

the Pokitbox easel

You will need



Electric drill



6mm (3/16") drill bit



3mm (1/8") plywood (MDF)
2 pieces 6" x 8" (15 x 20cm)
1 piece 5" x 7 1/2" (13 x 19cm)



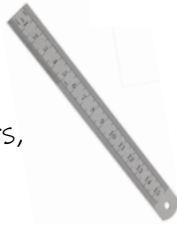
Saw

Sharp knife



Metal ruler

Set-square



Clamps, weights,
or heavy books



Awl or nail



Wood glue four 3/8" 1cm screws

screwdriver



10mm (3/8") square dowel
1 length 50" (125cm) long



5mm (3/16") square dowel
1 length 28" (70cm) long

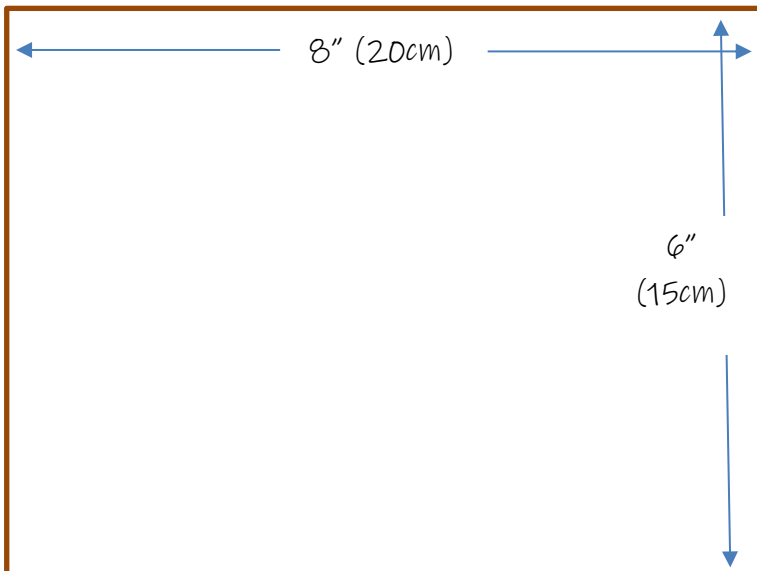
Sandpaper



Acrylic varnish



2 hinges and a clasp



Cut two identical pieces of 1/8" (3mm) plywood or MDF or hardboard.
Cut each piece 8" x 6" (20cm x 15cm).
These form the lid and base of the box.

In one piece carefully drill a hole $\frac{3}{16}$ " (5mm) in from the edge of one of the short sides.

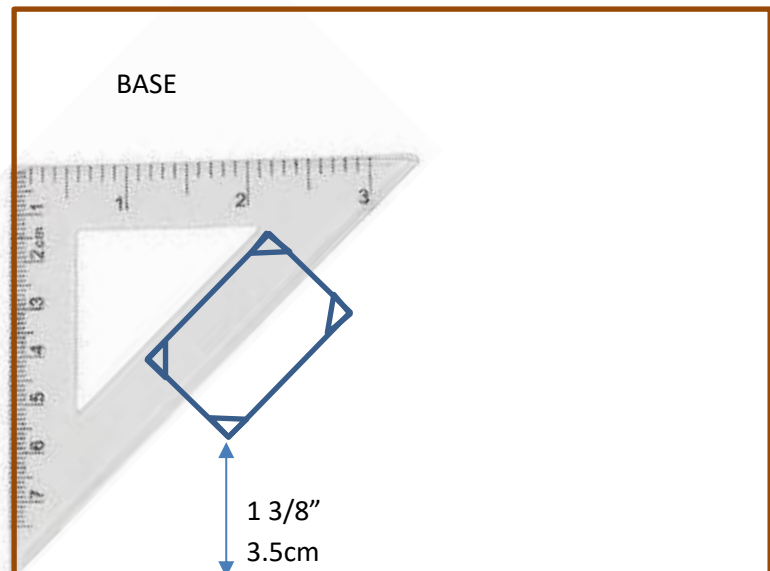
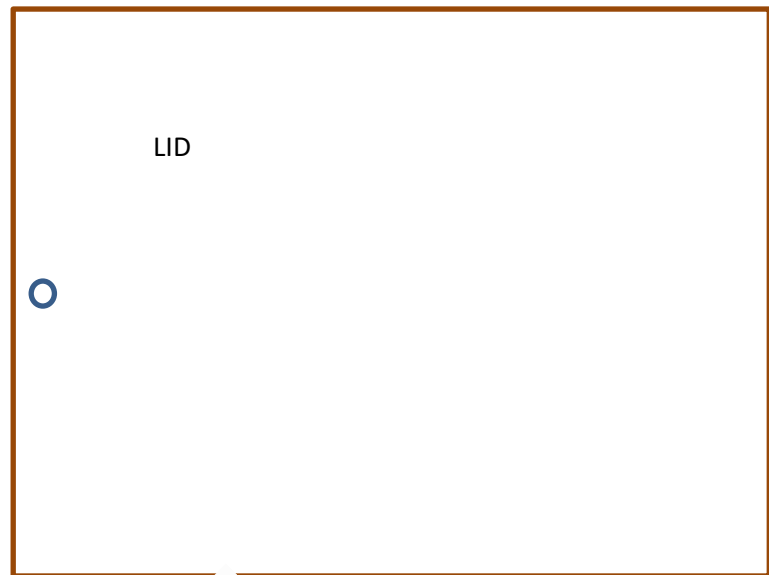
The diameter of this hole needs to be just larger than the size of the head of your $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1cm) screws.

