

JOHN WILSON, BOXMAKER  
2010  
CATALOG OF SHAKER BOX SUPPLIES

For twenty-seven years, we have been introducing people to the craft of oval boxes as made by the Shakers in centuries past. Classes are held here and around the country to give hands-on experience. We also produce instructional articles, books and videos (p. 3).

We provide bands and tops and bottoms for a wide range of sizes and styles of boxes, carriers and trays (see our pattern packet on page 3 for details). This involves starting from the log and overseeing cutting, drying and surfacing of all materials to insure quality. Tops and bottoms are solid wood in the smaller sizes, and special shop made plywood for larger sizes requiring the dimensional stability achieved by cross banding wood layers in plywood. We guarantee satisfaction in all your purchases.

The copper tacks used in oval box construction are made on machines that date back to the late 1800's. Our machines were acquired from the W.W. Cross Nail Co. when they ceased tack manufacturing in 1991. We currently make nine sizes of tacks plus the 1/2" copper shoe peg used for securing top and bottom boards when copper is preferred in place of wood pegs.

### News for 2010

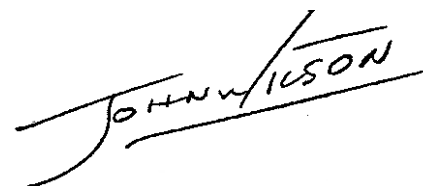
Our water tray line-up has changed. It has come a long way from the painted flower box which was the only option until 1993, when our copper trays with stainless piano hinged lids were first introduced. Then in 2004, flower boxes were no longer being made from metal and copper prices took a steep increase, so we added a line of galvanized water trays. With their simplified lift off lid, we were able to offer a range of sizes at affordable prices, including 32" (\$38), 48" (\$75), 58" (\$95), and 69" (\$120). Brand new this year is a 48" copper tray that is 9" wide. It accommodates the tall #8 box band as well as the occasional #9-12 box bands by alternating ends while soaking. The price is \$199 for a beautiful, long lasting tray.

Our web site, ShakerOvalBox.com, has been updated with PDF downloads of all the articles by John as they appeared in **Popular Woodworking** since 2003. Also, we are proud of the article describing the Home Shop in the "Great Woodshops" series by editor Kara Uhl. The class booklet has been removed from our site due to distortion of the pattern pages. The **Popular Woodworking** article "Building Shaker Oval Boxes" #135 Aug. 2003 gives the same information with accurate patterns and great step photos. The class booklet is still available in printed form for \$4 (\$6 post paid) see page 3.

The first boxmaking workshop I taught was held in Holland, Michigan, in April 1983. In the 27 years since that event over 4,000 individuals have been introduced to the Shaker way of making boxes in our classes. Writing for woodworking journals such as **Fine Woodworking**, **Wood**, and **Popular Woodworking**, sales through catalogs such as Lee Valley Tools, and the popularity of our web site have reached many more. No doubt the most meaningful way to introduce others is when you show and tell of your craft. Thank you.

Most weekdays we are in the shop from 8:30 to 5:00 EST to take your order. We do not take credit cards, but do trust you with an open invoice system to pay after receipt of your order. We ship by UPS or parcel post - your choice or the cheapest way. We work to accomplish a fast turnaround, but orders for bands and other wood products may take one to two weeks.

For Eric Pintar and myself, may your boxes bring satisfaction to you, and joy to others.



Swinging Handle Carrier (Photo by Al Parish)

## BOX MAKING SUPPLIES

☞ **FIRST TIME BOX MAKERS**, I suggest the nest of five boxes (#0-#4). Throughout the supply list, hand symbols indicates wood, tacks and bench materials needed to make these boxes. For further information, instruction and photos visit our website, [ShakerOvalBox.com](http://ShakerOvalBox.com) or see [Fine Woodworking](#) Oct. 1993, pg. 54

