

the box cajon



The Box Cajon Kit

by Musicmakers

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Please take your time. Like almost everything in life you will enjoy this project more and it will turn out better if you slow down and take your time.

Begin by reading through the entire assembly instructions. You might also like to watch the assembly videos online at www.harokit.com/cajon

Check the parts in your kit and make sure they are all there. Call if anything looks like it is defective or missing so we can take care of this right away. Gather all of the tools and supplies you will need for this project so you aren't scrambling to find tape before the glue dries!

Parts List:

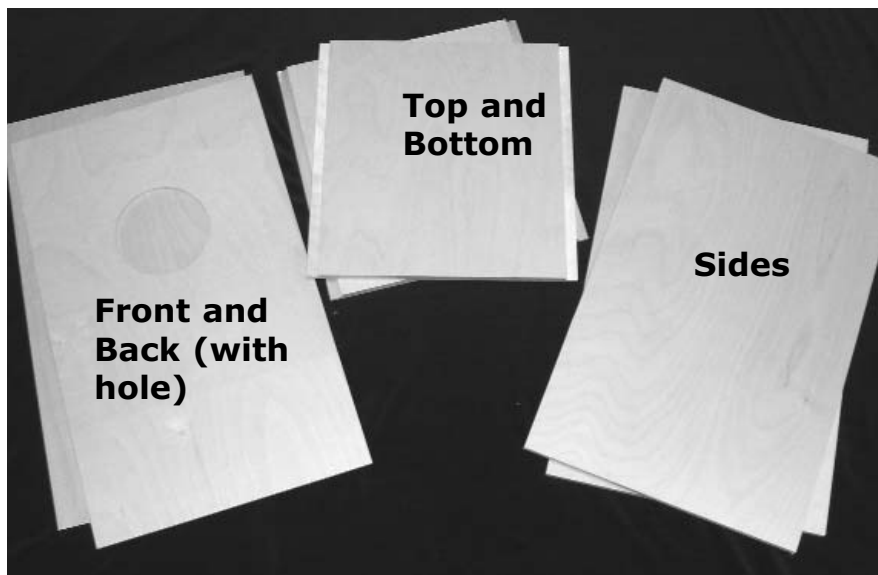
- 1 Top - 1/2" material (square)
- 1 Bottom - same as top
- 2 Sides - 1/2" material (rectangle)
- Front - 1/8" material
- Back - 1/4" material with hole
- 4 rubber feet with screws

Tools and supplies you will need:

- Yellow woodworking glue (Elmer's or Titebond)
- Tape - strapping tape is best but masking tape works fine
- Sandpaper - 100, 180, and 320 grits
- Sanding block (piece of 1 by 4 lumber with 100 grit sandpaper glued on)
- 10 pound weight
- Finish (paint, varnish, lacquer, polyurethane, etc.)

Optional Tools that will speed things along but aren't necessary

- Hand Plane
- Random Orbital Sander (Electric Hand Sander)
- Electric Hand Drill
- Router with 1/4" and 1/8" round over bits



Glue the Sides to the Top and Bottom

_____1. Begin by laying out the Top, Bottom, and 2 Side pieces on a **flat and level surface** as shown. Gather up your woodworking glue, a wet rag and some tape.

_____2. Test fit the Sides to the Top and Bottom. The two sides should fit nicely in the dado cut on the top and bottom.



Take a good look at the Sides and decide which face you would like to show on the outside of the box!

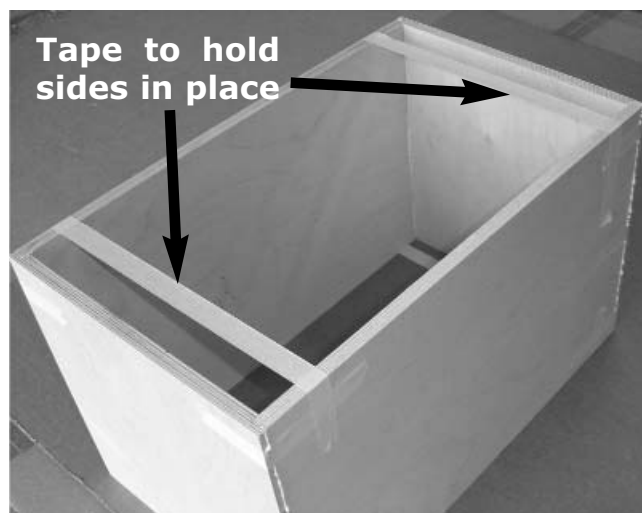
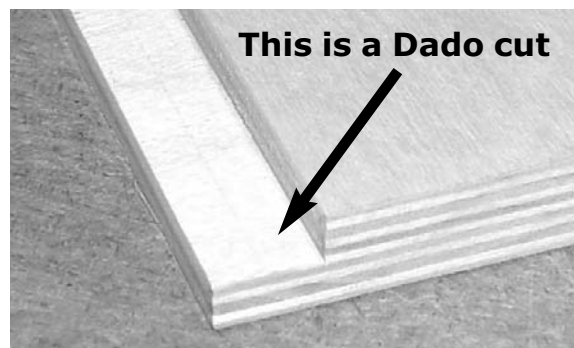
____ 3. Now you can glue the Sides to the Top. Put some glue in the dado cuts on the Top and Bottom piece. Make sure to get glue on both surfaces in the Dado cut!

