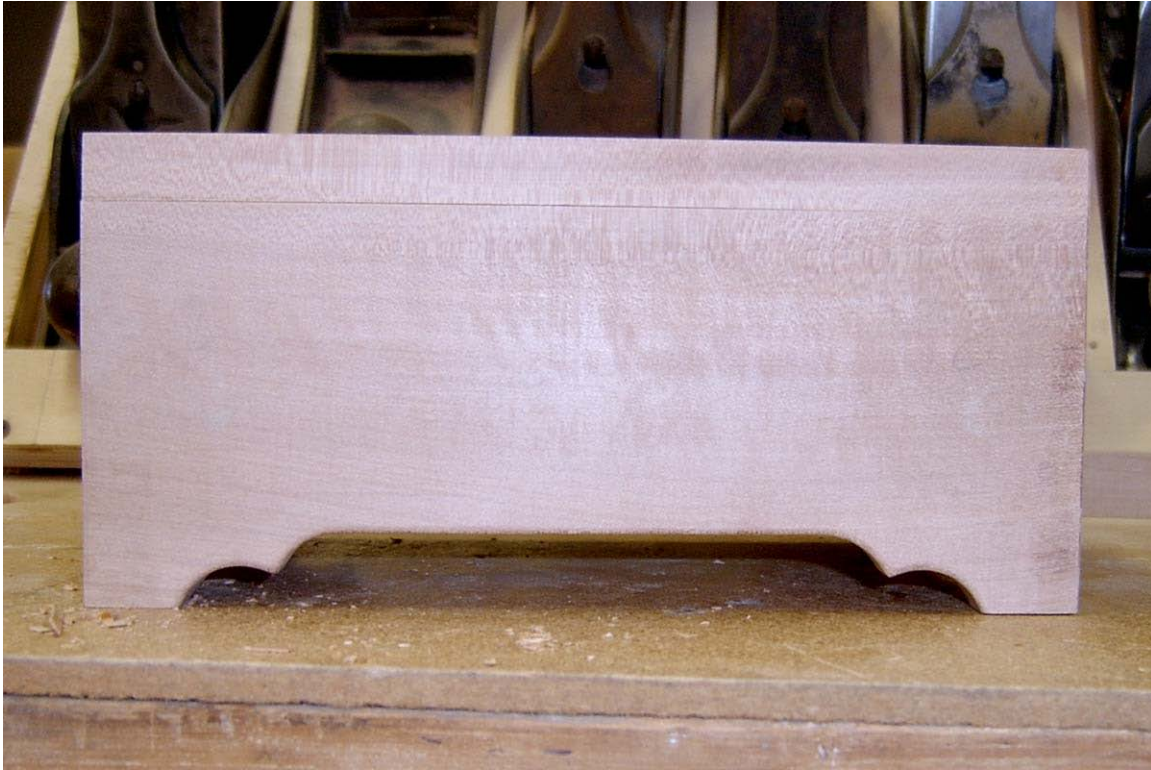
Here is the finished cut. You can see in the corner that the cut is almost all the way through but not quite.



I have found that a flush cut saw seems the best way to separate the lid from the box. I carefully make the cut using a pull stroke only. If I cut on the push stroke, the edge tends to break off on the inside leaving an edge inside that needs to be worked.



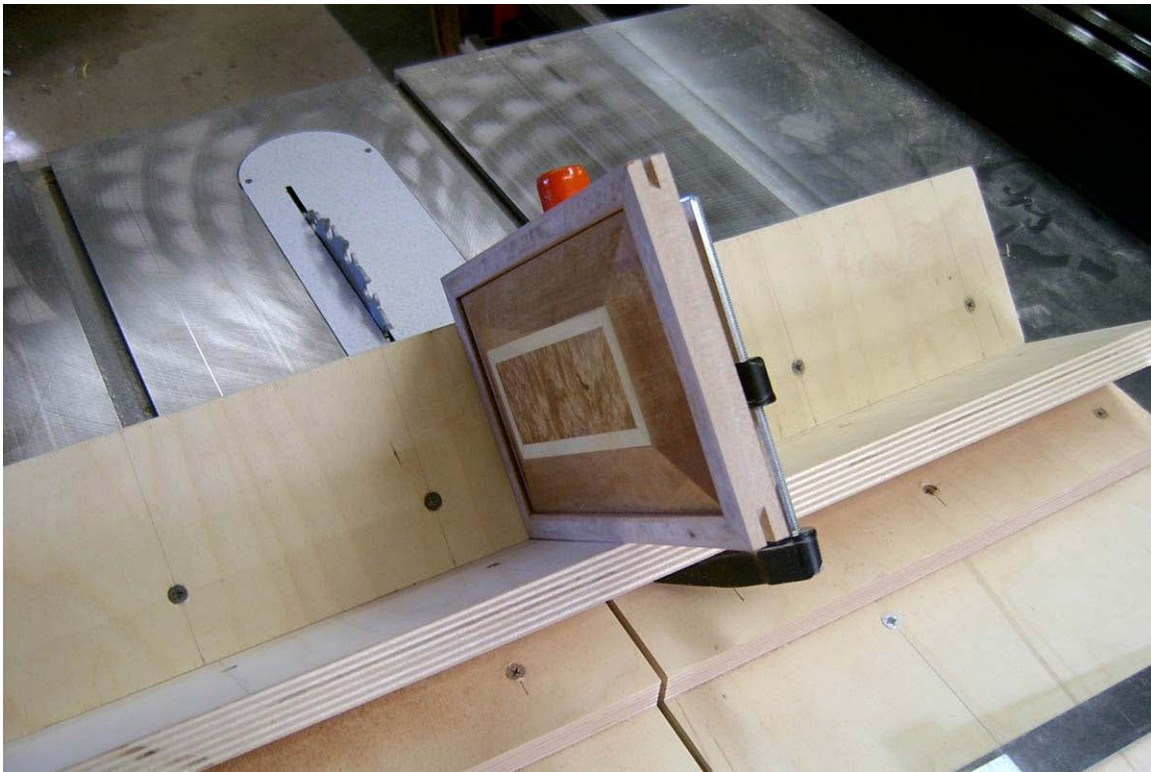
The separation is complete. I now use the flush cut saw, pull stroke only, to clean the rest of the material off the edge. Then I either use a hand-plane or the sandpaper set up to flatten the cut. What I use depends on how clean the cut is. When I use the sandpaper set-up, I use a circular motion and very little pressure. I don't want to force the edge down against the sandpaper. I just flatten it where it naturally sits. I also move the position of the piece being sanded so I hold it from different areas negating any difference in pressure from one hand over the other.



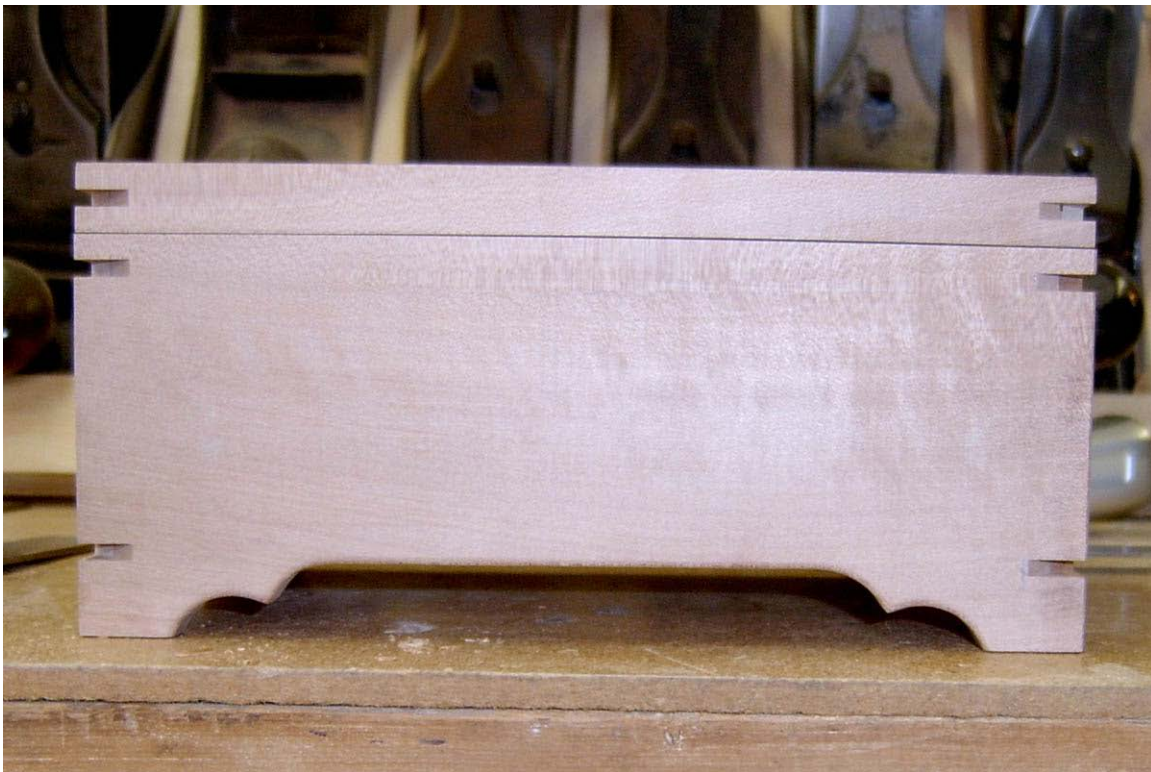
Here I show the lid sitting on the body.



