



# 1600 TOTE CASE    DIY KIT INSTRUCTION MANUAL



## PREP PARTS AND WORK AREA BEFORE STARTING

- Make sure you are working on a sturdy, flat work surface that will not scratch or damage the parts while handling.
- Lightly sand and deburr the part edges if needed.
- It is recommended to dry fit (construct without glue) the parts to familiarize yourself with the assembly process.

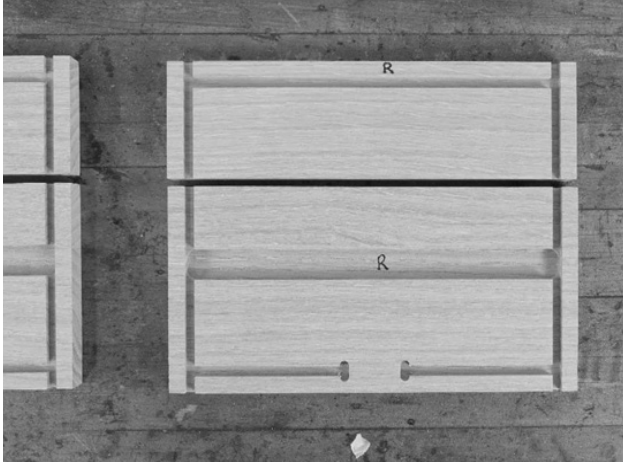
## RECOMMENDED TOOLS FOR CHEST CONSTRUCTION

- Wood Glue
- 18" Bar Clamps (2-3)
- #2 Philips Screw Driver
- Rubber Mallet or Hammer
- Electric Drill
- Router (Optional) with flush cut bit
- 1/8" Roundover Bit
- 100 and 150 Grit Sandpaper
- Scale or Ruler
- 90 Degree Square
- Choice of Stain/Finish
- 3/32" and 3/16" Drill Bits

**\*Caution:** We use veneer plywood on the top of this case. The plywood gives the box stability through everchanging conditions of humidity. Please note that you must exercise great care when sanding the top surface. The veneer is .010" thick and excessive sanding on the top can cause a sand-thru, to the plywood core below the veneer. We suggest you sand the solid wood just enough to meet the surface of the veneer.

# BOTTOM ASSEMBLY

- 1 Locate the box sides as shown. You will notice that each of the sides have been marked with either R (right side) or L (left side). The thinner part, located towards the top of the photo on the next page, are the top pieces. The lower larger section of parts are the main box parts. It is recommended that you maintain right, left, front and back orientation while assembling the box parts together.



- 2 Lay the lower box parts on the table as shown. Note that the right side is to the right and the back is to the back and so on. The back is pre-drilled for hinges and the front is pre-drilled on center for the draw latch. The bottom of the box is the light-colored birch plywood. Add glue to the parts for assembly.



Check bottom flushness. This is to make sure the bottom is not in upside down.



- 3 Clamp box as shown and wipe off excess glue. Check assembly for squareness with 90-degree square. Allow time for glue to dry before handling and double check to make sure the bottom is flush with the frame components.



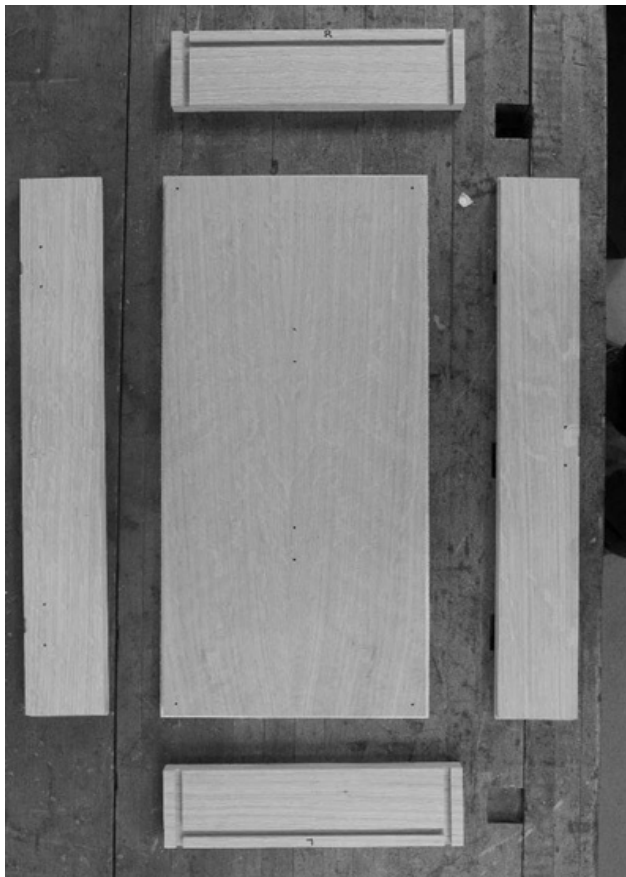
- 4 Locate, glue and install tray support rails in both the right and left sides. The supports should stay in place after pressing them in. If they move or fall out of the groove a couple pieces of masking tape can be used to hold them in place.



