

How to use ancient crafts and modern techniques

Making a Regency Pianoforte

The wood used in this project is New Zealand Kauri. This is close grained and does not split. If this is not available, find a similar close grained wood from your region.

Use 3mm thick wood throughout this project.

Step 1.

Making the basic carcass. Cut out A,B,C and D.

Carefully cut away the shaded portions on A and D.

This can be done by making the vertical cuts with a scroll saw and the horizontal line with a sharp blade.

Step 2. Cut out E. which sits behind the keyboard. Do not glue in yet. Cut out the sides (F) which are positioned at each end of the keyboard.

Step 3. Keyboard. Photocopy the keyboard below and paste it onto a piece of balsa the same size and 5mm thick. Now glue the sides (F) at each end.

This has to be done prior to glueing the keyboard into it's final position.

Step 4. Cut two sections for the lid, G and H.

Step 5. Base with legs.

Base: Cut a piece of wood 3mm thick 11.2 cm x 4.5 cm.

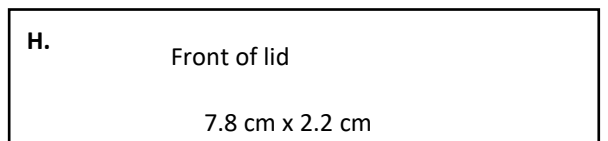
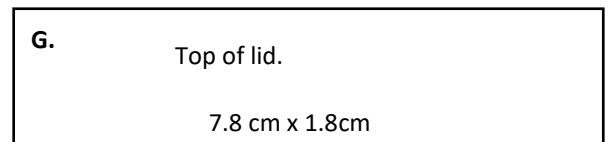
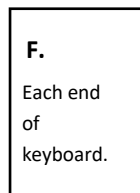
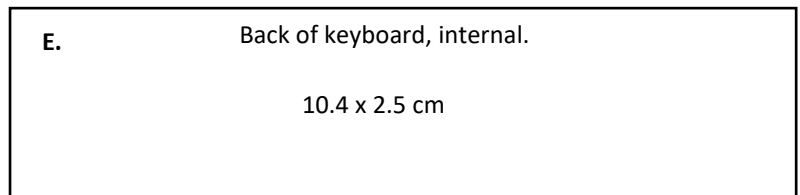
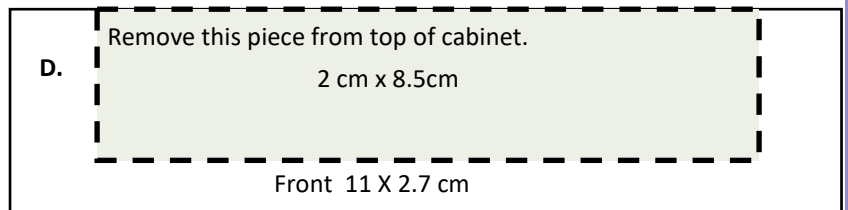
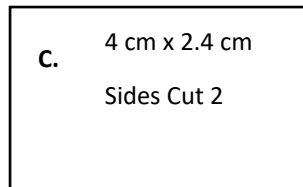
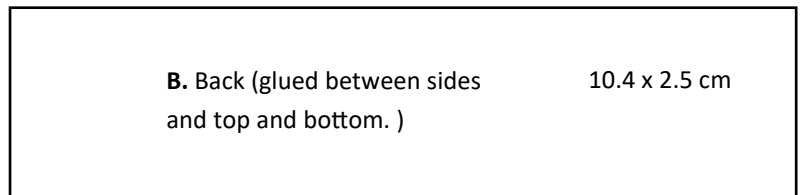
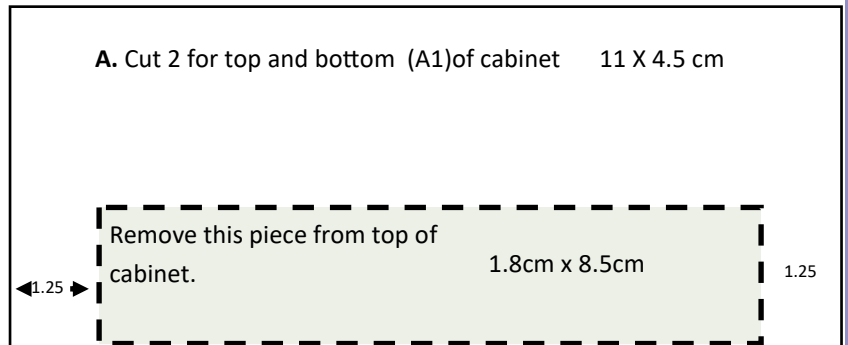
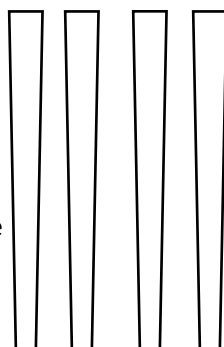
Frame: Cut 2 pieces of wood 3mm x 5mm wide and 11.7 cm long. Cut 2 pieces of wood 3mm x 5mm wide and 4.5 cm long.

Glue 5 mm wood around the base with the side pieces glued between the front and back. The top of the base should be level with the top of the frame.

Step 6. Legs. Using 5mm square wood, cut 4 pieces 4.5 cm long.

Pencil in a taper line on all four side and trim and shape the wood with files or a pocket knife.

Now you are ready to paint the pieces before you glue it all together. PTO.



Step 7. Painting and detailing.

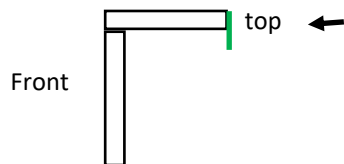
If you watched the video on making this pianoforte, you would have noticed I used Shellac. This is optional. You could paint the whole piece black, brown or any colour you like.

You could make darker wood panels as I have done. First you would do a top coat then use masking tape to mask the areas you don't want to be dark. Or try a stiple like a Birds Eye Maple pattern as I did.

The important thing is to have the detailing correct. Regency taste always leant towards inlays or strips of contrasting wood, or in this case, double gold lines or even a single gold line would work. Try to incorporate this on your pieces. It is best to do all this before you glue the pieces together.

DON' GLUE ANYTHING TOGETHER YET!

Step 8. Finishing off the lid.



The top and bottom piece of the lid are NOW glued together.

Hinge: cut a piece of strong cotton tape or in my case, a strip of suede affect paper. Fold it in half and glue one half along the back edge of the top, see green stripe above. When that is dry, glue the other half to the front facing edge of the top. Make sure there is a little bit of unglued tape in the middle to allow the hinge to open and shut.

NOW YOU CAN GLUE THINGS TOGETHER IN THIS ORDER.

1. Glue (B) the back of the carcass between the sides (C) and the top and bottom, (A and A1).
2. Fit the front but do not glue. Use it to glue the keyboard in the right place in the gap.
3. Glue the partition (E) in place behind the keyboard, putting glue on the top, bottom and side edges.
4. Once this is in place you can glue the front on.
5. Glue the legs into the corners of base in Step 5.

You should now have a completed little pianoforte.

Well done.



Note: This differs a little in the front as some adjustment in the prototype had to be made. The next one will be perfect!!