Here I have laid out where I want my keys to go. I do this after I cut the lid free to make sure I get the keys centered on the lid.



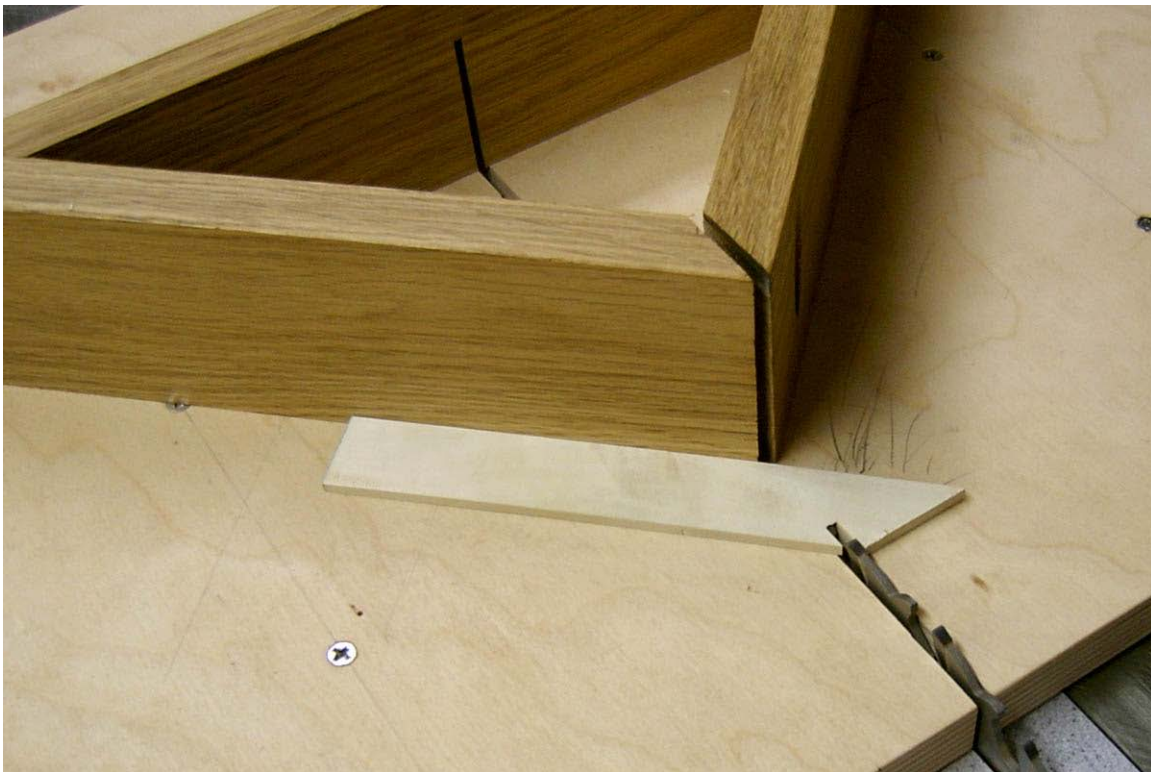
I use a sled to cut the slots for the keys. I use a 1/8" kerf blade with a flat cut so the bottom of the key slot isn't "v"ed. The clamp is holding a stop block in place.



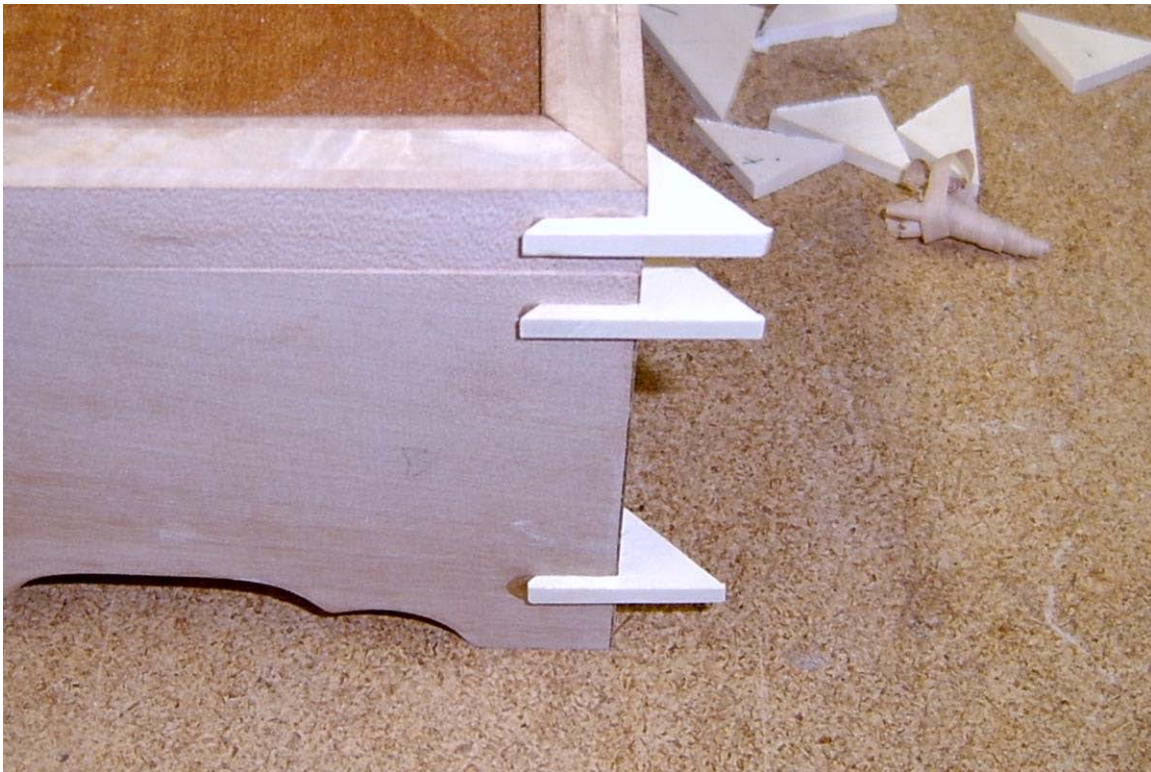
Here all the key slots are cut.



I cut a strip of the key material to a little over the thickness of the slot. I use a plane and thickness them until they are a tight fit.



