

# Dragon Chest

## Kit Inventory

- Front, Back and Base Panels
- Front Bottom Rail, Back Bottom Rail
- Two (2) Top Rails
- Left Upper Inner End, Left Lower Inner End
- Right Upper Inner End, Right Lower Inner End
- Left Tongue Piece, Right Tongue Piece
- Left Packing Piece, Right Packing Piece
- Left End Spacer, Right End Spacer
- Left Outer Panel, Right Upper Outer Panel, Right Lower Outer Panel
- Left End Tile, Right End Tile
- False Bottom with “Design by Bruce Viney” on it
- Long False Bottom Packing Piece, Two (2) Short False Bottom Packing Piece
- Lid Runner
- Two (2) Lid Runner Long Strip
- Lid Runner Left End, Lid Runner Right End
- Five (5) Lid Sliding Pieces Numbered 1 – 5
- Five (5) Lid Spacers Numbered 1 – 5
- Five (5) Lid Tiles
- Lid Outer Panel
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- Black (.280”) alignment pegs (20+)
- Orange (.150”) alignment pegs (4+)

## Other Items Needed

- Glue – I use a “craft” type tacky glue such as “Aleenes Tacky Glue” which can be found at craft stores like Michael’s.
- Sandpaper - to smooth any rough edges and make parts slide easier.
- Wax/paraffin – also to make parts slide better.

## General Notes:

- All writing on parts is oriented the same way on each side unless otherwise noted.
- This puzzle is assembled with the writing on the plywood pieces facing out. When the outer layer pieces are glued on the writing on those pieces faces inwards.
- The alignment pegs are of different lengths depending upon the number of layers that are being placed together. Be careful to use the correct length. The pegs are easier to push through the holes if you start them on the side of the piece that has writing.
- Check the fit before gluing and sand/file any pieces that do not slide smoothly
- I find that light sanding of the faces of sliding pieces makes for better boxes. I also use paraffin/candle wax on the surfaces to get smoothly moving pieces.
- I use Aleene's tacky glue for gluing parts. I glue the pieces and then hold them together for ~15 seconds and they will stay in place until the glue dries.
- Be careful when attaching outer sides, spacers and covers to keep glue away from areas where it might squeeze out underneath and get on any of the sliding parts. If possible glue those parts without the sliding pieces in place so you can clean up any glue squeeze out.
- Clean up glue squeeze out while the glue is still soft as it is much harder after it dries.
- When sanding flat sides it is better to place the sheet of sandpaper on a flat surface and move the puzzle piece over the sandpaper. This keeps the face flat and prevents rounding over the edges.
- If tabs seem too fat to fit in slots then sand them with a couple of passes of 100 grit sandpaper on each side of the tabbed piece.
- If tabbed pieces do not seat fully in the pocket areas, then sand the ends of the tabs .

## Add Rails to Front and Back Panels

Glue front bottom rail to the front panel. The writing on the rail piece should be facing the top edge of the panel. Glue a top rail to the front panel also with the writing facing the same direction. Do the same for the back panel.



## Assemble Box

Glue the left and right upper inner ends to the front and back panels with the writing on the ends facing outwards. This can be a little tricky to hold, but you can use the base panel to help align the four pieces and make sure they are square. The tabs on the bottom edge of the front and back pieces should fit into the cut out areas of the base panel



Make sure to remove any glue squeeze out before it dries. After the glue has dried glue the lower inner ends for both the left and right sides. After the glue has dried test fit the false bottom panel and the inner lid panel. Sand or file these pieces to make sure they slide smoothly. Finish sand the base, front and back sides now since it is easier before the base is glue onto the box. Glue the base piece to the box assembly.

## Assemble Inner End Panels

Lightly sand the backs side of the left and right holder panels and the front side of the two packing pieces with 180/220 grit sandpaper. This make the pieces slide smother and is easier to do now before the pieces are assembled. Using the red (.400") pegs glue the left and right packing pieces to the left and right holder panels. The writing on these pieces should face outwards and the pegs should be flush with the backside of the holder panels and protrude from the packing pieces. Next, glue the left end and right end spacers to the packing pieces.



## Finish/Decorate Box and EndPanels

If you are going to apply finish to the puzzle that should be done now. Finish sand the front and back of the left and right end outer panels with 180/220 sandpaper if you are just going to be applying a clear finish to the box. If you are going to use the designs from Bruce's plans then they can be added to the outer end panels, top panel and the front and back panels of the box. If you add paper/cardboard decorations, make sure you add the same thickness material to the face of the spacer pieces.

## End Panel Final Assembly

Test fit the end panels by putting the outer end panel onto the inner end panel assembly and holding the outer tile in place without any glue. Check to make sure the locking piece moves correctly and when it does glue the outer tile in place. After the glue has dried make sure the panels still operate correctly.



## Add End Panel to Box

Make sure that the surface where the end panels will be glued is free of any finish and lightly sand if necessary. Glue the left and right end panels to the box with the surface of the end panel flush to the ends of the front and back panels.



## Assemble False Bottom

**\*\*\*The remainder of the plans/assembly instructions included with kit/plans**

After making sure the sliders operate correctly glue the lid outer panel to this assembly. The lid outer tiles can then be glued to the corresponding lid spacer piece. The box is complete except for any additional decorations that you would like to add.

