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Dave Campbell
Editorial Content Chief, *WOOD* magazine



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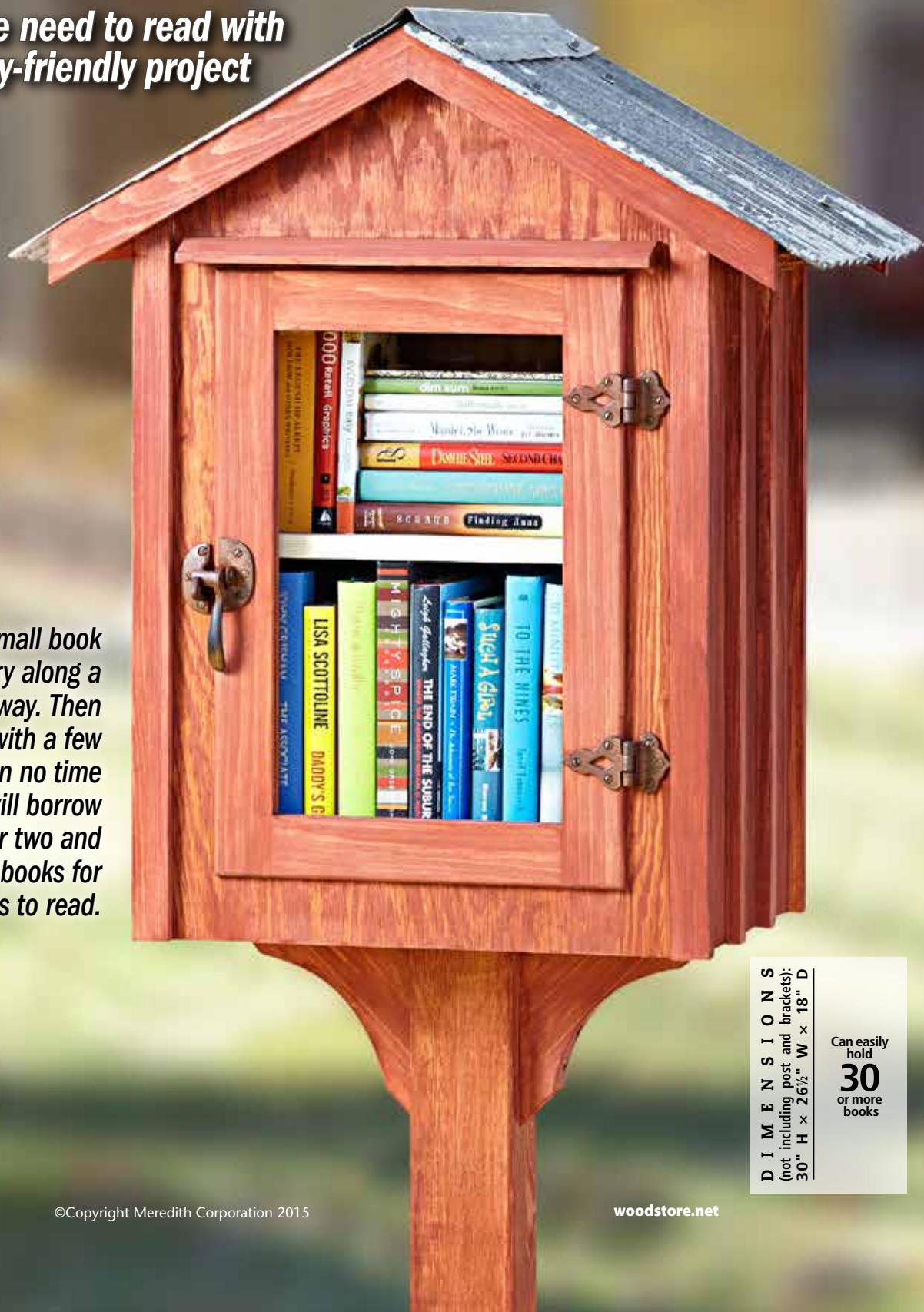
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Quench the need to read with this literacy-friendly project