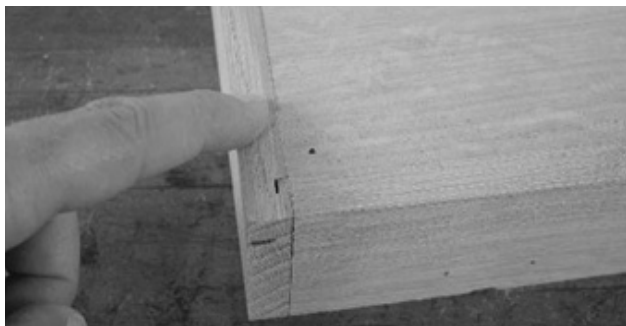
## TOP ASSEMBLY

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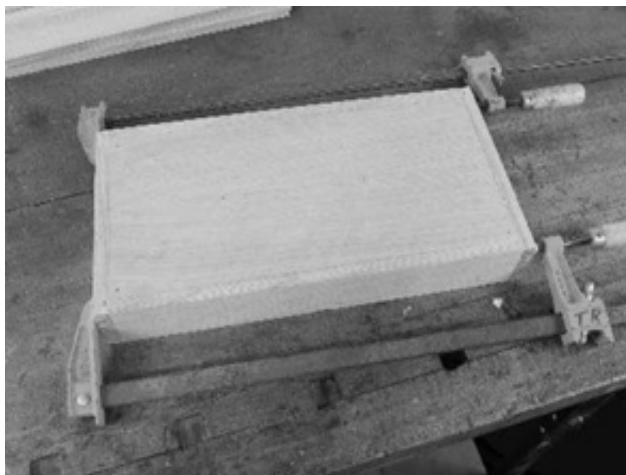
Lay top parts out. Add glue to the parts for assembly.



Make sure top is flush with frame parts and not installed upside down.



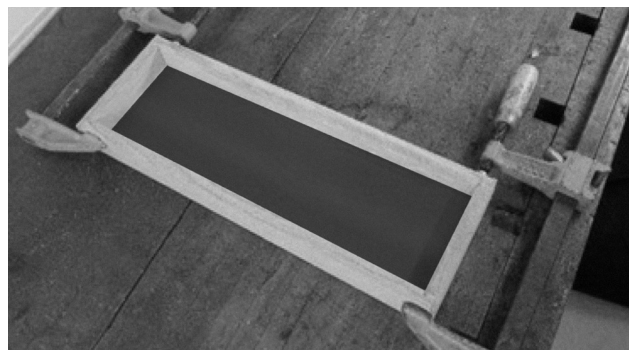
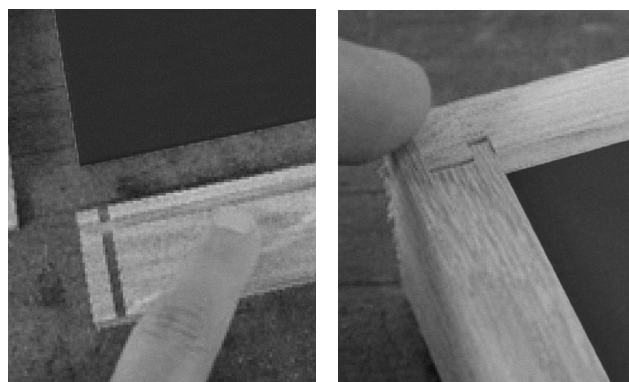
Glue and clamp in the same way that the bottom section was completed in Step 3. Remove excess glue and check top for square.



## TRAY ASSEMBLY

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Next, assemble the tray as shown. The tray bottom is 1/8" hardboard (or birch plywood in some kits) and is installed in the 1/8" groove cut in the tray parts. Please note the tray bottom will not be flush with the tray frame parts. The bottom is recessed into the tray as shown in the pictures below.