## SHAKER OVAL BOX BANDS and TOPS & BOTTOMS

BOX SIZE	BAND PRICES		TOP & BOTTOM PRICES			
	<i>cherry or maple</i> per box set	<i>cherry or pine</i> in <u>pairs</u>	<i>lacewood</i> in <u>pairs</u>	<i>birdseye maple top</i> and plain bottom	<i>birdseye top</i> ( <u>each</u> )	
#000.....	\$1.75.....	solid \$1.75.....	solid \$2.25.....	solid \$2.25.....	\$1.35	
#00.....	\$1.75.....	solid \$1.75.....	solid \$2.25.....	solid \$2.25.....	\$1.35	
#0.....	\$2.25.....	solid \$2.25.....	solid \$2.75.....	solid \$2.75.....	\$1.60	
#1.....	\$2.75.....	solid \$2.75.....	solid \$3.25.....	solid \$3.50.....	\$2.10	
#2.....	\$3.50.....	solid \$3.50.....	solid \$4.00.....	ply \$4.75.....	\$3.00	
#3.....	\$4.50.....	solid \$4.50.....	solid \$5.00.....	ply \$6.75.....	\$4.50	
#4.....	\$5.50.....	solid \$5.50.....	solid \$6.75.....	ply \$8.00.....	\$5.25	
#5.....	\$7.75.....	solid or ply \$7.75.....	solid \$10.00.....	ply \$11.00.....	\$7.10	
			<i>cherry, pine (solid thru #8), &amp; plain maple (<u>each</u>)</i>		<i>birdseye top</i> ( <u>each</u> )	
#6.....	\$10.00.....	ply \$5.50.....	ply \$5.50.....	ply \$10.00.....	\$10.00	
#7.....	\$13.50.....	ply \$7.75.....	ply \$7.75.....	ply \$12.00.....	\$12.00	
#7 Div. Carrier ...	\$12.75 (band 2-1/2" x 40-1/2" with center divider 5/16" x 4-3/4" x 13")					
#8.....	\$18.00.....	ply \$10.00.....	ply \$10.00.....	ply \$15.50.....	\$15.50	
#8 Carrier.....	\$13.50 (band 2-3/4" wide, with #C handle)					
#8 Button Box ...	\$13.50 (bottom band 2-3/4" wide, with top band)					
#8 Tall.....	\$24.50* (bottom band 8" wide, with top band)					
#9.....	\$21.00*.....	ply \$13.50.....	ply \$13.50.....	ply \$18.00.....	\$18.00	
#10.....	\$24.00*.....	ply \$15.50.....	ply \$15.50.....	ply \$20.00.....	\$20.00	
#11.....	\$29.00*.....	ply \$18.00*.....	ply \$18.00*.....	ply \$22.00*.....	\$22.00*	
#12.....	\$33.00*.....	ply \$20.00*.....	ply \$20.00*.....	ply \$25.00*.....	\$25.00*	

☞ **SET OF FIVE** Box Bands, enough bands to make one box each size  
#0, #1, #2, #3, #4, available in cherry and maple ..... \$18.00

☞ **SET OF FIVE** Tops and Bottoms, cherry or pine #0-4 boards to make one box each size ..... \$18.00  
lacewood (quartersawn sycamore)....\$21.00, or birdseye maple tops and plain bottoms..... \$24.00

### HANDLES

- A - HANDLE** (1/8" x 3/4" x 17") fits #3, #4, & #5 (swing)...\$1.75
- B - HANDLE** (1/8" x 1" x 23") fits #5 (fixed), & #6.....\$2.25
- C - HANDLE** (1/8" x 1-1/4" x 26") fits #7 & #8.....\$2.75

### TRAY BANDS in cherry

- #7 - \$4.50.....#8 - \$5.50.....#9 - \$ 7.00
  - #10 - \$8.00...#11 - \$9.00...#12 - \$10.00
- see "Shaker Nesting Trays" found on our website or in our Pattern Packet

## FORMS AND PATTERNS

- ☞ **#0 - #4 OVAL CORES** solid wood oval form for bending bands ..... \$50.00
- ☞ **#0 - #4 SHAPERS** also called "formers" for holding the wet band ..... \$50.00
- ☞ **#0 - #4 FINGER PATTERNS** in aluminum for tracing fingers and locating tack holes  
(includes both top & bottom band patterns) see suggestion 5 on page 4..... \$20.00
- #5 SIZE PATTERN SET** includes oval core, shapers, and finger patterns..... \$40.00
- #00 SIZE PATTERN SET** includes core, shapers and finger pattern..... \$15.00
- #000 SIZE PATTERN SET** includes core, shapers and finger pattern..... \$15.00
- #3 (three fingers), #5, #6, #7, #8 FINGER PATTERNS** (includes both top & bottom band patterns) ..... \$6.00 each
- #9, #10, #11, #12 FINGER PATTERNS** (includes both top & bottom band patterns) ..... \$8.00 each
- #6, #7, #8 CORES & SHAPERS** available upon request

## TOOLS

**COPPER HOT WATER TRAY** made from heavy gage copper with stainless steel hinge

**37" tray** I recommend for most box makers (3" x 6" x 37", fits a #6 band). Add \$8.00 to postage, see page 4..... \$125.00\*

New Item **48" x 9" tray** (3" x 9" x 48", fits a Tall #8 band). Add \$8.00 to postage, see page 4 ..... \$199.00\*

**DRILLING JIG** with Black & Decker drill (includes 5/64" bit)..... \$75.00

### GALVANIZED STEEL WATER TRAY

☞ (3" x 6" x 32", will accommodate through #5 bands)..... \$38.00

(3" x 9" x 48", will accommodate through #8 tall bands) Add \$8.00 to postage, see page 4..... \$75.00\*

☞ **ANVIL** cradled pipe ready to clamp on bench for clinching tacks ..... \$15.00

☞ **SANDING BLOCK** cushioned wood block (for 1/4 sheet 120 grit sand paper) ..... \$3.00

## COPPER TACKS, PEGS & RIVETS

☞ **TAC PAC** with pegs. One package each of #1, #1-1/2 & #2 (makes about 90 boxes)..... \$15.00

**PEGS** toothpicks (one box included with TAC PAC) use 5/64" hole 1/2" deep ..... \$.75

TIP: Cut box in half on band saw to create pegs. Be sure to hold box down securely when cutting.