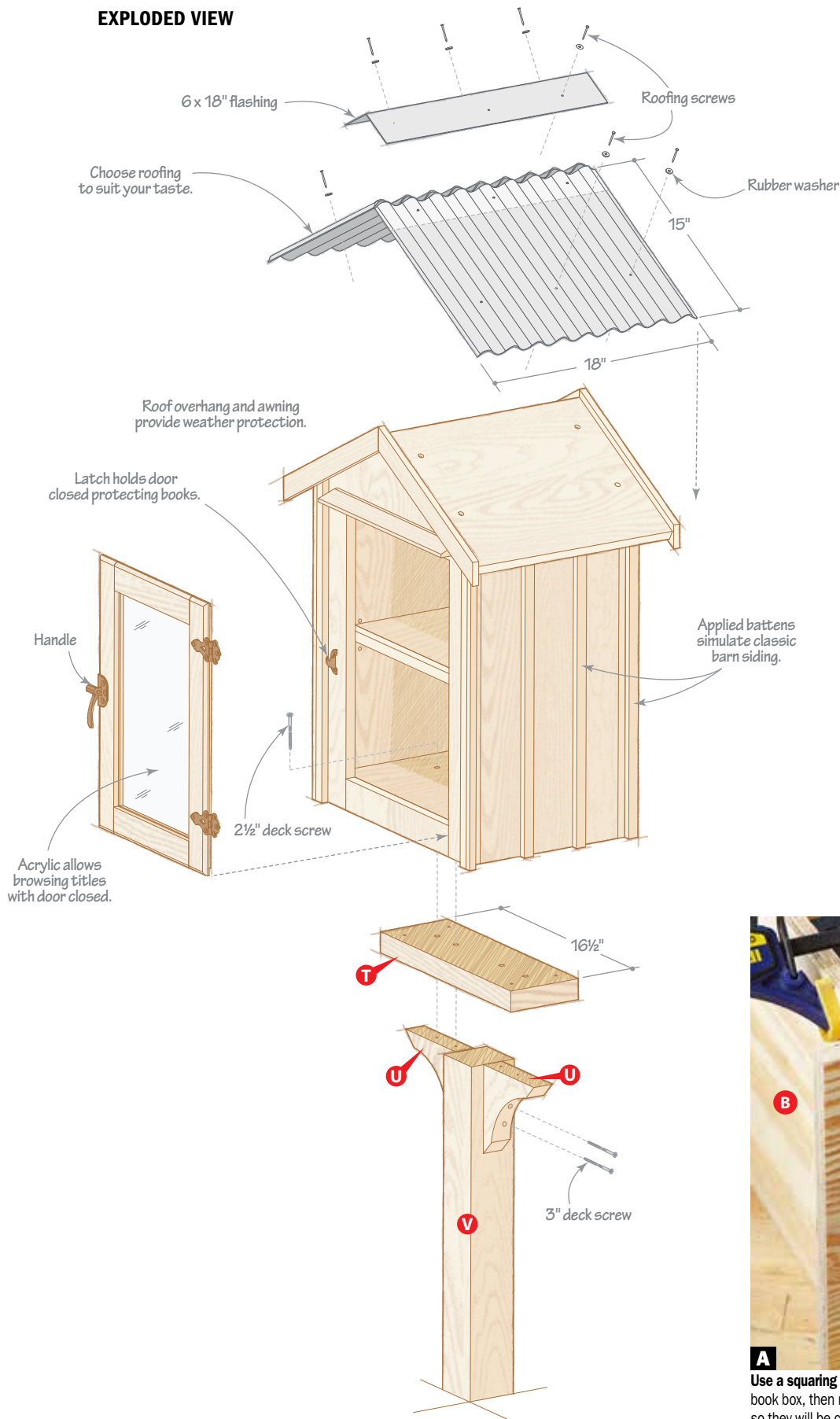
Place this small book depository along a nearby walkway. Then stock it with a few tomes—in no time passersby will borrow a favorite or two and in turn leave books for others to read.