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Check the fit of the tray in the box, it should slide freely front to back. If the fit is too tight you might have to sand a little off of the tray to ensure proper fit.



## SANDING

- 8** Fill any open joints or imperfections with the quality wood filler of your choice.



- 9** Sand the surfaces flush using your preferred method. An orbital sander will greatly reduce the amount of work required. We sand chests with 120-150 grit paper before applying the stain and finish. **USE CAUTION when sanding the top veneer, as it is very thin and can be damaged easily!**



- 10** Round over edges with hand sanding block to prep the chest for corner hardware.

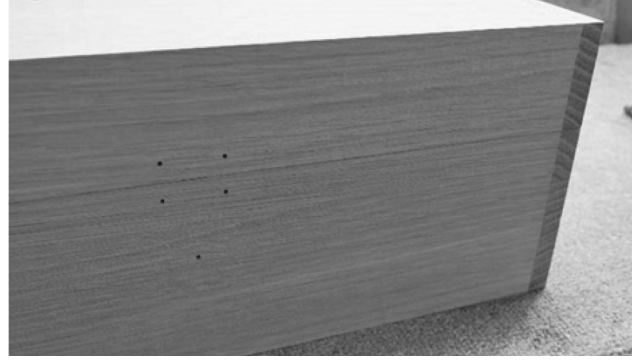


**OPTIONAL:** Gerstner typically rounds over exterior edges to soften the feel of the product. This can be achieved with a 1/8" roundover bit.



## HARDWARE INSTALLATION

- 11** Check proper fit of top lid to the box. Sand edge to remove tool marks and uneven gap if present



- 12** Use the supplied hardware to check the top lid fitting. The holes should line up with the hardware if the top was properly fit.



- 13** Check round over with corner hardware. An initial pilot hole has been drilled in the top for the corners. You will have to drill the remaining holes for each of the corners provided. Now is a good time to drill these remaining screw holes. Drill all the hardware screw holes with a 3/32" drill bit (excluding the top lid tack).



Rubber bumpers attach with the bottom corner hardware.



**NOTE:** Some hardware may vary slightly from the images shown due to availability.

## STAINING & FINISHING



Many options exist for adding a protective finish to your wood project. Select the finish of your choice and apply as desired. If using the recommended Gerstner Classic Wood Stains with lacquer top coat, please follow the directions listed below.

- 14** Prior to finishing, remove any hardware that was installed during drilling. Lightly re-sand the exterior surfaces to remove any scratches or contamination (oils from your skin). This will allow for a quality finish.



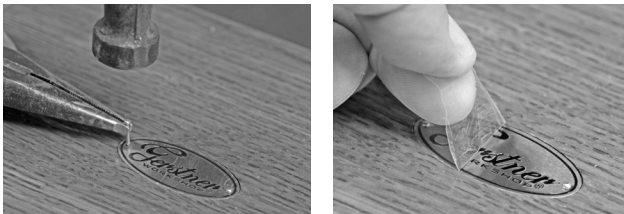
- 15** Apply stain to inside edges, and exterior surfaces as desired. Wipe excess stain from the surface and make sure the color has been evenly applied.



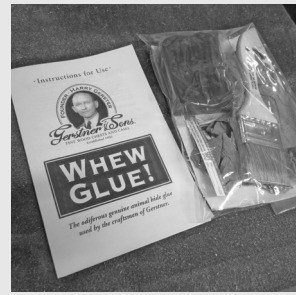
- 16** Apply a lacquer finish to the chest. Lightly sand the first coat, or seal coat, once dry with 320 grit sand paper. Apply top coat to parts as desired and let finish fully cure before handling.



- 17** Install the Gerstner nameplate where desired. We typically place the nameplate on the front for this style of chest. After installation, remove the protective film to expose the beauty and luster of the nameplate.

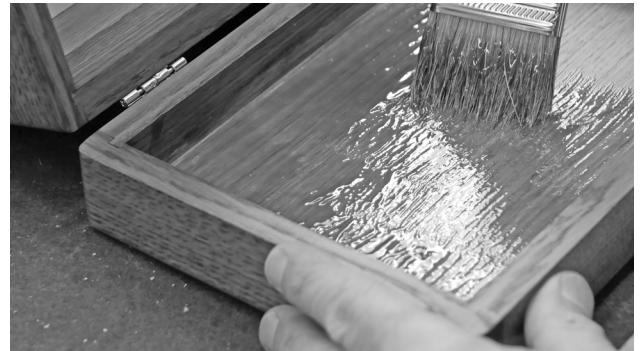


## FELT INSTALLATION



A 50/50 mix of white glue and water can be used for felt installation. We recommend Gerstner Whew Glue for all felt applications, as it holds reliably, yet easy to replace if you ever need to re-felt in the coming years. It is the only felt glue we use in our workshop.

