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Building a Beta* Bandsaw Box

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* *Apologies to all. It's the title I landed a pun.*

Why Build Bandsaw Boxes???

- Infinite number of designs possible
- Relatively small projects
- Comparatively quick builds
- Inexpensive materials / few tools required



Materials

- 1” x 6” x 48” pine board (relatively knot-free)
- Small drawer pull
- Flocking material / acid brush
- Glue
- Blue carpenter’s tape
- Finish

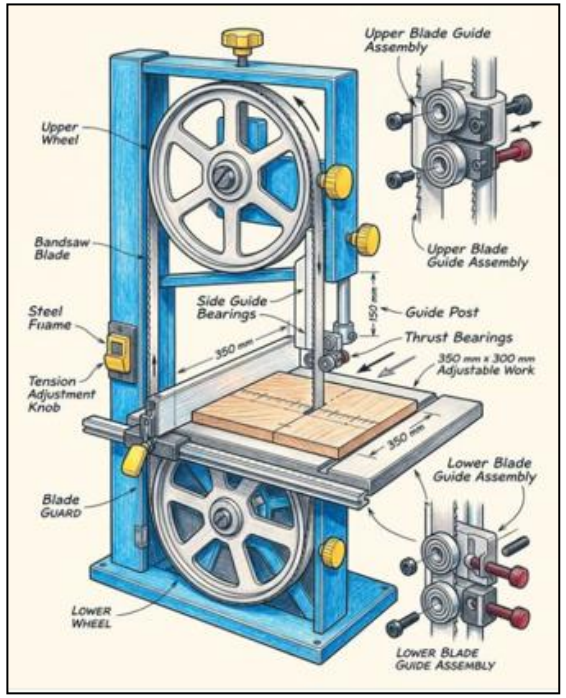


Tools

- Bandsaw and 3/16” 4 TPI Skip Tooth blade
- Belt or disc, random orbital, and spindle sanders
- Router and 1/8”R roundover bit
- Clamps

Before Cutting Starts

Verify the Saw is Properly Set-up



Graphic by Pathan Awais Khan / Facebook

1. The blade is properly tensioned.
2. The blade is square to the fence and the table.
3. The blade is properly aligned with the side and thrust bearings.
4. The guide post and upper bearings are not more than 1” – 2” above the workpiece.