D I M E N S I O N S
(not including post and brackets):
30" H x 26½" W x 18" D

Can easily hold
30
or more books

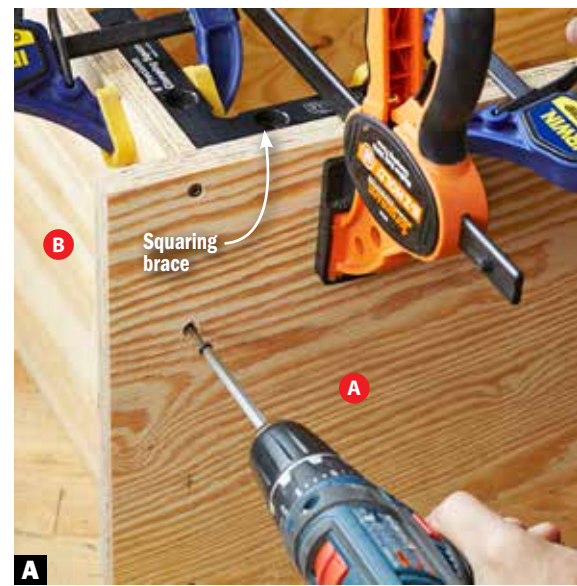
EXPLODED VIEW



Start with the book box

1 From $\frac{3}{4}$ " exposure-rated plywood (we used CDX) cut the box sides (A) and top/bottom (B) [Materials List]. Drill shelf-pin holes in each side [Drawing 1]. Sand the inside surfaces to 150 grit. Glue and clamp the top and bottom between the sides and then add screws [Photo A]. Drive the screwheads just below the surface and fill the dimples with wood filler.

Tip! For best joint life outdoors, use a water-resistant glue such as Titebond II, or waterproof adhesive such as Titebond III, polyurethane glue, or epoxy.



A Use a squaring brace when gluing and clamping together the book box, then reinforce the joints with $1\frac{1}{4}$ " screws spaced so they will be covered by the battens (K). (See Drawing 3.)

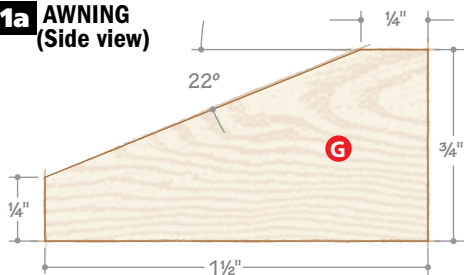


B Mark the locations of two pocket-hole screws or dowels at each joint in the box-front assembly (D–F).