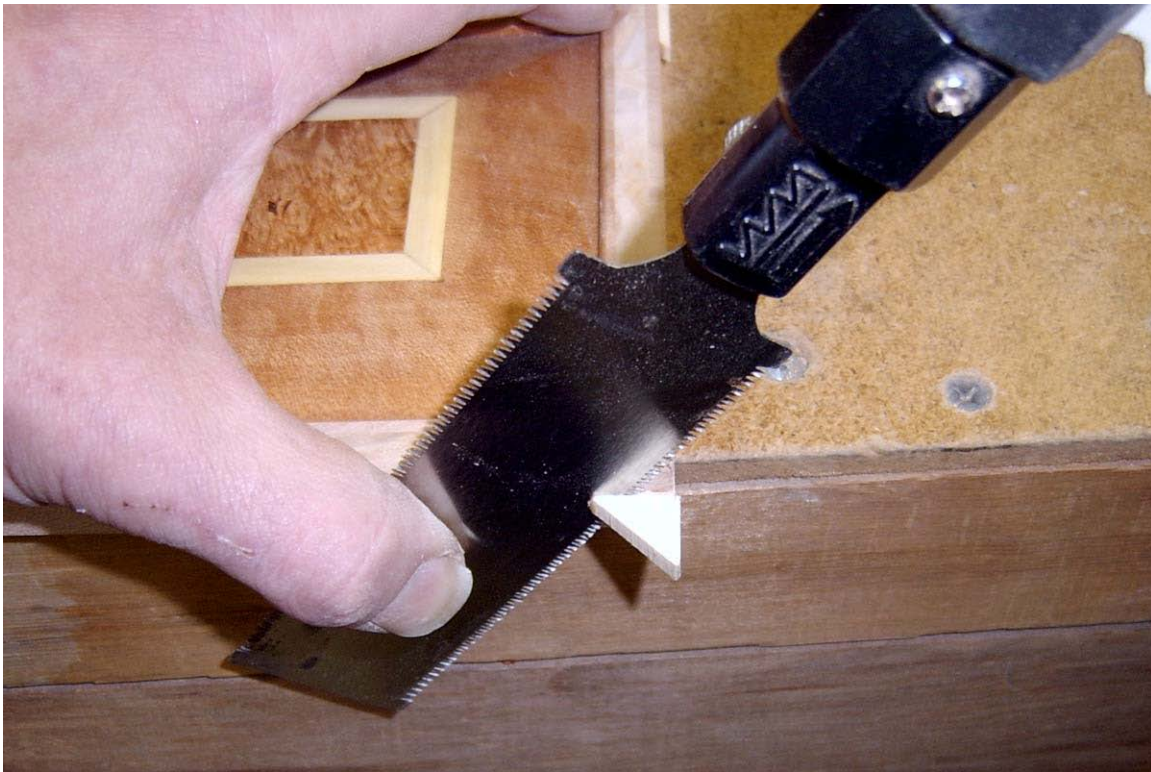
I use my 45° sled to cut the triangles. I hold the small triangle with a pencil so they don't go flying away. I tend to cut my triangle strips to whatever thickness wood I have. These are big enough that I take each one and cut it in half on my small band saw. I then take a small key and using my sandpaper board, I sand it until it fits smoothly into the key slot. I fit each one individually and leave them in the slot until I go to glue them up. I make my keys over sized to give me something to push on when inserting them.



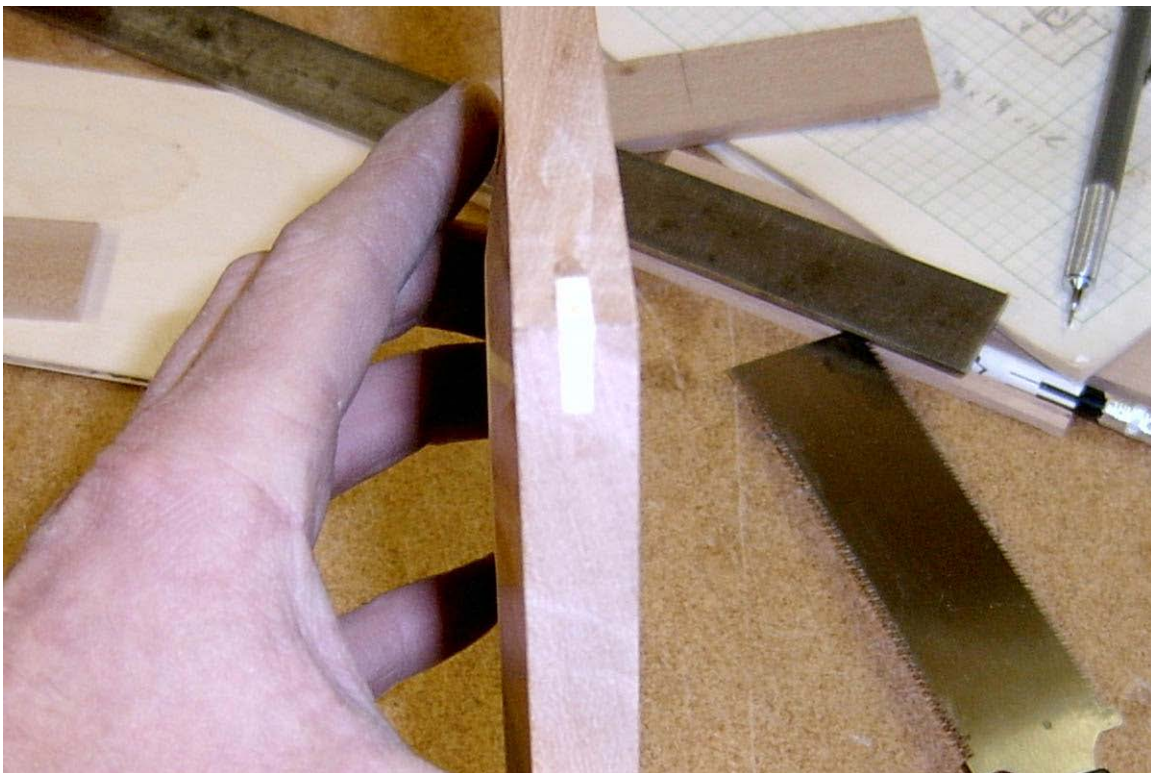
Here are some keys fit and glued up. I will trim these off with a flush cut saw when they are dry.



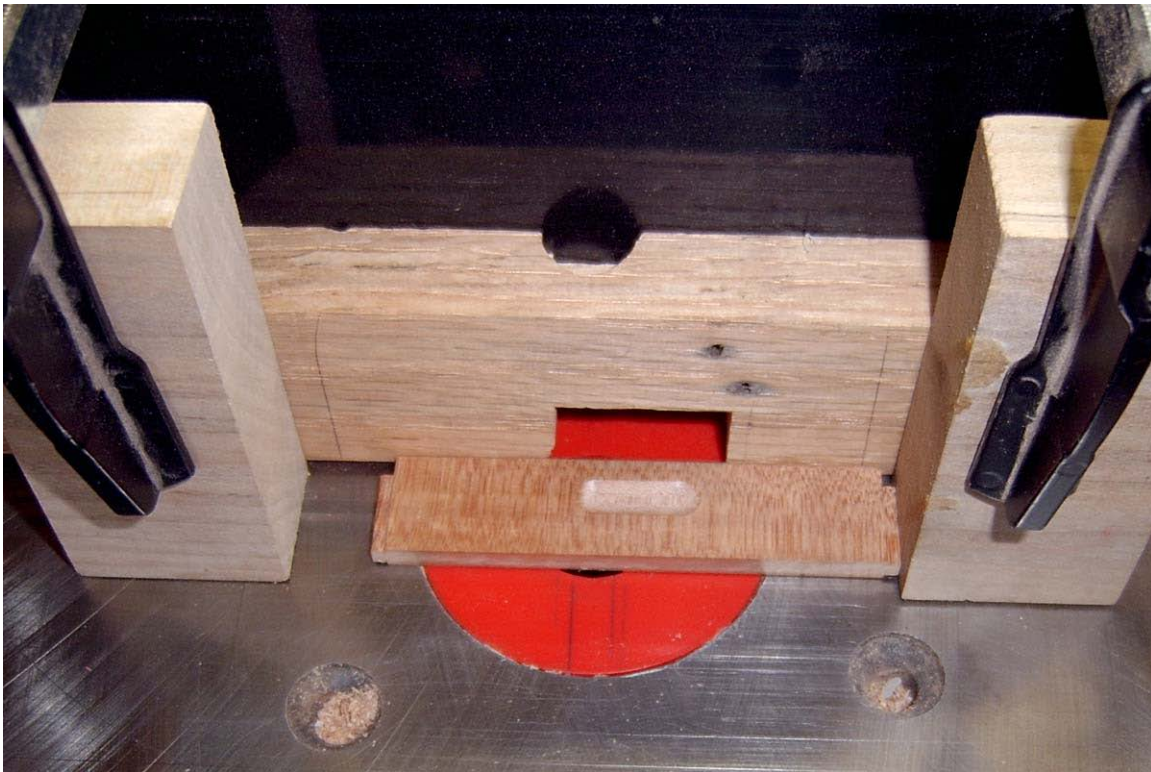
I cut one side of the key off. Now a thing I have learned from errors in the past. Do not cut the key towards the corner from the first. If you do, the chance of the key breaking at the corner is pretty high. This is a hard repair. What I do is to cut a little from the corner in first.