On the second board cut a thumbhole.

To do this draw a rectangle 2 " x $1\frac{3}{8}$ " (5cm x 3.5cm) on a piece of paper or thin card, then cut out this rectangle to use as a template.

Draw a centre line down the template then place it on the board as shown here using a 45° set square to line up and draw around it.

Remove the template, round the corners and cut out the eight-sided shape that is created.



Your thumb should fit well through this cut oval, so sand the edges to form a smooth and comfortable edge.

You can also make this thumbhole by cutting two overlapping holes with a circular $1\frac{3}{8}$ " (35mm) hole cutter attached to a drill.

2

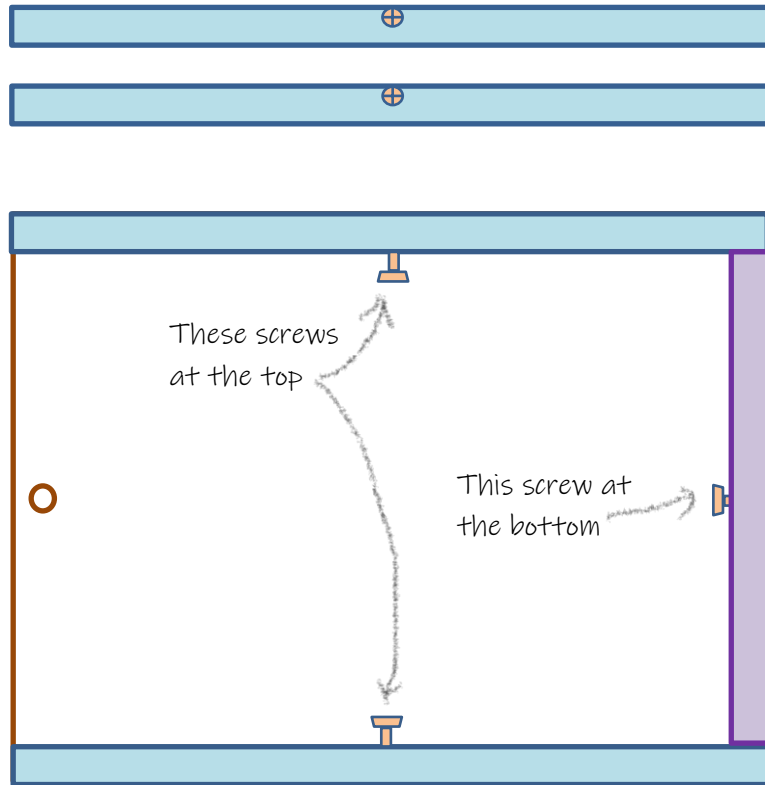
The LID

Cut 2 pieces of $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1cm) square dowel to a length of 8" (20cm) (shown here in blue).

Screw two $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1cm) screws into the centre of each piece with the head of the screw in line with the top edge.