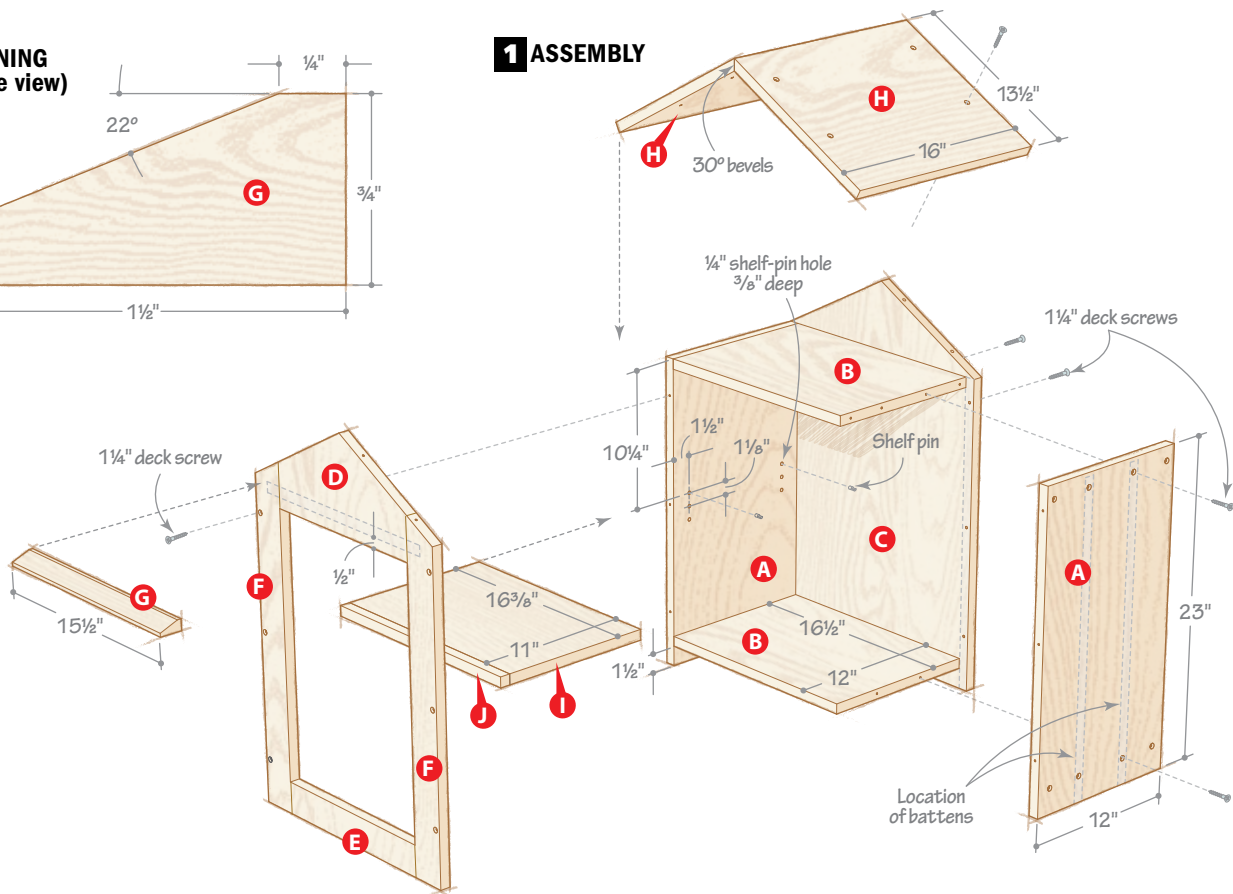


C Clamp and glue the fascia (O) to the roof edges before nailing. The corrugated tin we used required raising the fascia ½" (the thickness of the tin) above the roof top.

1a AWNING (Side view)



1 ASSEMBLY



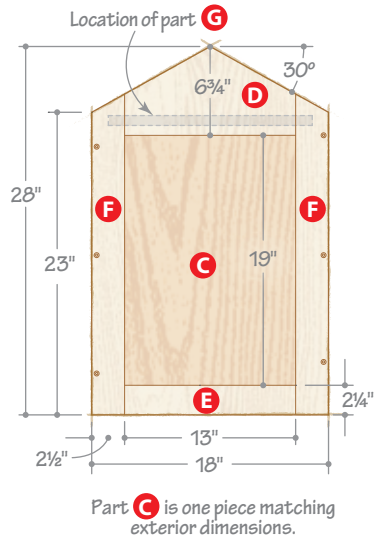
2 Saw the back (C) to size and cut the peak [Drawing 2].

3 Cut the box front top (D), bottom (E), and stiles (F). Place the parts so they form the box front. Lay the back (C) atop those parts with all edges flush and trace the peak onto the front parts. Remove the back and mark locations for pocket-hole screws

or dowels [Photo B]. Apply glue, assemble the front, and cut the peak. Finish-sand this assembly.

4 Cut to size the awning (G), and rip its 22° bevel [Drawing 1a]. Glue it centered ½" above the door opening. Glue and screw the front (D–G) and back (C) to the box assembly (A/B) [Drawing 1].

2 FRONT/BACK LAYOUT



5 Cut to size the roof panels (H), bevel-ripping one edge of each panel at 30° [Drawing 1]. Glue and screw them to the top of the box (A–G).

6 Cut and glue together the shelf (I) and its edging (J), and sand smooth.

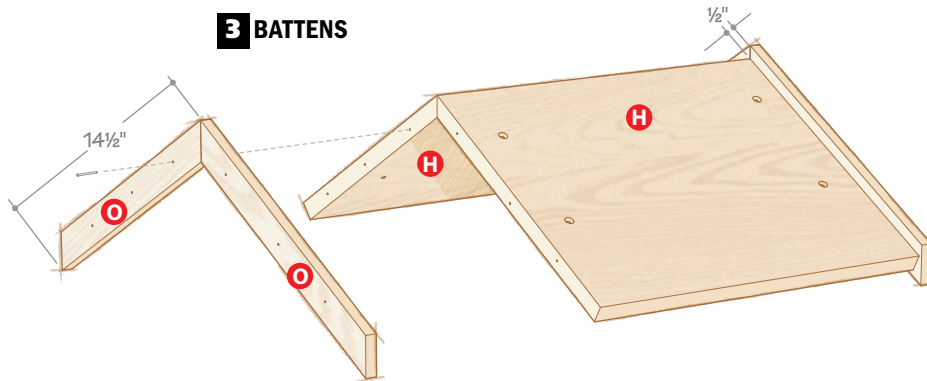
Add trim and a door

1 From 1/2" pine, cut blanks for the battens (K–N) about 1" longer than listed [Materials List]. Cut a 30° miter on the end of each batten. Trim each batten to length and attach with glue and nails, beginning with the corner battens (L) [Drawing 3]. The side battens (K) then overlap the corner battens.