Then I finish the cut with the majority of the saw flat of the side. The first cut doesn't need to be done this way as the break will be on the waste material. The reason I don't just cut all the way from the corner in is that I get a closer cut being able to reference the saw on the side.



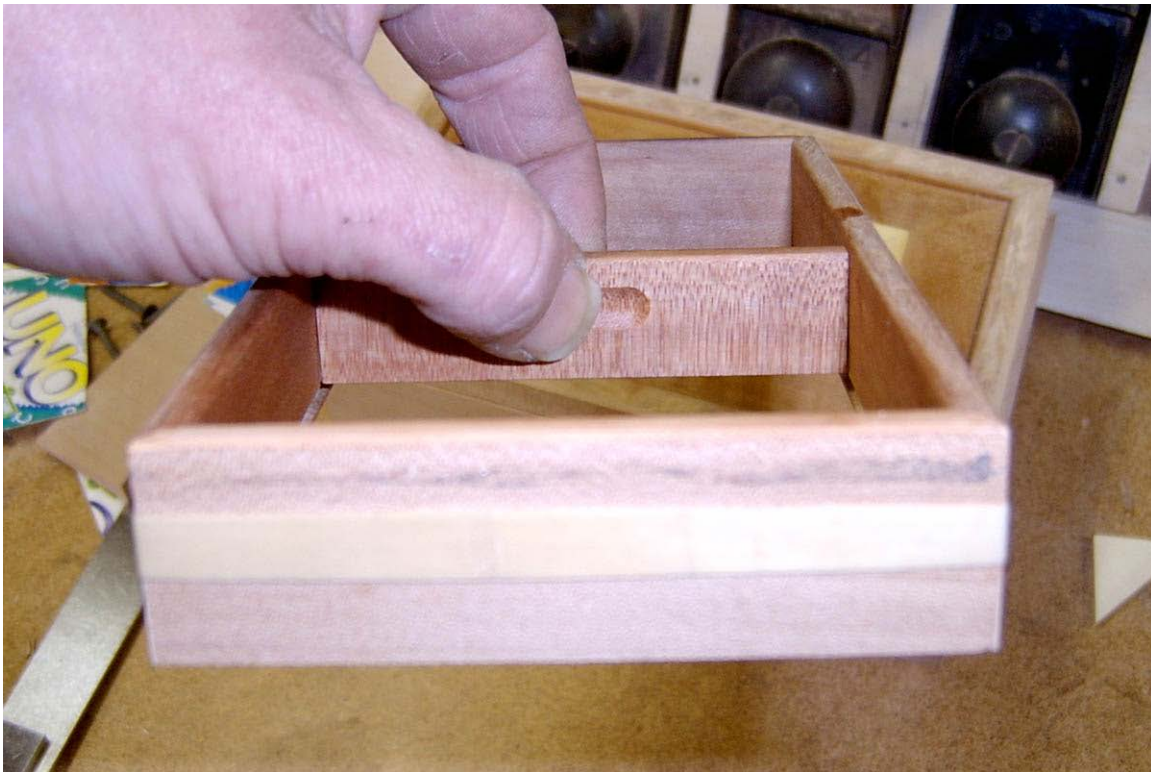
Not a great picture, but you can see the key after being cut.



Since I was doing the tray over again, I decided to do a couple of more things to it. First was I used a 1/16" round-over bit in the router and did both sides of the top edge. I also did the inside of the bottom edge. Doing the inside bottom edge gives boxes a more finished look IMHO. Here I am routing a finger groove with a 3/8" round-over bit. Again the set up has stop blocks set on the fence and is carefully tipped onto the bit with one end braced against the stop block.



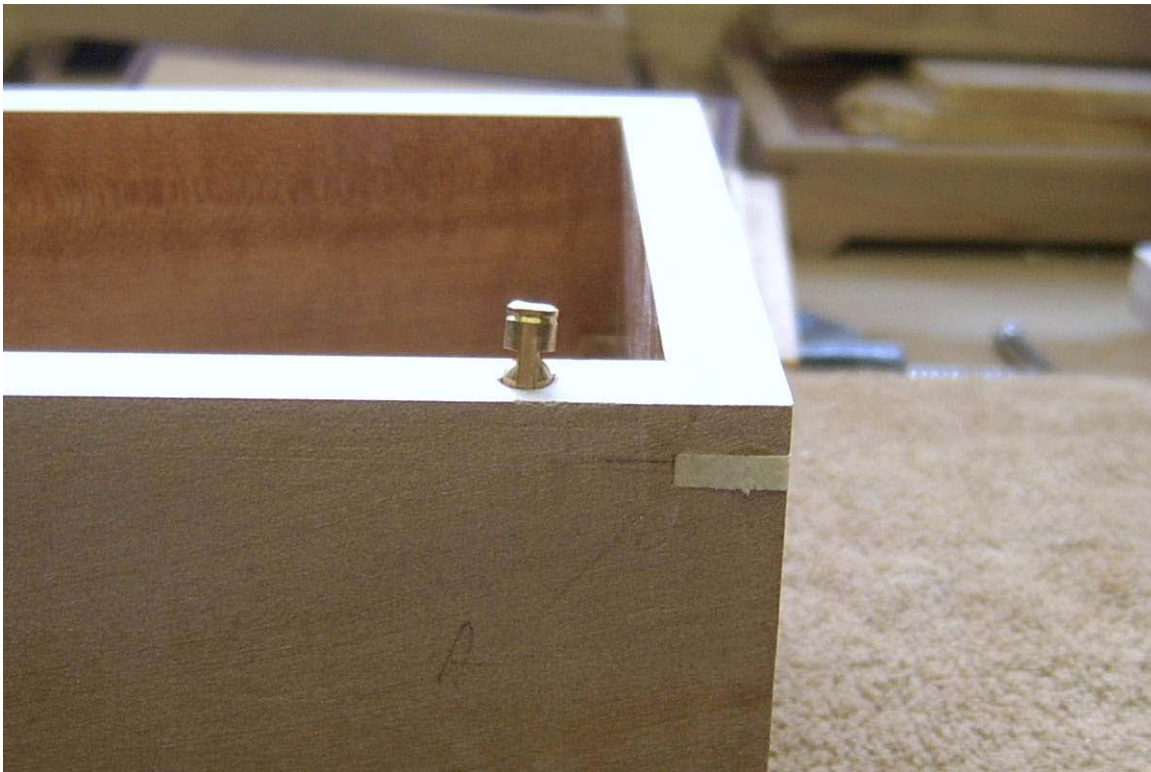
Here I am showing the top view of the tray. I got the center divider actually square this time. 😊



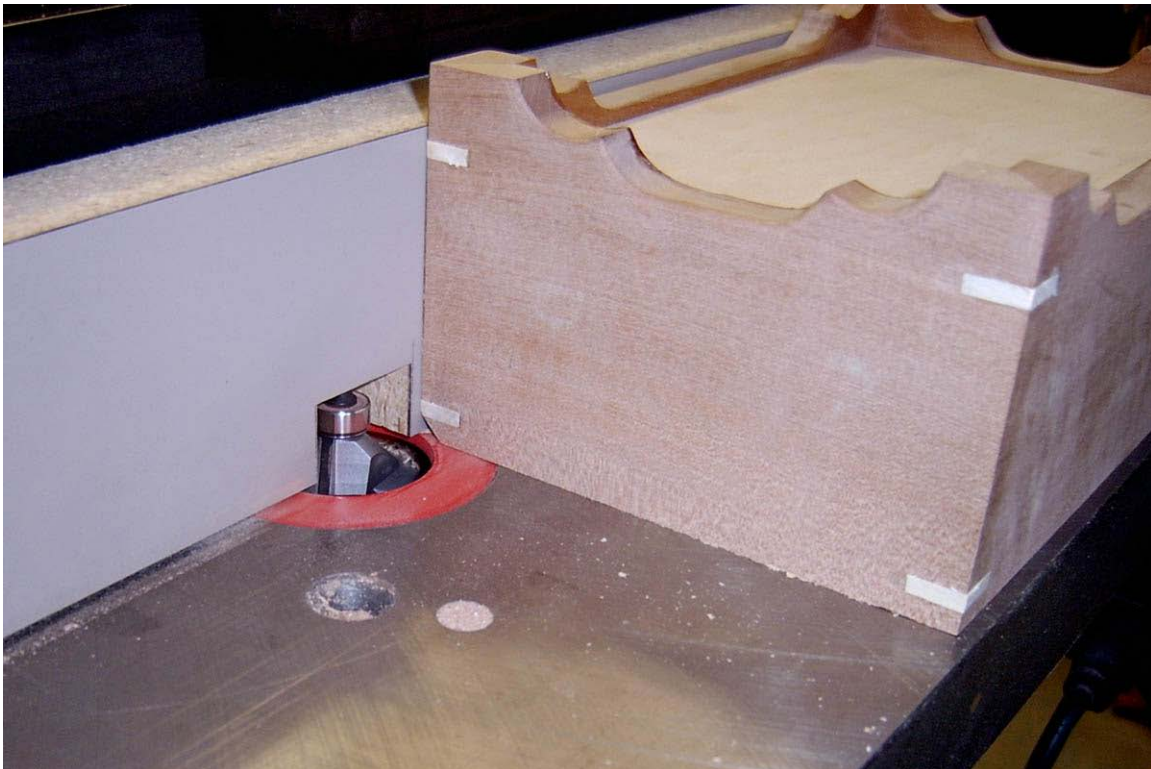
A side view showing the finger groove is use.



