

How to use ancient crafts and modern techniques

In conjunction with Miniature Time Traveller Magazine and miniaturist Jill Fraser

Give yourself a creative treat—make a chest to fit any décor you wish



A child's toy chest



**An Art & Craft
Movement chest**



A magical chest



A shabby chic chest

The decoration can be applied like the pressed metal oblongs, hand painted like the toy chest and Shabby Chic Chest or bits from your junk drawer glued on, as in the magical chest. Inside I use paper, printed from the web, in a theme that will suit the outside.



Thinking Unicorns



Instructions for making a Chest

Note: All my chests and other kits are often made from repurposed materials from my workshop. I try and keep the carbon footprint as low as I can.

Cutting sheet

Back from Rimu or other close grained timber:

7cm x 3cm

Front from MDF: 7cm x 3cm

Base: 6.25cm x 3cm

Sides: 3cm x 3cm

Lid: From Rimu or close grained timber:

7.5cm x 4 cm

- 1 Sand all pieces carefully, keeping edges crisp
- 2 Glue the sides to the base, keeping back and front edges nice and flush.
- 3 Glue the front and back pieces in place against the base and the ends of the sides.
- 4 Paint the carcass and the lid at this stage.
- 5 Decorate the lid as you decide.
- 6 Echo the theme on the lid in some way inside the chest. I have used photocopies of something that matches and lined the bottoms of the chests.
- 7 Prepare the carcass and the lid for the hinges. The other option is to use leather or firmly woven tape for the hinges.

Hinge

There are 4 components of this fairly simple hinge.

First two slots are cut into the lid equal distances from each end. These have to handle the thickness of the eyelet screw.

Secondly a hole has to be drilled through the ends of the lid to the depth that allows the pin to fit so the head is flush with the side.

Thirdly: The eyelet. This is the smallest size you can buy at a specialist hardware store.

Fourthly: The pin which is a brad. The hole drilled is to fit the size of the brad.

To put together, after all pieces have been painted, screw the eyelets into the holes provided in the top edge of the back of the chest. To stop the back material splitting, in some instances the hole is made bigger and the eyelet has to be glued in with Superglue.

Position the top of the chest so the eyelet fits up through the slot.

Then push the pin through the drilled hole, through the loop of the eyelet and into the remainder of the hole. The top of the pin should be flush with the side. A smear of glue on the end of the pin and the first 3mm of it will keep it from sliding out in the future. Don't get glue on the eyelet at any stage.

Gently round the back lower edge with sandpaper to enable the lid to lift easily.

Even though this may seem a bit of a fiddle this is the best hinging system I have trialed so far.

Jill