Part I, The Build

1. Cut, glue, and clamp boards to achieve target thickness, often 4” to 5”. Maintain a consistent grain orientation.



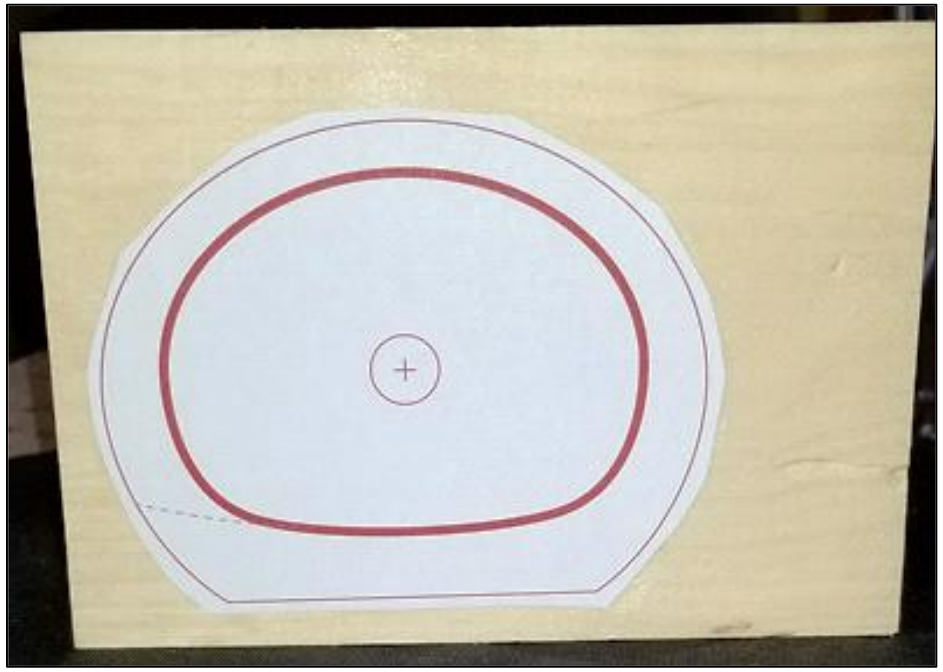
Glue-up



Clamps removed

2. Attach a pattern. Use spray glue or double-sided tape to hold it in place.

Grain direction ⟶



Pattern from *The New Bandsaw Box Book*
by David Picciuto

3. Using a 3/16” 4TPI skip tooth blade; carefully cut along the narrow outer ring.



Stay just outside of pattern line

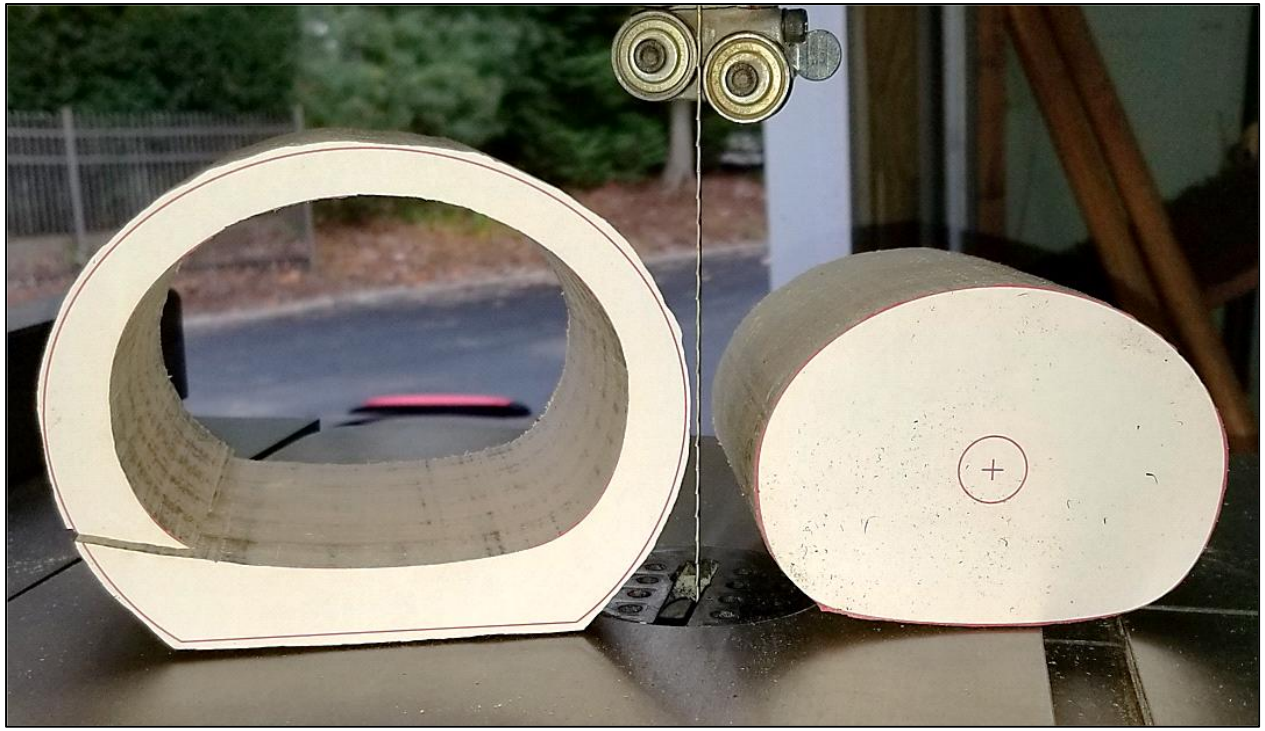
4. Cut the back off (opposite the pattern side). Make it ½” – 5/8” thick. Save this piece.



Use the bandsaw fence to maintain constant thickness

5. Remove and save the core by cutting the pattern along the thick line.

Enter by cutting with the grain



Stay in the middle of the pattern line.