I now need to fit up the hinges. I test fit the hinge and if the hole isn't deep enough, I use my 5mm bit to deepen them by hand. I don't use the drill press when doing this as I can be a lot more accurate this way. If the hole is too deep, use a small piece to dowel to fill the hole.



Here is a hinge placed as it should be. It is very important that the hinges are placed $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of the hinge into each hole. If they are not deep enough, the lid will not close against the body. If either is too deep, they will not end up even in the two holes and when opening and closing, the line where the two pieces meet when open will be uneven.



Here I am using a 45° chamfer bit to route the back edges so the box will open. I set it up close to the depth/height I need and then bring it to where I want a little at a time.



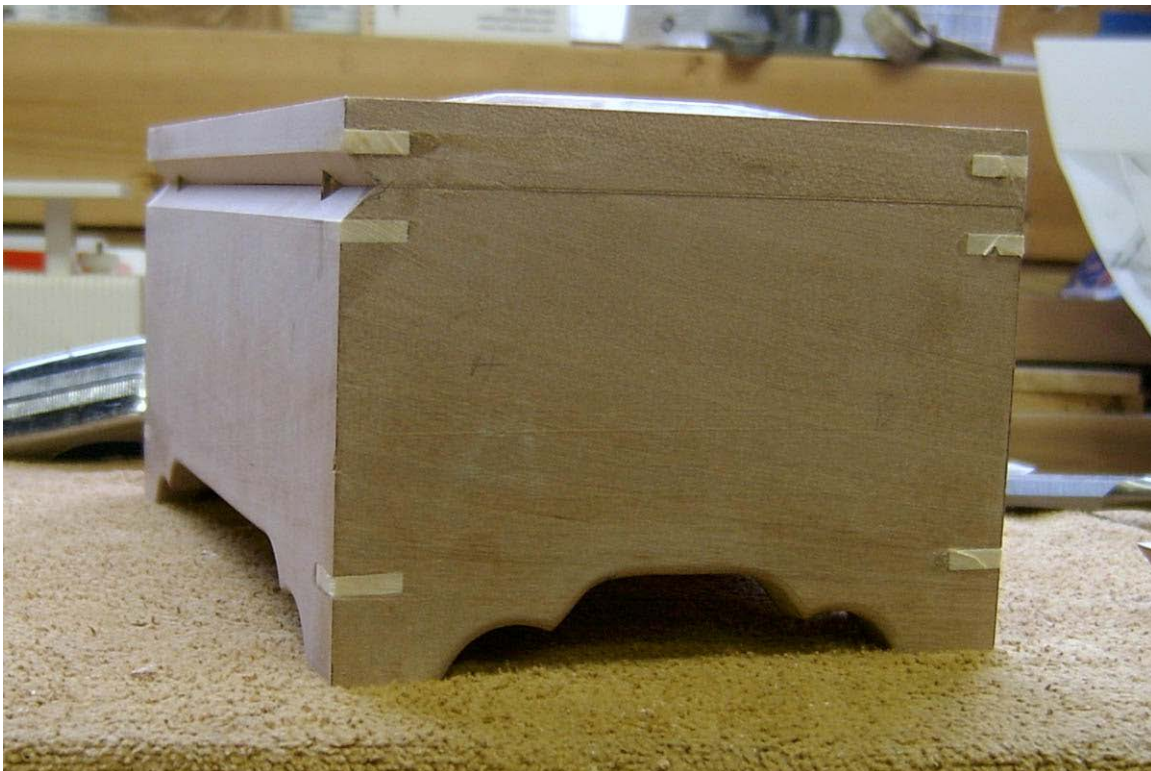
When the back chamfers are deep enough, the box will open to 90°.



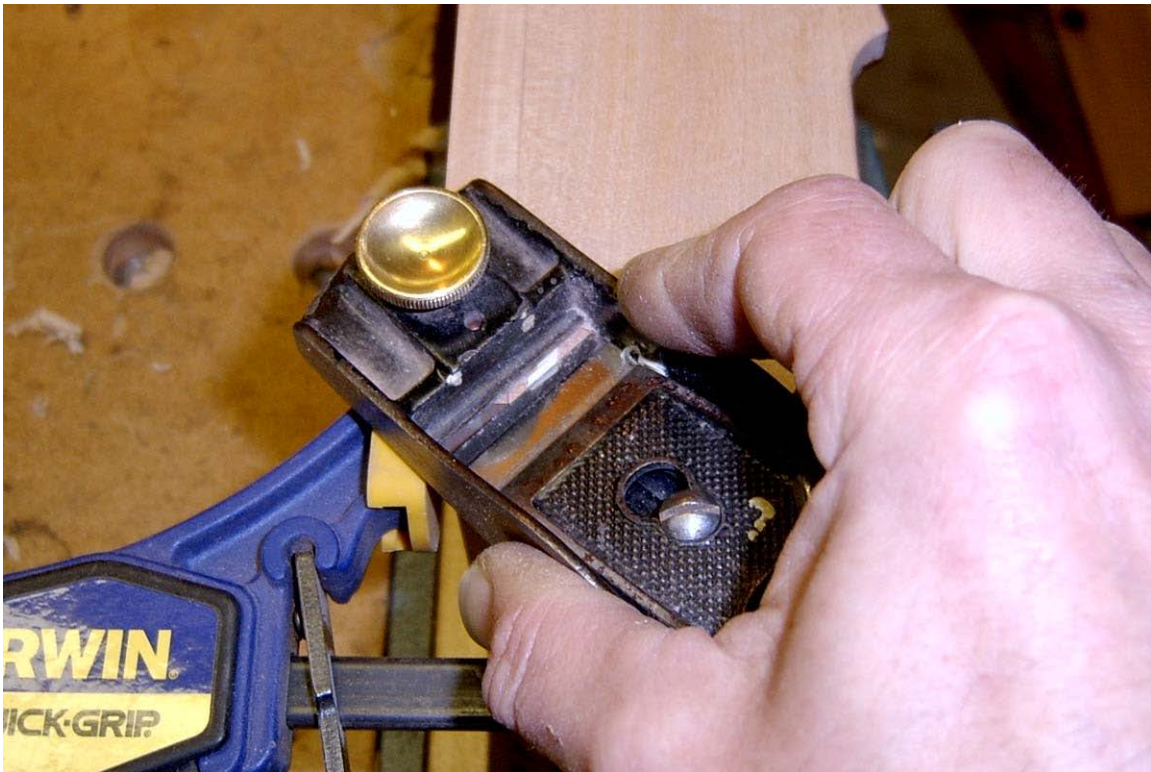
I put the hinges in and open the box. Notice the line where the two pieces meet is even. So far, so good.