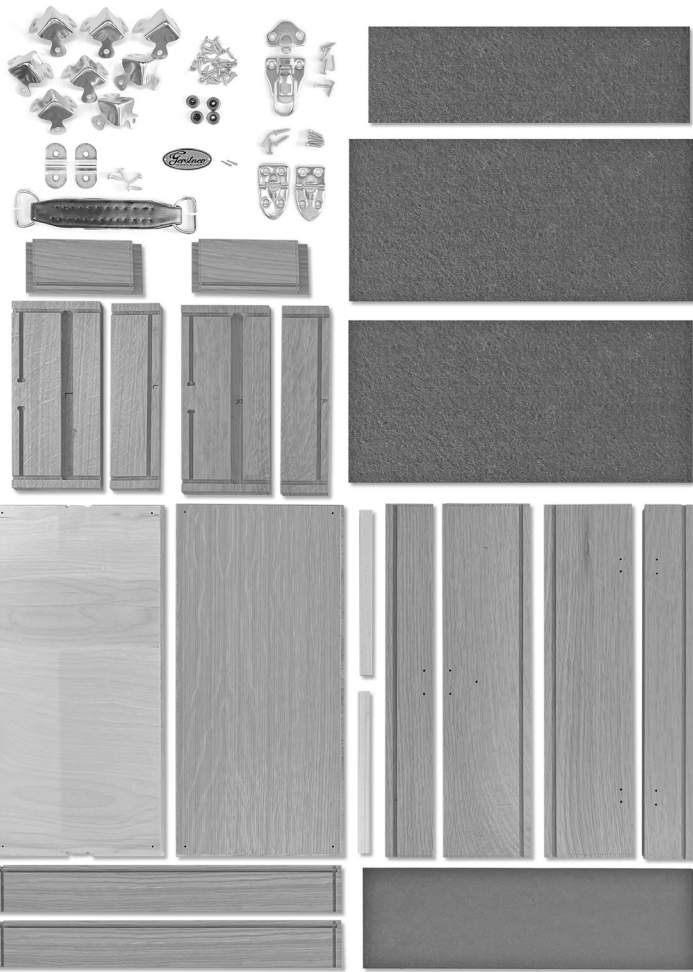
- 18** Install large flat sections of felt first.



- 19** After all felt has been installed, let the chest sit open for a few hours to dry.







**PARTS LIST**

**QUANTITY**

- Bottom front – oak . . . . .1
- Bottom front – oak . . . . .1
- Bottom side – Left – oak . . . . .1
- Bottom side – Right – oak . . . . .1
- Birch plywood bottom . . . . .1
- Tray support rails – poplar . . . . .2
- Lid front – oak . . . . .1
- Lid front – oak . . . . .1
- Lid side – Left . . . . .1
- Lid side – Right . . . . .1
- Lid top – oak . . . . .1
- Tray front and back – oak . . . . .2
- Tray sides – oak . . . . .2
- Tray bottom - 1/8" material . . . . .1
- Felt – top lid – Brown . . . . .1
- Felt – tray - Brown . . . . .1
- Felt – bottom – Brown . . . . .1
- Black leather top handle with Nickel D-rings . . . . .1
- Nickel handle plate . . . . .2
- Nickel – #5 x 3/8" PH screws . . . . .24
- Nickel – #8 x 1/2" PH screws . . . . .4
- Nickel – #5 x 5/8" FLT screws . . . . .13
- Nickel catch . . . . .1
- Nickel 1" stop hinge . . . . .2
- Nickel 3-leg corner . . . . .8
- Rubber bumpers . . . . .4
- Nameplate with 2 nails . . . . .1

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

You have built an heirloom quality Gerstner chest that will last for generations. Keep your fine wood chest in tip top shape by using Gerstner Finish Restorer and Preserver.

Scan to watch a brief video demonstration of cleaning with Gerstner Finish Restorer and Preserver



**DID YOU ENJOY BUILDING YOUR NEW 1600 TOTE CASE?**

Check out all of the other Gerstner Workshop DIY Kits at [www.GerstnerUSA.com](http://www.GerstnerUSA.com).



J1001  
Just Right Box  
DIY Kit

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