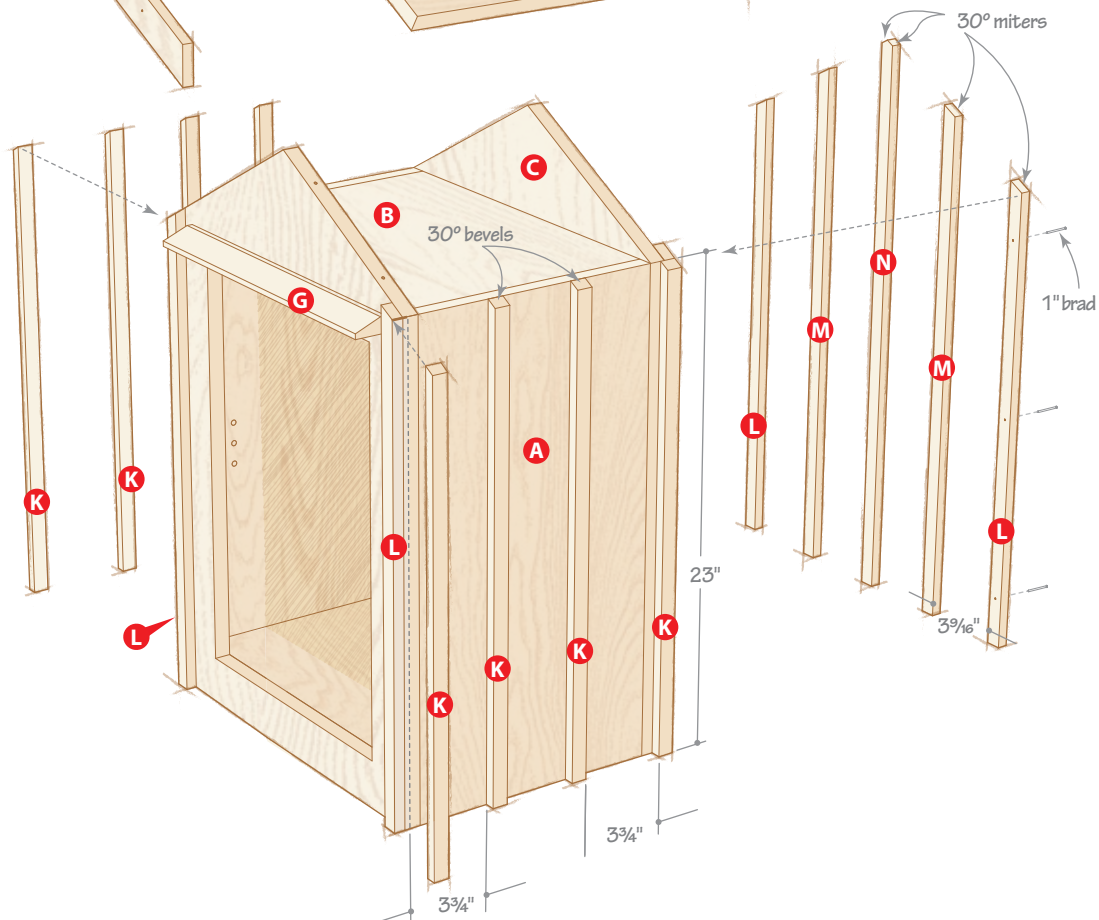
2 Miter-cut the fascia (O) to finished length [Drawing 3a]. Glue and nail it flush with the top edges of the front and back roof edges unless your roofing material requires