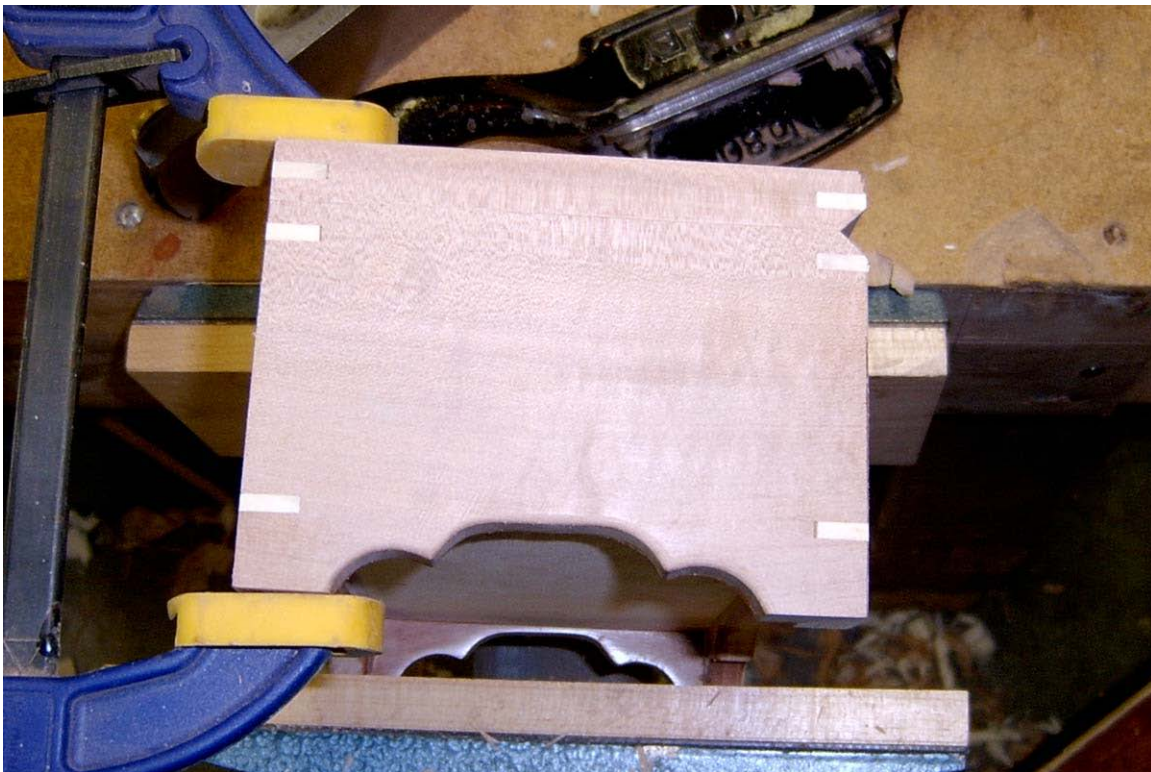
I close the box and check to see if all the sides are closed tight. The back looks good.



Sides look good as well.



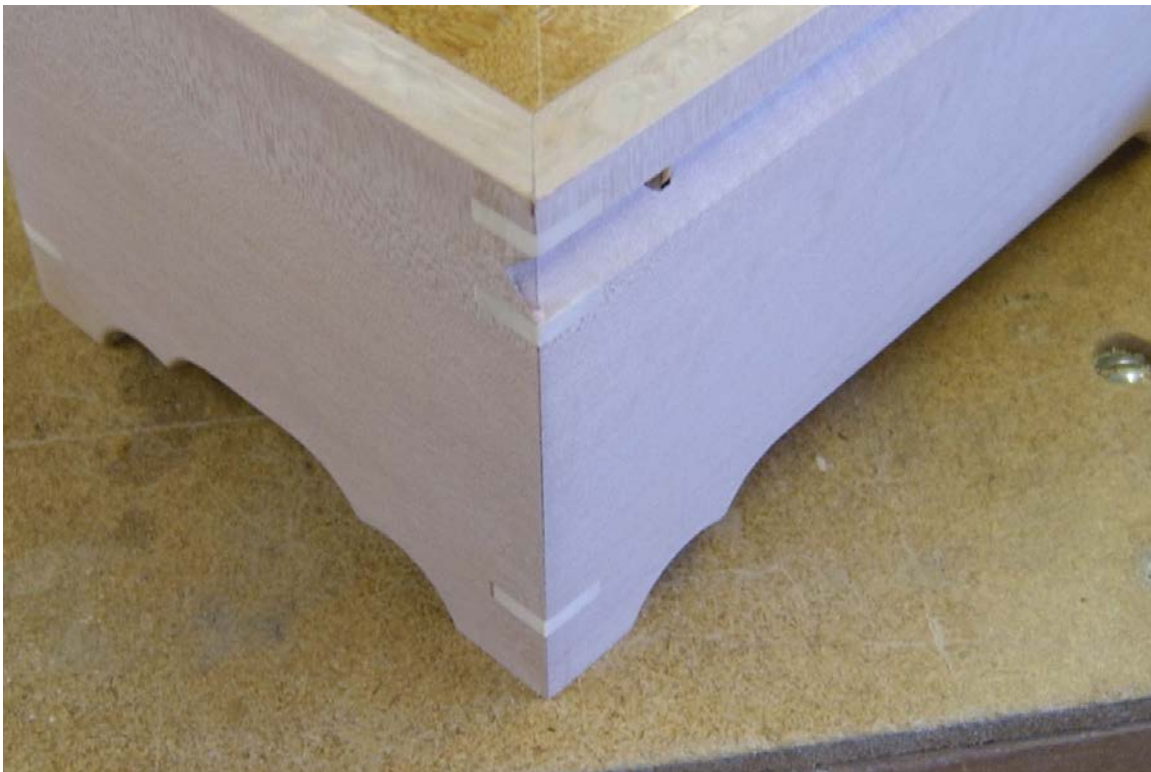
I then put the box in a vice and using a clamp, hold it closed. I then flush up the keys to the sides and the lid to the bottom if the hinges are off a bit. Always plane the keys from the outer edge in or they may chip out.



Here is one side ready to go. By pre-drilling the hinge holes, they line up really close with hardly any flushing to be done.



Now for a little fill work. I mix shellac with fine sawdust and work it into the areas where the miters didn't close up all the way or where a key may have chipped out.



Here I show the same corner after sanding.



All sanded to 320 grit and ready for oil.



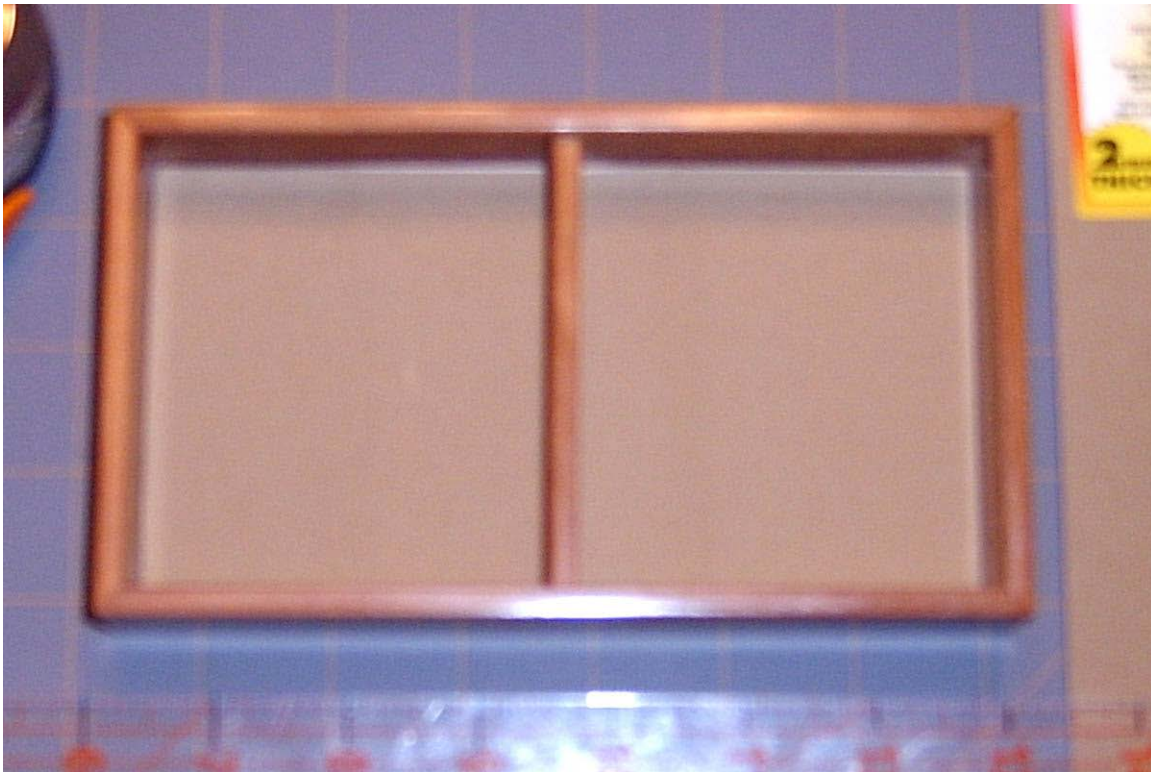
Here I show the top panel after oiling. You can see the box must not have been tight in the vice when I was flushing the sides and dented the top. SOAB! A lot of it will come out when I do the final shellacking but I just brought the quality of the box down several notches for sure.