____ 4. Assemble the Sides and the Top and the Bottom using tape to hold all the pieces together. Run a piece of tape from one Side to the other to help pull them in tight against the the inner ledge of the Dado cuts. Then put a piece of tape every inch or so where the Sides meet the Top and Bottom.

Be careful to keep all of the edges flush!

Hint - If you get glue on your fingers - wipe it off with your wet rag before handling the wood. Otherwise you are going to have little glue fingerprints all over the box. They are easy to miss when sanding but show up wonderfully after the finish has been applied:)

Let dry for one hour.



Level the corners

Before you glue on the Front and Back you want to be sure that the corners where the Sides meet the Top and Bottom are flush.

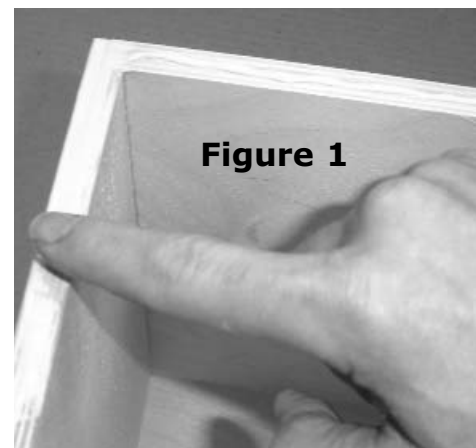
____ 5. Use your sanding block to level the corners.



Glue on the Front and Back

Carefully look at the Front piece and decide which face you would like showing. The Back piece has a hole cut in it and one edge of the hole is rounded over. That side should face out. If you want the other side to face out that is fine - you will just want to round over the other edge of the hole.

____ 6. Apply a bead of glue around the entire surface of the edge and set either the Front or Back on the edge and tape in place. (Figure 1)



_____7. Place tape every 1-2 inches making sure to tape the corners well. (Figure 2)

These pieces are cut pretty close to size so pay careful attention that the piece covers the entire surface of the edge all the way around the box.

_____8. Flip the box over and glue the last piece in place.

_____9. When this is taped in place you can set a scrap piece of wood on this piece and set your weight on top of that. Let dry one hour.

Sand and Finish

_____10. Once this has dried it is time to do some sanding. Start out by sanding all the edges flush. An electric sander will make quick work of this. If you don't have an electric sander you can use your sanding block again.

_____11. When the edges are all flush you can round over all the corners. A router is a nice way to do this. Use a 1/8" round over bit on the front piece because that is 1/8" material. Use a 1/4" round over bit on all the other edges.

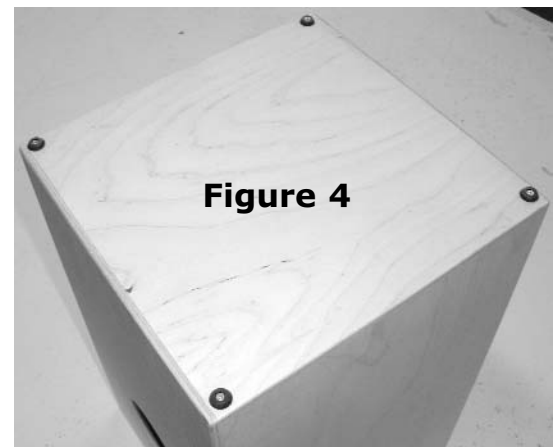
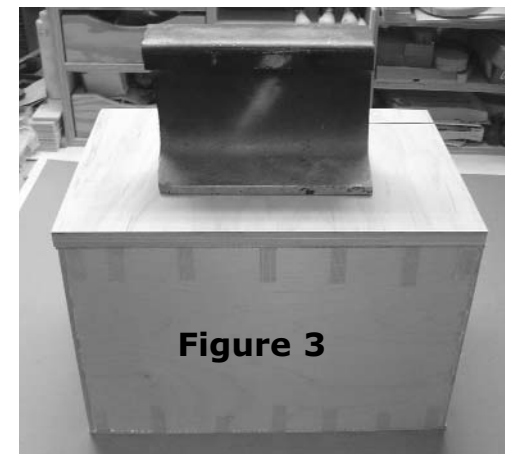
If you don't have a router you can do a nice job with 100 grit sandpaper.

_____12. Now sand the entire cajon with your 180 grit paper. Take your time here and make sure you sand off all the glue spots and any machine marks.

_____13. Finally - go over the entire cajon again with 320 grit paper. This will make your cajon smooth and a pleasure to play.

_____14. Install the 4 rubber feet on the bottom of the cajon. (Figure 4) This is easiest if you can pre-drill a 1/16" pilot hole. But you can also just muscle in the screw if you make a nice deep punch mark ahead of time.

You can finish this instrument in a variety of ways. It is lots of fun to paint these drums... or you might like to apply a stain and bring out the wood grain. Some stains also serve as a sealer and no other finish is necessary. Or you can apply a clear varnish. Anything goes... just have fun!



Visit our website for more resources including assembly videos as well as some playing instruction.

www.harokit.com/cajon

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