

# SIMPLY ROUTING

by Mark Eaton

## Tips & Projects

### Outstanding Mail Box

I decided to make a mail box for my home. Even though I live in a community that doesn't get mail delivery to the door, some mail always seems to find its way to my front door. I have made this mail box long enough to also accept the local news paper that is regularly delivered, but never had a place of its own other than on the porch floor. I chose pine for our box to match my décor. My porch is covered, but Cedar would be an excellent choice for exterior projects like this.

*Parts are listed in the chart of materials found on the last page.*

**1)** Cut the 2 sides (*part A*) to the dimensions listed in the bill of materials. Set your table saw mitre gauge or mitre saw to a 22.5 degree angle and cut the angle on the side pieces.

**2)** For safety we used a wide board for the top and lid. Cut a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " x  $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x 22" piece of stock for the lid. Saw a 22.5 degree bevel on one edge. Next, rip a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " strip from the beveled edge for the top. Then rip your final dimension for your lid.

**3)** Cut parts D, E and F to size.



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**4)** Part D is the back and has a decorative curve on the bottom. A simple way of drawing a curve is to nail two small finishing nails on either end of your stock 1" up from the bottom. Take a thin piece of scrap stock and place it against the two nails. Flex the strip against the nails towards the bottom. Keep your pressure on the centre of the strip and draw a perfect arch without measuring. Bandsaw around the outside of the arch and then sand to the line.



**5)** Part F is the front and requires a matching 22.5 degree bevel on the top. Put your design on the front. I decided that I would make the mail box a personal item so I scrolled in our address. You could put any design you like on the front or maybe even paint it. To get a nice looking set of numbers I turned to my computer. With a large selection of fonts available, I was able to please everyone in my family with this design. Adjust the size to fit your box and print the design. Mine fit on a single 8½" x 11" sheet.



**6)** Lay out your design on your front part F. Centre it to the piece and adhere it to the stock. I chose a reverse image for my design. I pre-drilled all of the white areas with a hole large enough to accept my scroll saw blades. If you want to cut out the numbers then drill inside all of them. Now scroll out your front piece.



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**7)** Next, drill and counter sink three 1/4" holes in the bottom of part E. These will allow any rain that may get inside to drain out of the box.



**8)** Begin drilling pocket holes in parts D, E and F. Drill two on either end of part D plus three on the top. These will attach the top part C to the back, two on either end of part F and two on either end of E. Drill two more holes on either side of part E to attach the front and back to the bottom.



**NOTE:** If you don't have a pocket hole jig you can drill through the side and into the back, front and bottom; plugging the holes afterward.



**9)** Sand all parts before assembling to 220 grit progressing through the grits.



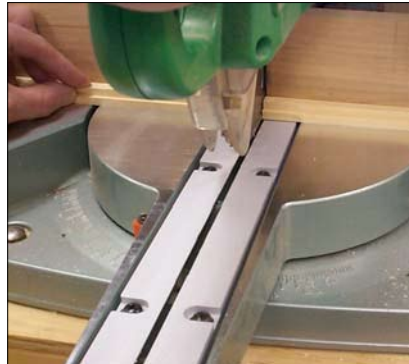
**10)** Begin assembly by gluing and attaching the front part F to the bottom part E. Next, attach the sides part A to the sides and bottom.



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**11)** Cut a piece of  $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick stock 10" long for the cleats: part G. Chuck up a rabbeting bit in your router table and set the depth to  $\frac{1}{8}$ ". Position your fence so that  $\frac{1}{4}$ " is exposed past the fence and cut a rabbet along the length of the piece. Rip a piece that is  $\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 10. Cross cut this piece in half for the two cleats. Glue and clamp the two cleats on either end of your design in your front piece part F, making sure that they are square. Mine were  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " in from the box ends.



**12)** Now attach the back, part D to the bottom and sides. Make sure that all of the beveled edges on these pieces are flush at the top.



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**13)** Cut a 22" piece of piano hinge from larger stock and attach it to the top and lid pieces. Glue the top, part C to the back, part D making sure that it is centered to the box on either side.



**14)** Apply a clear, weather-resistant finish to the box, making sure to finish all interior parts too. Cut your acrylic piece to fit into the cleats in the back of your box. Hold the box against the wall where it is going to be mounted and level it. Mark on the inside back three spots that will be drilled and counter sunk for the screws and anchors that will mount it to the wall. Use #8 stainless steel pan head screws for rust resistance.



Remove the protective wrapping from the acrylic and slide it into the cleats for a protective window to see inside. Now watch as your postal worker smiles at a job well done.



## Bill of Materials

<b>Part:</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Qty</b>
A) Sides	3/4"	5 1/2"	8"	Pine	2
B) Lid*	3/4"	6 1/2"	22"	Pine	1
C) Top*	3/4"	1 1/2"	6 1/2"	Pine	1
D) Back	3/4"	9"	18"	Pine	1
E) Bottom	3/4"	4"	18"	Pine	1
F) Front	3/4"	6"	18"	Pine	1
G) Cleats	1/2"	1/2"	5"	Pine	2

\*Cut to Finished Size