**TRUNK RIVETS** (oval head x 3/4" long with washers, 24 count/pkg.) for attaching swing handles in #3 - #6 carriers ..... \$4.00/box

1" long trunk rivets also available, same head size and same price, 12 count/pkg.

**SMALLER RIVET** (round head x 1/2" long with washers, 24 count pkg.) SDL style carriers & very small sizes ..... \$4.00/box

### TACKS:

Tack #	Length of Tack	Recommended Box Size	Thickness Clinch	Approx. Count/oz.	Price	
					Package	Pound
#3/4.....	5/32".....	#000-#00.....	.045-.055.....	250(1/4 oz).....	\$5.00 (1/4 oz) ..	\$130.00*
#1.....	3/16".....	#0-#1.....	.055-.065.....	400(1/2 oz).....	\$5.00(1/2 oz)....	\$60.00*
#1-1/2.....	7/32".....	#1-#3.....	.065-.075.....	450(3/4oz).....	\$5.00(3/4oz)....	\$52.00*
#2.....	1/4".....	#4-#6.....	.075-.095.....	375.....	\$5.00.....	\$42.00*
#2-1/4.....	9/32".....	#6-#8.....	.095-.110.....	300.....	\$5.00.....	\$40.00*
#2-1/2.....	5/16".....	#8-#12.....	.110-.140.....	200.....	\$5.00.....	\$40.00*
#3.....	3/8".....	#13-#16.....	.140-.160.....	160.....	\$5.00.....	\$40.00*
#4 light trimmer (7/16" in length, #2-1/2 head) handles on bands #7 & up				150.....	\$5.00.....	\$40.00*
Fixed Handle Tacks (3/8" in length, #2 head) handles on bands below #7				310.....	\$5.00.....	\$44.00*
Copper shoe pegs (1/2" in length. Use 1/16" pilot hole, 3/8" deep.).....				175.....	\$3.00.....	\$24.00*

## INFORMATION and KITS

**DVD VIDEO** Includes both "Making Shaker Oval Boxes & Carriers with John Wilson" (one hour), and "Making A Shaker Oval Tray with John Wilson and Scott Phillips" (one hour) & box making, copper tack machines, and solar drying kilns used at the Home Shop ..... \$39.95 (ppd.)

☞ **CLASS BOOKLET** used in John's box making classes for #0-#5 ..... \$4.00 (\$6.00 ppd.)

**PATTERN PACKET** 25 Oval Boxes and Carriers (with instructions for all sizes through #12) ..... \$10.00 (\$14.00 ppd.)

**SPECIAL OFFER DVD** With purchase of DVD double Video, Class Book & Pattern Packet .... \$52.75 (ppd.)

**3 OVAL BOX KIT** includes sizes #1, #2, #3, in cherry, complete with materials

and instructions (To purchase pre-made cores, shapers and patterns, see page 2) ..... \$35.00

**FIXED HANDLE CARRIER KIT** Includes two #4 fixed handle carriers, in cherry, complete

with materials and instructions (To purchase pre-made cores, shapers and patterns, see page 2)..... \$35.00

**SWING HANDLE CARRIER KIT** Includes one #4 swing handle carriers, in cherry, complete

with materials and instructions (To purchase pre-made cores, shapers and patterns, see page 2)..... \$27.50

**#1 BOX WITH MUSIC WORKS KIT** "Simple Gifts" song in a #1 oval box. Project

suitable for first-time or experienced box maker. Contains everything you will need ..... \$ 35.00

**PRESENTATION BOX WITH MUSIC WORKS KIT** Same as above only long, narrow box allows

section for small treasures. Contains everything you will need ..... \$39.75

Special Offer **MUSIC WORKS "Simple Gifts"** Fits #1 oval box with 3/8" thickness bottom

sounding board (Sounding Board Available Separately at \$2.50) Special Offer -- Buy One Get One Free..... \$15.00

## DISCOUNTS AND USE OF " \* "

Most materials receive 5% off when 10 of a kind are ordered, or, instead, orders of \$500 or more can take 10% off most items. Wider bands and larger boards, special sizes, copper hot water trays, and pound quantities of tacks (all marked with an asterisk ' \* ') exempt from discounts.