6. Glue and clamp the outer shell to hide the cut line.



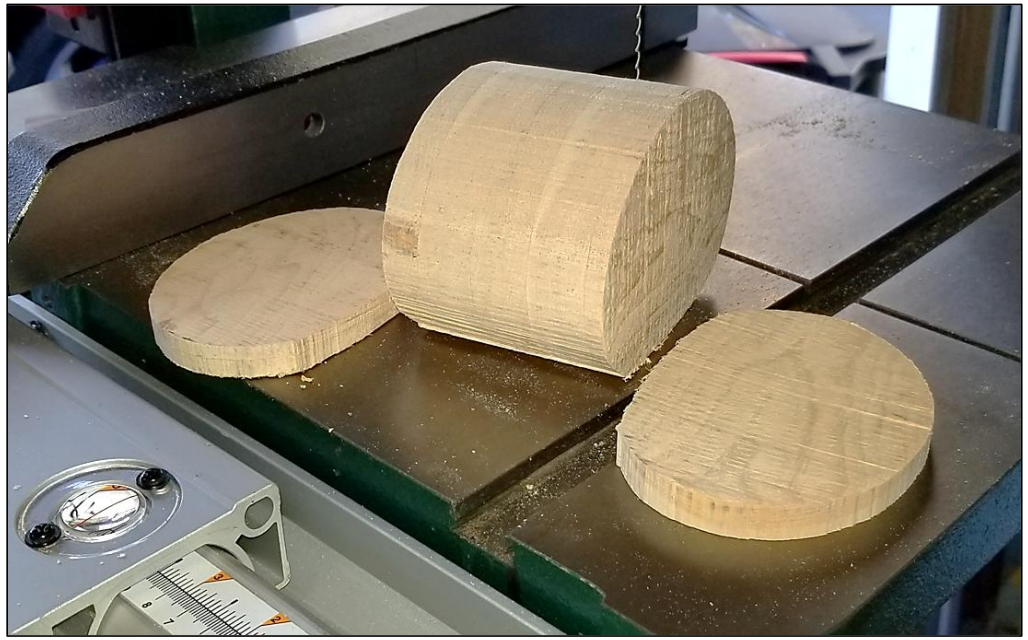
Firmly clamp

7. Reattach back piece to outer shell.



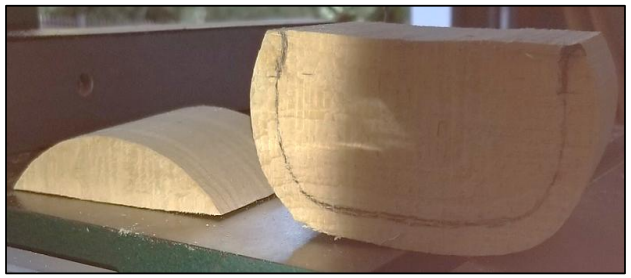
Securely clamp until glue dries

8. Carefully sand surfaces smooth to the pattern line of the outer shell only. Disc or belt sanders work best.
9. Slice off front and back pieces from the drawer section. Aim for thicknesses of ½” or slightly more.



Front and back from drawer core

10. Sketch the sidewalls and bottom of the drawer; cut-out waste material.





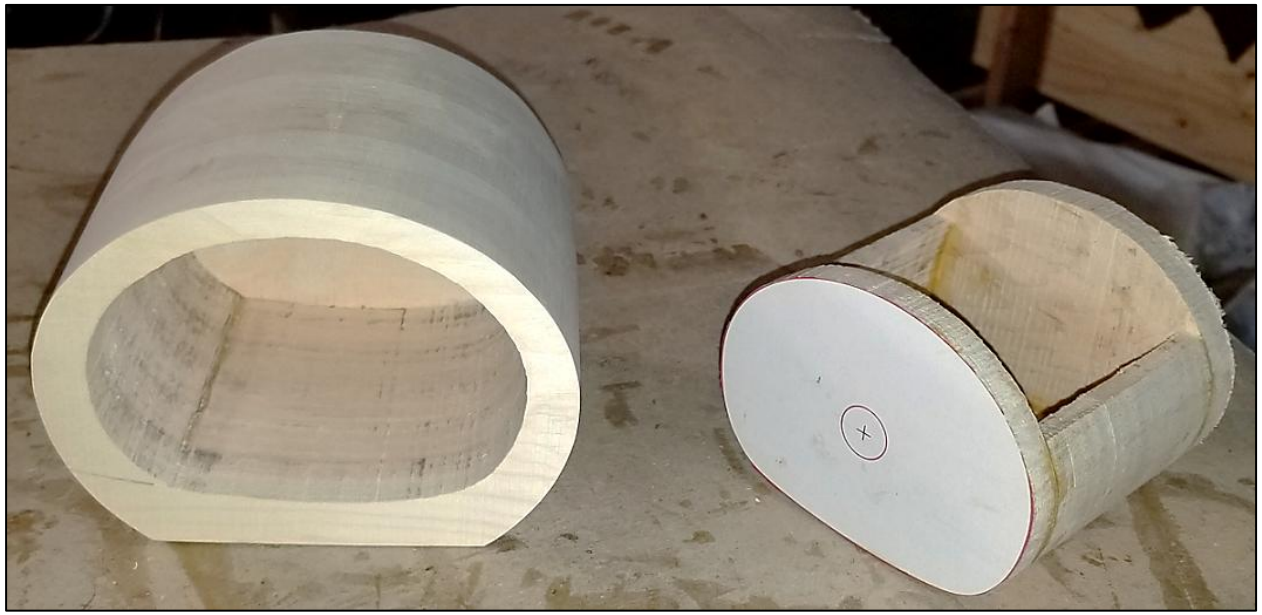
Sidewalls and bottom
are about 3/8” thick