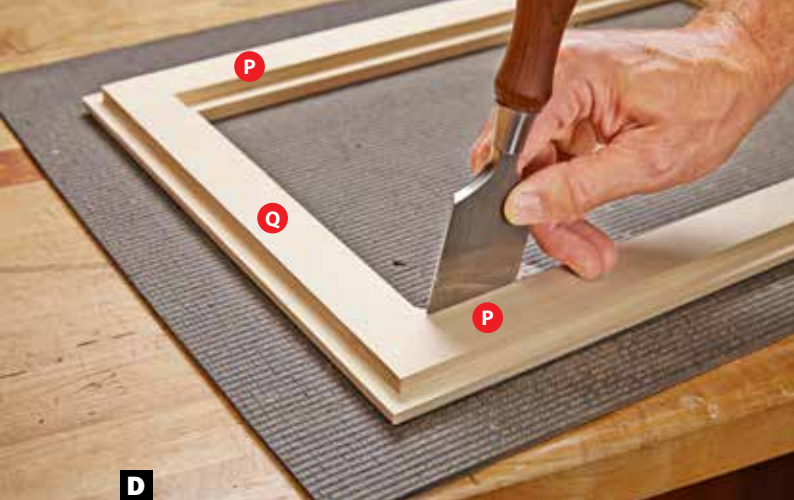
► Unlike the other battens that get a single miter on one end, the center back batten (N) gets a double miter on its top end to match the peak.

3 BATTENS

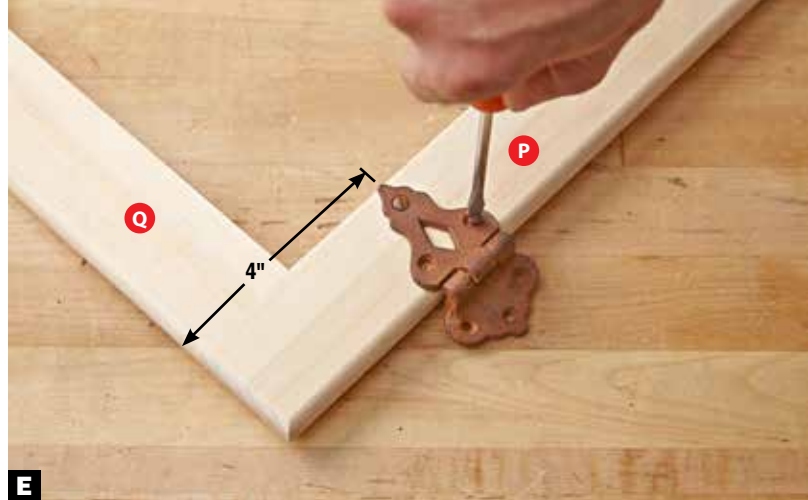


3a FASCIA





D Square each inside-rabbit corner using your widest chisel. Align the back of the chisel with the rabbit wall and rock the chisel back and forth. Remove small bits of material from each side before moving deeper in the cut.



E Install the door hinges with their tips flush with the inside door edge and 4" from the door's top and bottom. Pre-drill the screw holes for best results.

raising the fascia [Photo C].

3 Cut to size the door stiles (P) and rails (Q). Join them with dowels placed to stay clear of upcoming rabbet cuts [Drawing 4a]. Clamp the door, let the glue dry, and sand.

4 Round-over the outside edge of the door's front face [Drawing 4]. Then rabbet the door's back face and square the corners [Photo D]. Do any further required sanding.

5 Attach the hinges [Source] to the door [Photo E]. With the book box laying on its back, center the door in its opening, and attach the other leaves of the hinges to the box front stiles (F).