## SHIPPING AND HANDLING GUIDELINES

We ship by U.S. Postal Service or UPS depending on which is cheaper or your preference.

One TAC PAC or up to six ounces of tacks.....\$3.00

### Pre-Paid Orders

East of Rockies, Orders up to \$100.00 ..... \$13.00  
East of Rockies Orders over \$100.00..... Actual post + \$5.00/ctn.  
Rocky Mountain States and West, Orders up to \$100.00..... \$15.00  
Rocky Mountain States and West, Orders over \$100.00..... Actual post + \$5.00/ctn.

**Non-Prepaid Orders** ..... Actual post + \$5.00/ctn.

Orders containing copper water trays, band sizes #8 through #12, or over \$400.00 ..... Add \$8.00

Sales tax on materials sold in Michigan (exclusive of Shipping & Handling) .....Add 6%

Canada & Overseas: Actual post and insurance + \$5.00. Call/write for payment instruction summary.

## NOTES TO CRAFTSMEN

Please note for **veneered stock** (up to 1/10" thick). When bands are sliced from the log, some have *one* surface biased with tiny splits from the slicer knife. This means that the fibers will be rough when bent on the *outside* of the box. The remedy is to make this surface the *inside* of the box. By flexing the band before trimming the finger bevels, you may notice the fiber separation. However, if it becomes evident at the moment of bending, STOP. Rebevel the fingers, reheat the band, and bend with the better side outside. TIP: Note the band when first put into water to pre-soak the finger tips or in the simmering water to soak: "The inside of the curl is the outside of the box."

**Top & bottom boards of solid wood (#0-#4)** will respond to moisture changes resulting in either gaps at the edges (shrinkage) or splitting the band at the ends (expansion). To avoid problems, have your boards 8-9% moisture content *before* making up your box. We try to meet this standard in all our boards, but changes can occur during storage, either here or with you, as unfinished wood of 1/4" thickness can absorb humidity in a matter of days. Use a small board with 5/16" notches cut along the top edge to provide a stand-up for boards in your home so both sides dry equally. A small fan will hasten the drying process. Do not parch the wood in an oven or furnace room. Two or three days ventilation will be sufficient.

**Top & bottom board fitting:** 1) check that finger directions are correct when setting band on the board; 2) use a mechanical pencil to get an accurate tracing around the inside of the oval; and, 3) after cutting the rough oval shape, edge sand with disc sander deck at 3<sup>o</sup> UP (not 3<sup>o</sup> down as done when drawing pattern on the outside surface). To achieve the raised disk sander deck, you may need to file out the slot in the adjustment slide, or replace the adjustment screw temporarily with a small C-clamp.

**#0-1 pegging changes:** We now suggest using a 5/64" d. drill size for all wood peg holes, replacing the 1/16" d. for #0-1 as in the past. Pegs hold better with the larger drill size.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR BENDING BOX BANDS

1. Please follow note on veneer and top & bottom bands above.
2. Have the water boiling in the soaking tray, and then work promptly so the wood is *hot at the moment you bend it*.
3. Ten minutes may be sufficient time in the water tray, but *twenty minutes* will insure that troublesome bands are fully soaked.
4. To help keep the fibers together at the moment of bending, *push the wet band* around the ends of the oval core giving the wood support with your hand.
5. When cutting the finger bevels, *develop a narrow style* so that the ends are 3/16" wide, or 1-1/2 times the tack head diameter. This minimizes curling and matches the Shaker style. Patterns for fingers are rough size. Trim to finished size with sharp knife using slight 10<sup>o</sup> bevel.
6. Be sure to hold *all the fingers all the time*, or else the band is likely to split up the middle between the fingers.
7. Repairs to bands while wet can be made using super glue such as Hot Stuff brand cyanoacrylate glue.

## WATER AND BAND STAINING

From time to time box makers encounter staining during the hot water soak. The culprit in most cases is metal filings or metal dust on the work surface or iron particles in well water itself. It is the water which transfers the problem of gray or dark stain, or black spots caused by fine particles suspended in the water. To dissolve these spots, use a deck/wood cleaner which contains Oxalic Acid. Also, Oxalic Acid crystals are available at some paint stores and drug stores. Brush the solution on the entire stained band, and once the stains have dissolved, rinse the solution off with clean water.

Besides trying a different water source, there are several techniques worth considering. Draw water slowly from a tap that is used often. This will avoid dislodging sediment which causes black spots. Change water when it discolors and do not soak maple in the water used for cherry. Hold back additional bands from soaking until you are ready for them.

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**517-543-5325** (8:30-5 EST, M-F) or visit **ShakerOvalBox.com**