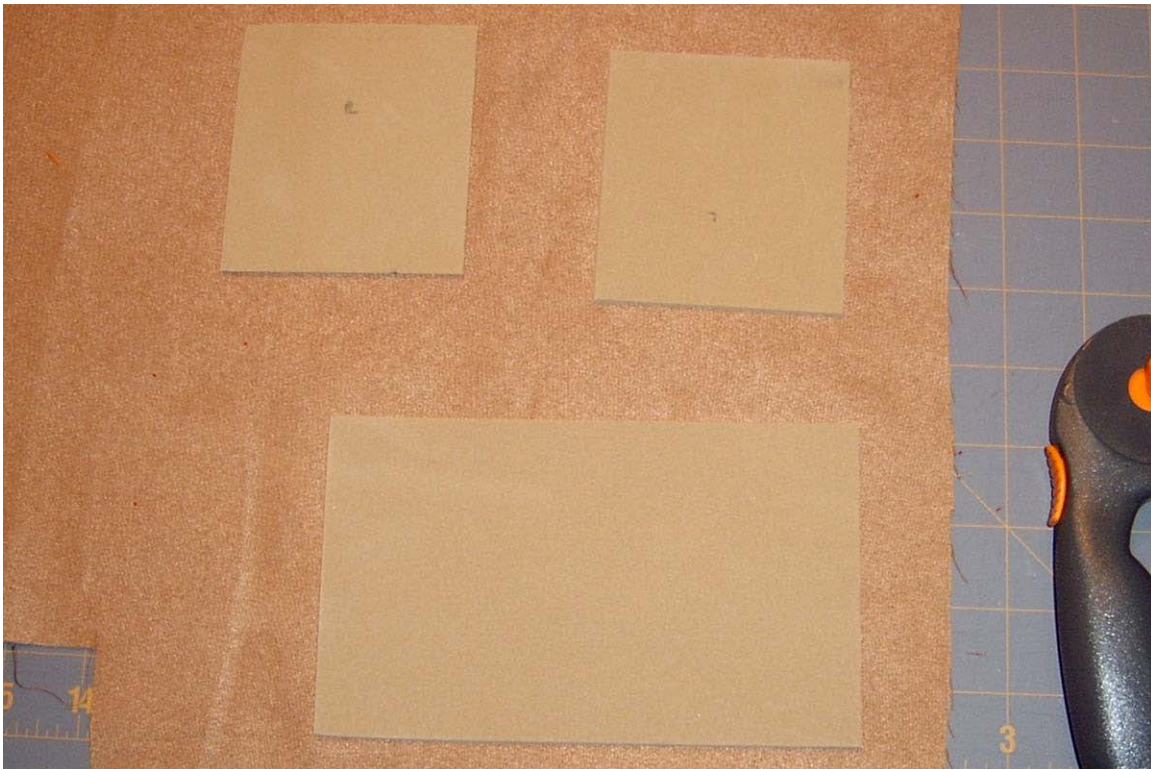
Here I show a side view after oiling.



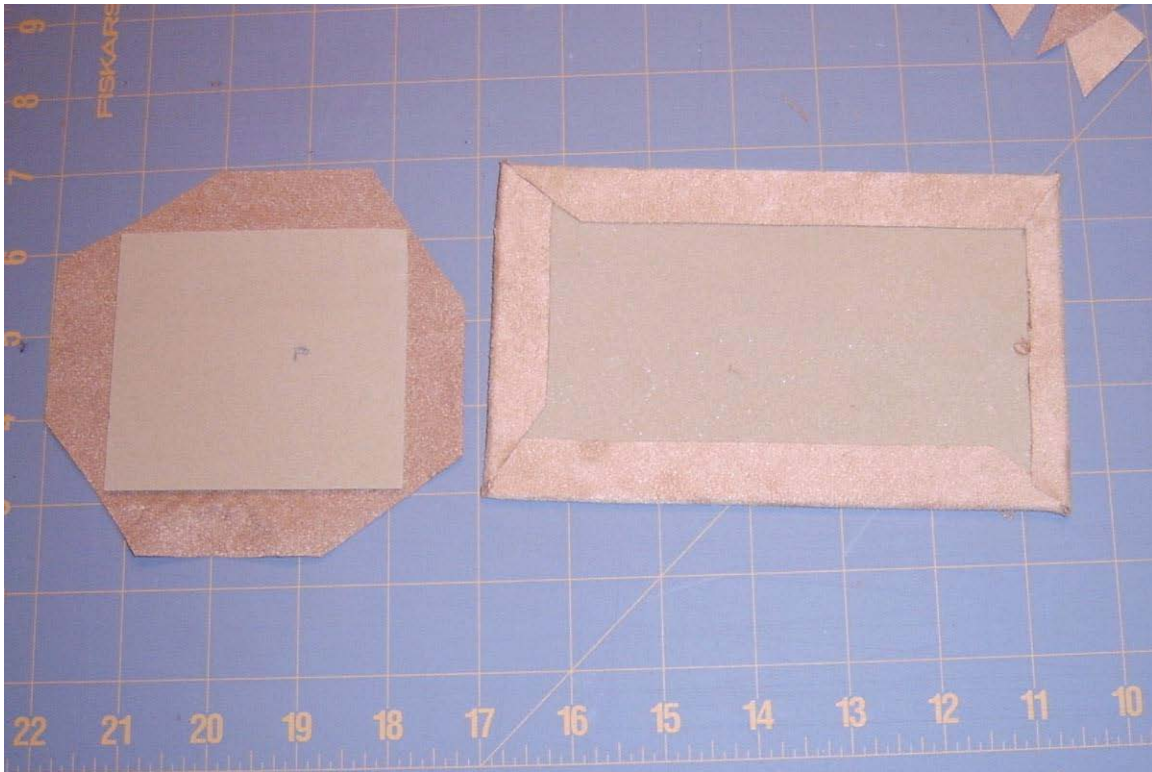
Here is my setup to do my French polishing. I have one and two pound cuts of shellac, denatured alcohol, mineral oil, a small rubber, a couple of squeeze bottles to drip shellac on the rubber with, some 300 and 2500 grit sandpaper for repairs, a small sanding block, a grey Scotch-Brite, and my soft rag. And that is as much as I will tell you about how I French polish as I am still very much the amateur at it. After shellacking, I will glue the top and bottom together and then wax the whole thing using a white Scotch-Brite pad.