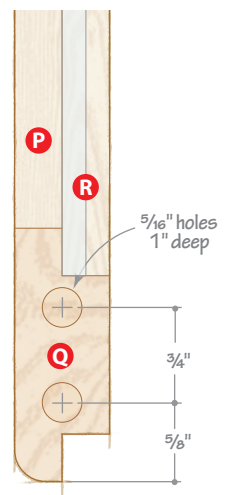
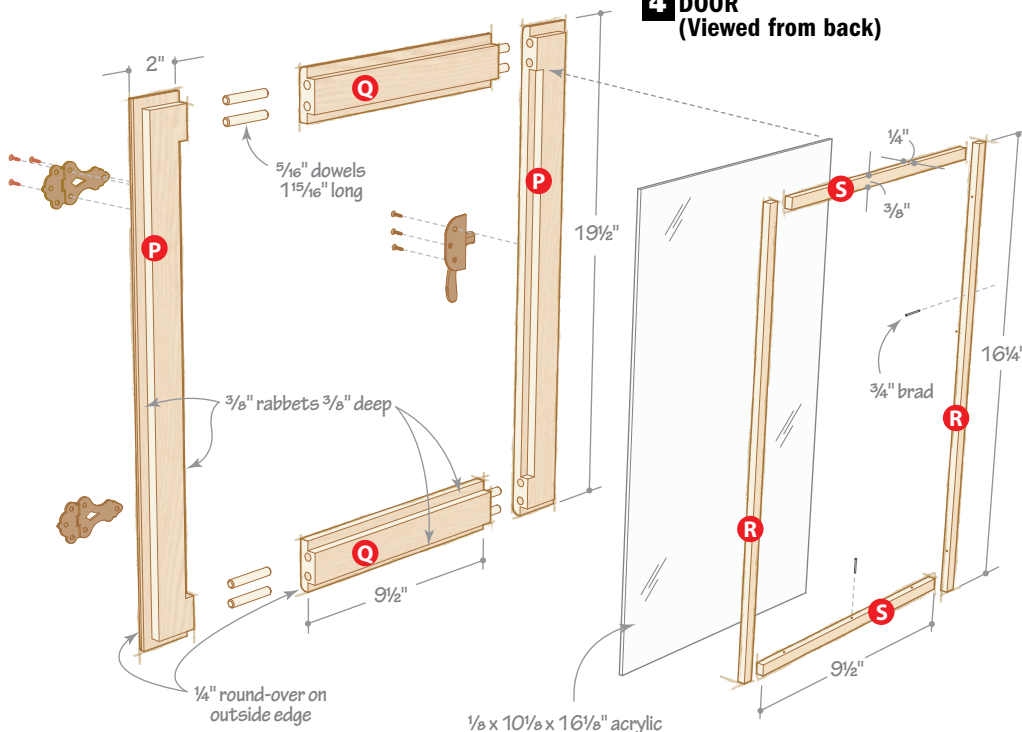
6 Center the latch on the length of the door. Attach the door handle first, then add the latch [Photo F]. Cut the glass stops (R, S) about 1" longer than listed, and set them aside.



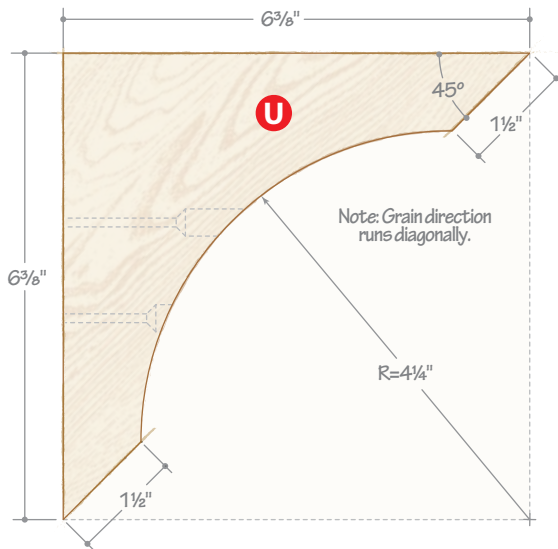
F Install the door latch so the handle pulls the door tightly shut for a good seal.

4 DOOR (Viewed from back)

4a DOOR FRAME DETAIL



5 BRACKET



Now finish it up

1 From a pressure-treated 2×6, cut the post mount (T) [Exploded View] and brackets (U) [Drawing 5]. Check your local building code for how deep the post (V) should be in the ground, then cut a 4×4 post long enough for the bottom of the box to sit 32\"

2 Remove the hardware and do any final sanding. Apply a stain or paint scheme of your choice. We brushed on a coat of semi-transparent Olympic Maximum Stain + Sealant in One tinted in No. 728 Rosewood color (available at Lowe's).

3 After the finish dries, cut a piece of acrylic 1/8\"

4 Attach the roofing material of your choice. We used corrugated tin from a demolished farm structure, cut it to extend past the wood on all sides, secured it using roofing screws with rubber seal washers, and capped it with ridge flashing [Exploded View].