Glue these to the sides of the lid with the screws at the top.

Then cut another length of dowel that fits exactly between these sides (shown in purple.) Screw another $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1cm) screw into the centre of this, with the screw at the bottom. Glue this dowel onto the lid.



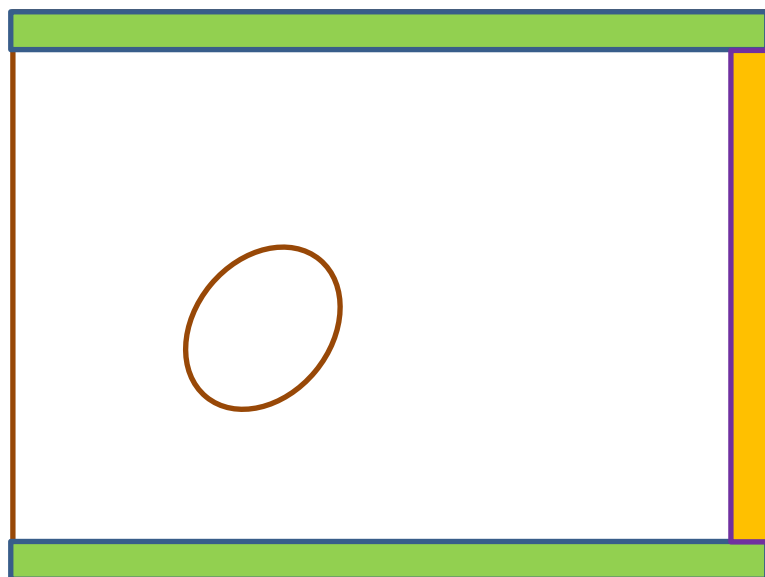
The BASE

Cut 2 pieces of $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1cm) square dowel to a length of 8" (20cm) (shown here in green).

Glue these onto the base.

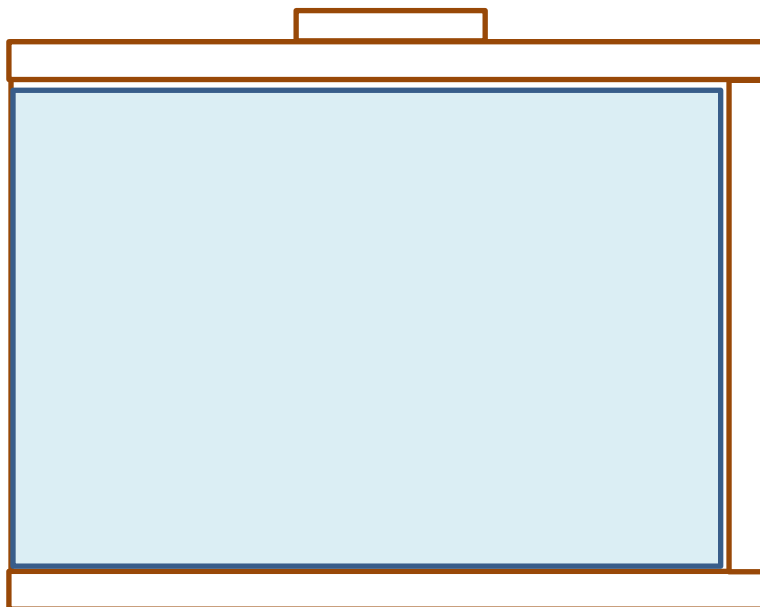
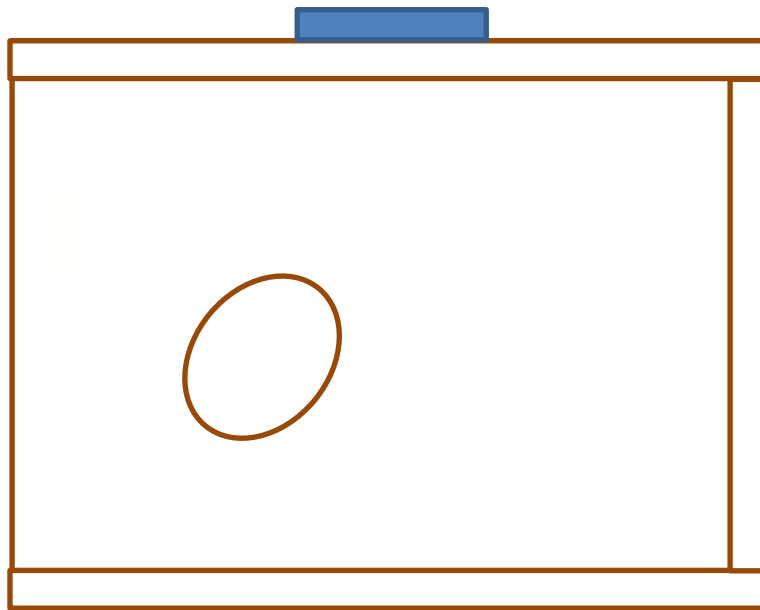
Then cut another length of dowel that fits exactly between these sides and glue it in place. (Shown in orange.)