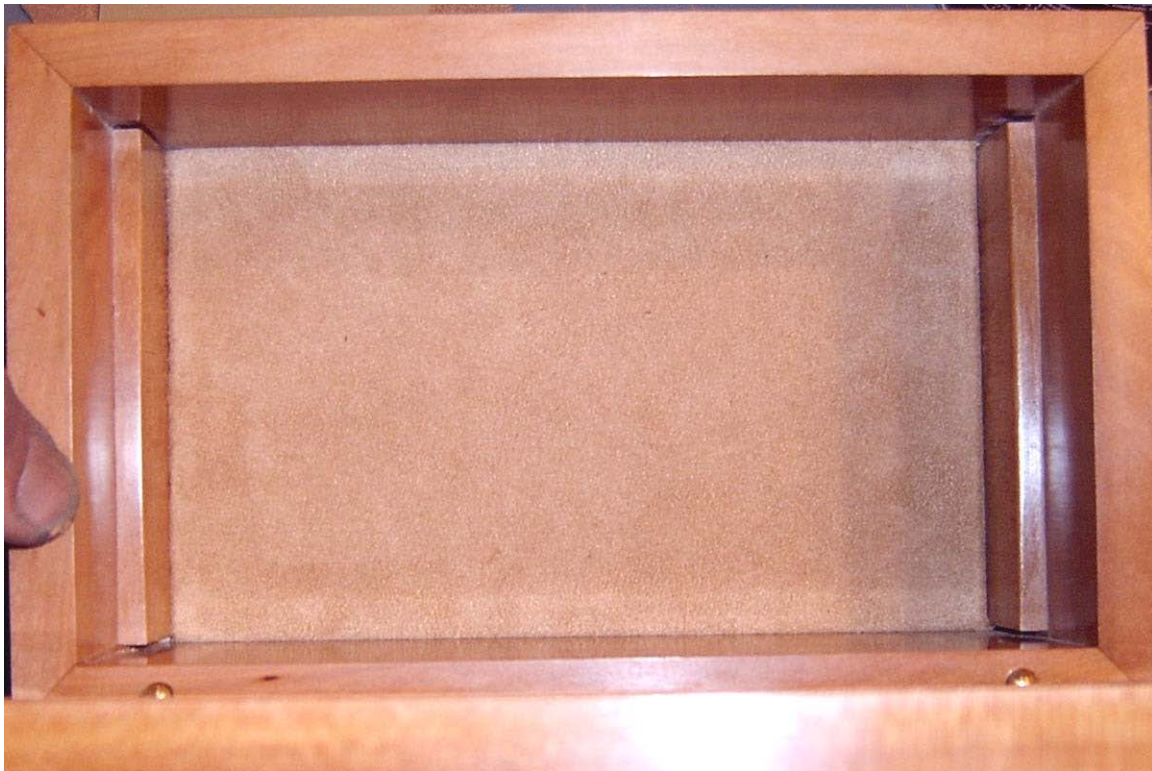
Now I need to line the box. I have a rotary cutter and self healing mat I use when doing my cutting. They can be found at a fabric store. The first thing I do is to cut my 2mm foam to just a little under the inside of the box size. This allows for the thickness of the liner that will be wrapped around it. Kind of hard to see with the bad photo but the lighter stripe around the edge is the plywood under the foam.



I then glue the pieces to my fabric with spray glue. (I am using synthetic suede for this box.)



I then cut around the pieces leaving about 1/2" - 3/4" to be folded over. I cut the corners off at 45°. Note that you should not cut right up to the corner but about 1/16" away from it so the corner gets wrapped as well. I then spray the edges with glue and fold the fabric over. I do this by running my finger along the edge of the foam back and forth and slowly fold the fabric over.



While the glue is still sticky I spray the whole underside of the piece and insert it into the box. I use a butter knife to tuck the edges in and then press the whole thing down. The Box is now complete.



Top view



Front view



Right side view



Back View



Left side view



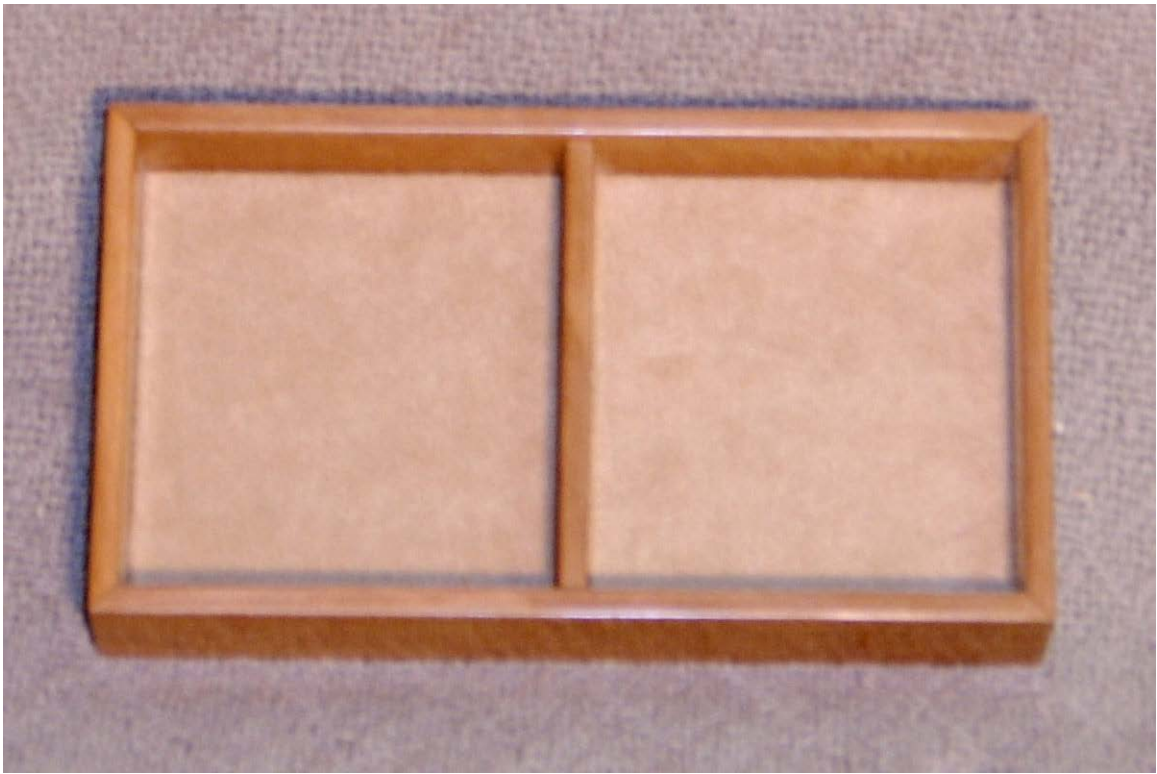
Full frontal view



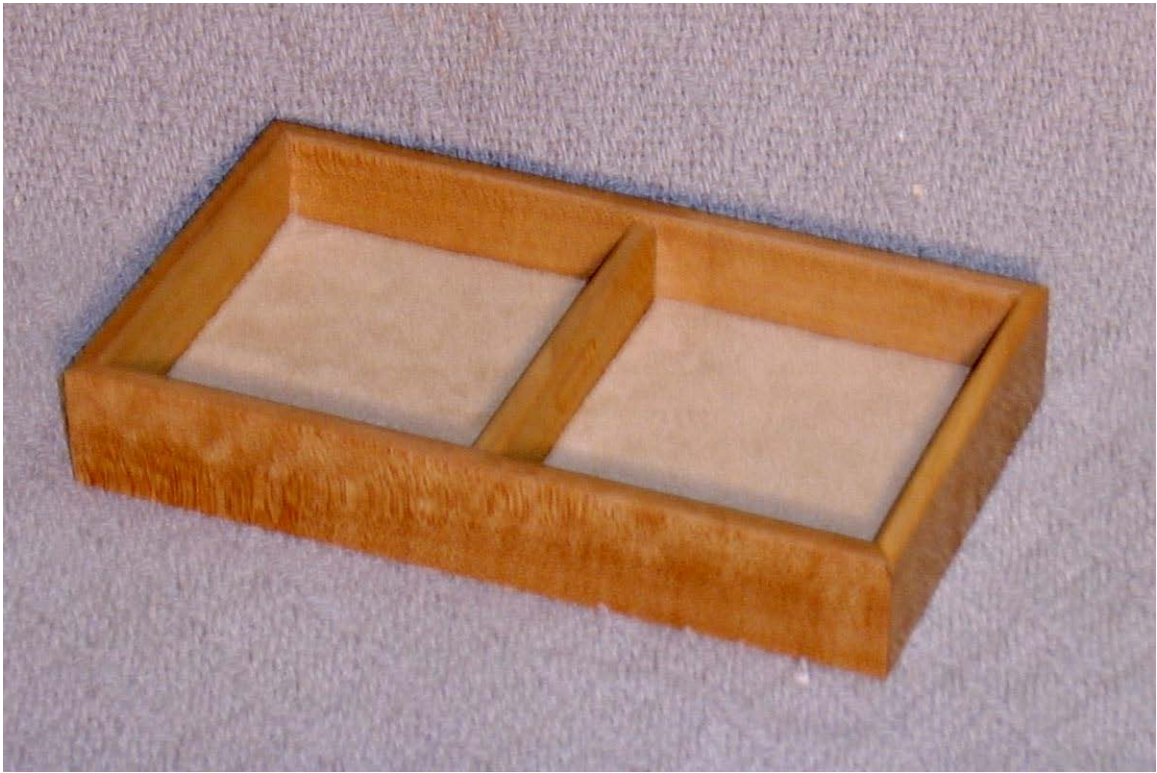
Open view with tray inside



Open view with tray removed



Tray top view



Tray full view