



## **Douglas Stowe**

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## **Simply Beautiful Boxes**

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Most of us have been inspired by the many box makers exhibiting quality workmanship in creative and unique designs. As a beginning or intermediate box maker, you may wonder, “How do I get *there* from *here*?” There is a common misperception that inspiration comes from out of the blue, but our own lives and interests may provide the opening of a doorway into personal expression and meaningful work. In Box Making, we will decide as a group on making a particular box design and will also have opportunities for exploring more personally creative directions. My classes are always flexible and I make a reasonable effort to personalize instruction and meet individual needs.

My box making always starts with the wood. The beauty of wood is what inspires me. I ask each student to bring some wood from home, as it expresses something very personal about each of us and carries part of our character and interests into the creative environment of the classroom. An understanding of wood, its nature as a creative material is ground zero in the understanding of design. We begin Monday morning with a discussion of the material and its characteristics, with a particular focus on how our understanding of its properties can lead us to excellence in the final product. We will then discuss the other elements of design, and types of joints, choosing as a group, a type of joint that best reflects the learning needs of the class.

**Material:** You may use any wood you desire to bring, or use the following species available at the school: *cherry, walnut, oak, maple, and poplar*.

### **Every student should bring:**

Tape measure

Steel rule graduated in 64ths.

Try square

Pencil or chalk

Notebook

**Students interested in hand-cut joinery should bring additional tools:**

Marking gauge

Marking knife

Dozuki or backsaw

Sliding T-bevel

Chisels in size range from 1/4" to 3/4"

**Some adjustments to the following will be made depending on the type of box selected and to meet the specific interests of students.**

**Monday**

Design principles and elements

Types of joinery and demonstration of joinery techniques

Developing an order of operations strategy

Preparation of materials with particular attention to grain direction and its implications in the final product

Using sleds and other devices for accurate workmanship

**Tuesday**

Making and using inlay (demonstration)

Gifkins jig (demonstration)

Making and using floating panels

Assembly

Lids, cut from base, assembled, or from solid wood

**Wednesday**

Making legs, bases and feet

Fitting hinges using story stick technique for perfect accuracy

Making wooden hinges (demonstration)

Making trays and dividers

**Thursday**

Making pulls

Finishing Projects, Use of various finishes

Linings, how to cut and apply

**Friday AM**

Completion of projects