Glue this dowel onto the base.



NOTE: If you are left-handed then glue the edging onto the other side of the base, allowing you to hold the palette in your right hand.

Cut a 2" (5cm) length of 3/8" (1cm) square dowel and glue it as shown here to the centre of the base. This provides a stop for the lid when it is open.



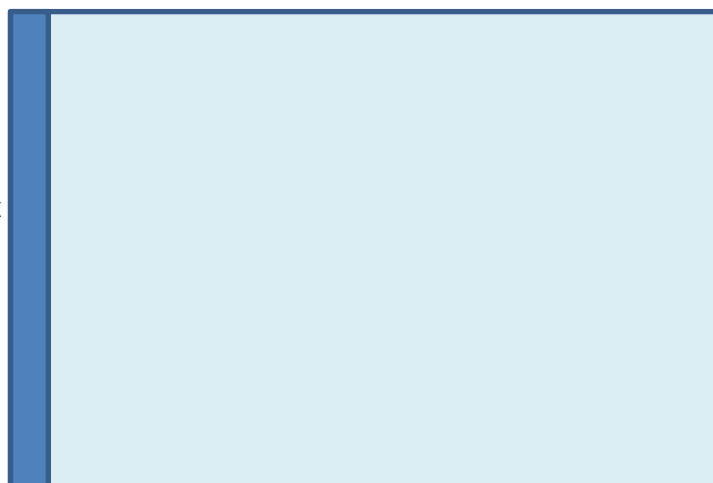
The PALETTE

Cut a piece of 3/8" (3mm) board to fit snugly into the base as shown here. Allow 1/16" (1mm) gap around it so that it can slide in and out but without being too sloppy.

Cut a length of 3/8" (1cm) dowel to fit along the short edge of this piece and two lengths of 3/16" (5mm) dowel. Glue these together to form a piece 3/8" x 9/16" (1cm x 1.5cm).



Glue this to one end of the palette.

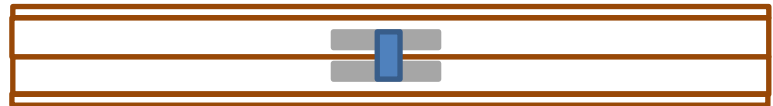


Slide the palette tray into the base of the box and then cut two pieces of $3/16''$ (5mm) square dowel to fit as shown here in orange.

Glue these flush with the top of the sides, leaving a gap beneath for the palette tray to slide through.



Screw on the hinges and the clasp.



Close the lid and mark the centre for a screw through the small hole in the lid.

Screw in a $3/8''$ (1cm) screw into the palette end so that it stops the palette from falling out when the lid is closed.



Varnish the box and it is finished!

If you like you can make some modifications to the palette tray to hold brushes.



Drill some holes to hold your brushes and add a $\frac{3}{16}$ " (5mm) piece of square dowel to protect them from the paint area.

I also painted my palette grey to provide a neutral working surface, and I cut a circular hole in the base of the box for a water pot (I use water mixable oils).

The measurements shown here are for a box that holds 5" x 7" painting panels.

You can make other boxes for other sizes of panel (4" x 6", 6" x 8") by placing a panel on a piece of paper, laying pieces of $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1cm) square dowel around it – leaving a small gap all around, and then measuring the outside edge. This will give you the measurements for the lid and base board you need to cut. Everything else fits to these measurements.