5 Install the post (V) plumb in the ground. Center the mount (T) on top of the post, then screw it and the brackets (U) to the post. Position the book box on top of the post mount and secure it with screws driven through the bottom and into the post mount [Exploded View]. Seed it with a few starter books and watch the sharing begin! 🌳

Produced by **Bill Krier** with **Kevin Boyle**
Project design: **Kevin Boyle**
Illustrations: **Roxanne LeMoine**; **Lorna Johnson**

► Consider registering your book nook with the Little Free Library organization, which was established in 2009 to promote literacy and the love of reading through the placement of free book exchanges. Today, more than 32,000 such book-sharing sites have been established worldwide. To learn more about the program, go to littlefreelibrary.org.

Materials List

Part	Box	FINISHED SIZE			Matl.	Qty.
		T	W	L		
A	sides	3/4"	12"	23"	X	2
B	top/bottom	3/4"	12"	16 1/2"	X	2
C	back	3/4"	18"	28"	X	1
D	front top	3/4"	6 3/4"	13"	X	1
E	front bottom	3/4"	2 1/4"	13"	X	1
F*	front stiles	3/4"	2 1/2"	25"	X	2
G	awning	3/4"	1 1/2"	15 1/2"	P	1
H	roof panels	3/4"	13 1/2"	16"	X	2
Shelf						
I	shelf	3/4"	11"	16 3/8"	X	1
J	front edging	3/4"	3/4"	16 3/8"	P	1
Trim						
K*	side battens	1/2"	3/4"	23"	P	8
L*	corner battens	1/2"	3/4"	23 1/8"	P	4
M*	mid back battens	1/2"	3/4"	25 1 1/16"	P	2
N*	center back batten	1/2"	3/4"	28"	P	1
O*	fascia	1/2"	1 1/2"	14 1/2"	P	4
Door						
P	door stiles	3/4"	2"	19 1/2"	P	2
Q	door rails	3/4"	2"	9 1/2"	P	2
R*	vertical glass stops	1/4"	3/8"	16 1/4"	P	2
S*	horizontal glass stops	1/4"	3/8"	9 1/2"	P	2
Post						
T	mount	1 1/2"	5 1/2"	16 1/2"	T	1
U	brackets	1 1/2"	4 1/2"	9"	T	2
V	post	3 1/2"	3 1/2"	**	T	1

*Parts initially cut oversize. See the instructions.

**32\"

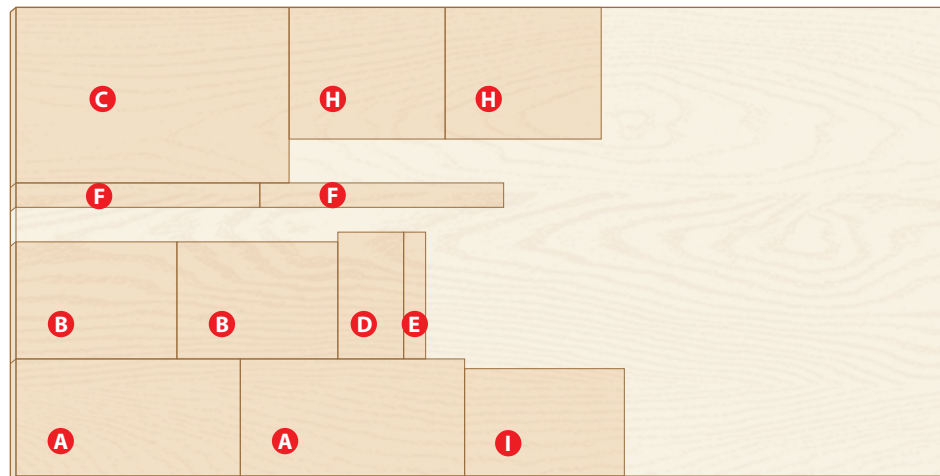
Materials key: X-exposure-rated plywood, P-pine, T-treated pine.

Supplies: 3/4\"

Bits: 1/4\"

Source: Restorers 3/8\"

CUTTING DIAGRAM



$\frac{3}{4}$ x 48 x 96" Exposure-rated plywood



$\frac{1}{2}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 96" Pine



$\frac{3}{4}$ x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 96" Pine



$\frac{1}{2}$ x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 48" Pine



$\frac{1}{4}$ x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 24" Pine



3 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 72" Treated Pine (4x4) * See instructions to determine length.



1 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 48" Treated Pine (2x6)

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