10. Reattach front and back to drawer core.



Glue and clamp drawer assembly

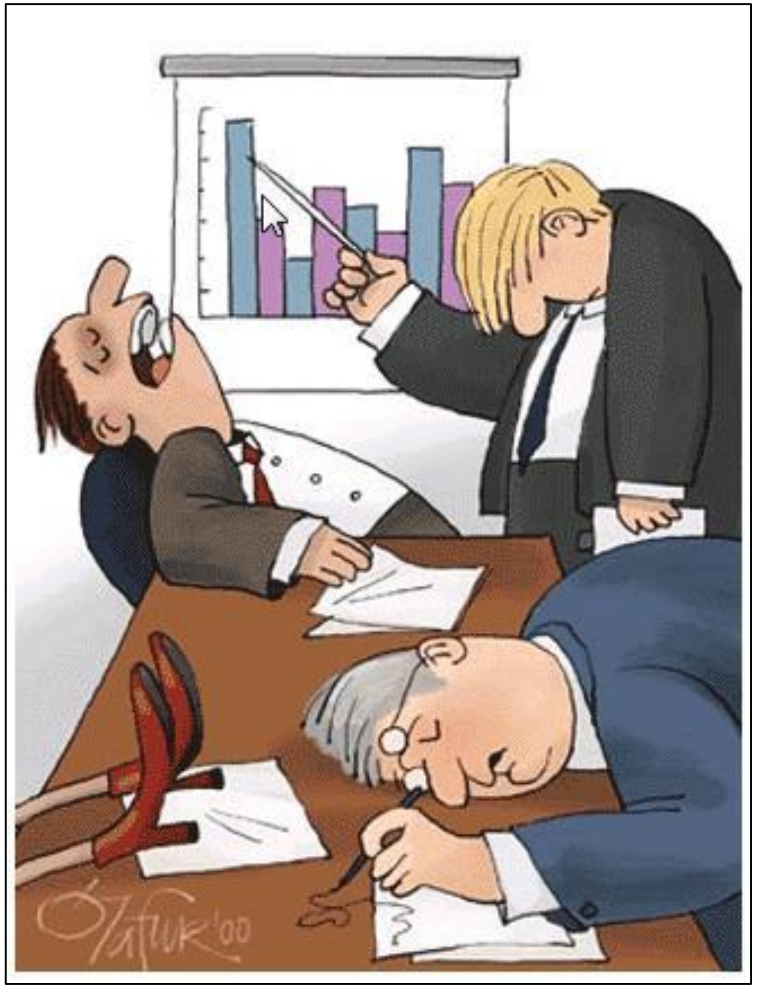
11. Very carefully sand the external drawer surfaces, just enough to remove saw marks. Remove pattern.



Components of the beta bandsaw box

Building a Beta* Bandsaw Box

Moving on…



Part II, Finishing

1. Use shellac, lacquer, whatever, *on outside surfaces only! Do not sand inner case or any drawer surfaces.* Apply 3 or more coats.



Use blue carpenter's tape to prevent flocking adhesive from adhering to finished surfaces

2. Important components of a flocking session. Not shown, but equally important, is a disposable bristle brush, dust mask, gloves, a cardboard box in which to apply the flocking, and an apron.



Case, drawer, flocking gun, adhesive, carpenter's tape, and flocking material

3. If possible, flocking should be done outdoors. No odor, but flocking airborne filaments get everywhere. A mask must be used. Once applied, the flocking adhesive allows only 15 minutes of working time. It is a messy process.



Flocking applied. Allow 24 hours to dry thoroughly.

There you have it – A Beta Bandsaw Box.



Completed!

Some Helpful References

Krabtree, Kyle. *Make Your Own Bandsaw Box.* https://www.woodcraft.com/blog_entries/make-your-own-bandsaw-box Woodcraft, 2019.

Picciuto, David. *The New Bandsaw Box Book: Techniques & Patterns for the Modern Woodworker.* Cedar Lane Press, 2020.

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