

COLLECTORS NO. 40071

**Dower Chest**

Massachusetts:
Circa 1700

This Dower Chest was constructed in Massachusetts at the turn of the Century. It is a rare form of late 17th Century American furniture and reflects the influence of earlier European furniture designs.

This type of chest was the precursor of the lowboy form of furniture. The design of the piece we have chosen to reproduce in miniature is one that is mid-way in the evolution of the lowboys and chests of drawers. The original pieces were just chests. Later, drawers were added below the chests, then legs were added; and eventually the chest space was entirely replaced by drawers.

The original of this chest was framed in oak with pine panelling and a pine top. The spool-turned legs are a fine example of the turner's art.

Hardware was at a premium in the colonies at this time. As a result, the cabinetmaker depended upon his skills in joinery to hold the parts together. Pegs, mortise and tenon joints, etc., took the place of nails and screws.

The lid of this chest is hinged by means of a hinge cleat and pin, thus avoiding the use of scarce and expensive hinges. This type of construction is a rarity today, but it was an accepted practice then.

ASSEMBLY AND FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS



AUTHENTIC REPRODUCTIONS IN MINIATURE

The X-ACTO® House of Miniature® Collectors Series of furniture and accessories have all been carefully researched by specialists through major museum and library collections to assure the highest quality of authenticity in reproduction. Details are extraordinarily accurate to satisfy the most discriminating miniaturist.

All wood parts are machined to assure accurate and precise acceptance of each piece by another.

For a complete catalog of the X-ACTO® HOUSE OF MINIATURES furniture line and accessories, write to:

X-ACTO® THE HOUSE OF MINIATURES Dept. KIT
45-35 Van Dam Street
Long Island City,
New York 11101

Please include \$2.00 for postage and handling.

TOOLS AND MATERIALS

A. The following tools will be helpful in constructing this kit:

1. X-ACTO 7003 Small Plastic Clamps
2. X-ACTO 7144 Pin Vise and Drills
3. X-ACTO Professional Finishing Kit (or equivalent, see note)
4. X-ACTO 7042 Sander
5. X-ACTO #1 Knife

B. The following materials will be needed to construct this kit:

1. X-ACTO Tinted Glue (see note)
2. Sandpaper - 220 and 280 grit
3. White glue (or equivalent)
4. Small Artist's Brush

NOTE: The X-ACTO tinted glue is matched to the finish used in the Professional Finishing Kit. This will produce the authentic finish of the period in which the original Furniture was produced. When not using X-ACTO glue follow manufacturer's directions.

GLUING

A. Glue should be applied in small amounts to surface being joined. When gluing dado joints apply glue to dado only.

B. To ensure a tight fit, squeeze excess glue out of the joints. Hold glued parts together with clamps, rubber bands or weights on the parts.

C. Wipe off excess glue promptly.

D. Be sure a glued assembly has dried thoroughly before adding parts.

FINISHING

The X-ACTO Professional Finishing Kit enables you to finish your furniture by the same process used by the professional furniture maker. The end result is what is important — there are easier methods, but none that will give the quality results that this process will. If you use a finish other than X-ACTO's, refer to the manufacturer's directions.

INTRODUCTION

BEFORE STARTING

Identify and account for each part by placing it on the Layout Sheet (make sure the correct layout sheet is used when working on multi-kit Instruction Sheets). Should any parts be missing, send a post card to:

X-ACTO/The House of Miniatures
45-35 Van Dam Street
Long Island City, N.Y. 11101

Please print Name, Address, Part Number (Number from Layout Sheet) and Kit Name and Number on card when ordering.

SANDING

Before assembly, sand all the outer surfaces of individual parts with 220 grit sandpaper, or finer, sanded in the same direction as the wood grain until the surface is smooth. Take care not to round any edges or corners of the pieces. Finish sanding with 280 grit sandpaper.

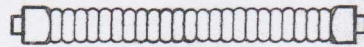
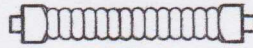
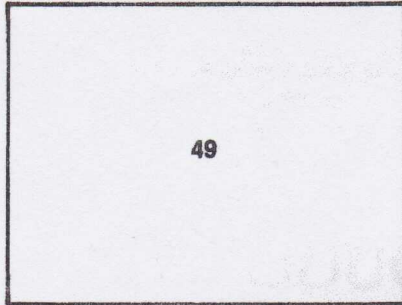
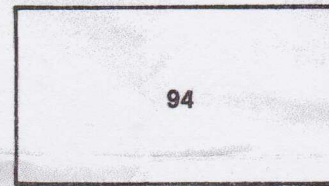
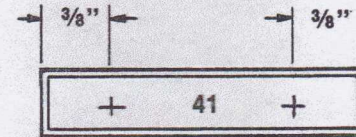
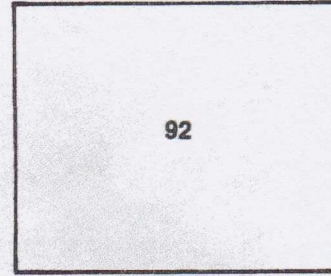
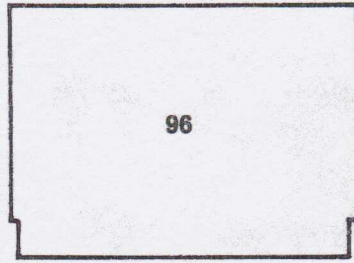
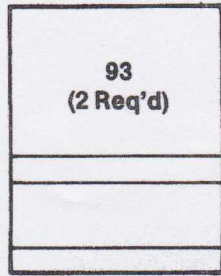
PRE-ASSEMBLY

A. After sanding, check the proper location and fit of each part by assembling parts loosely, without gluing. Use the DETAIL VIEWS as a guide.

B. All parts for X-ACTO kits are made on precision milling machines. When adjustments are required, sand to fit.

Layout Sheet

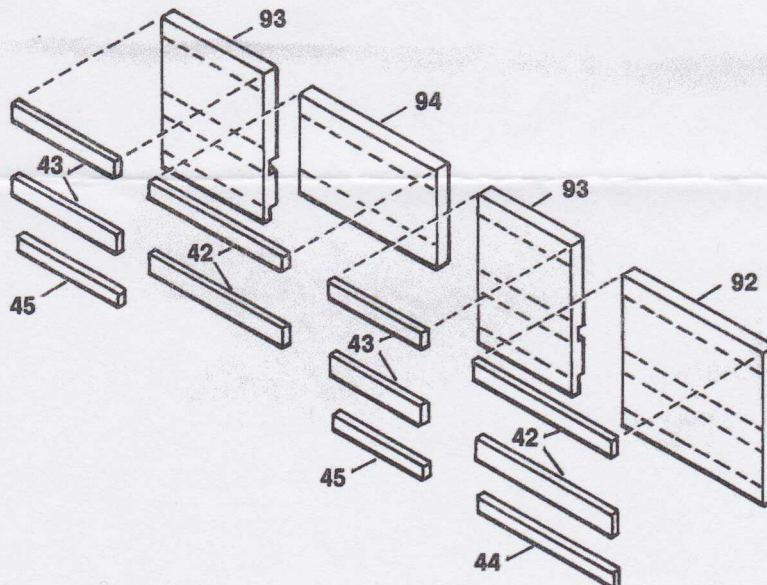
KIT 40071



HARDWARE

	Description	Req'd
	Hinge Pin	2
	Escutcheon	2
	Knob	2

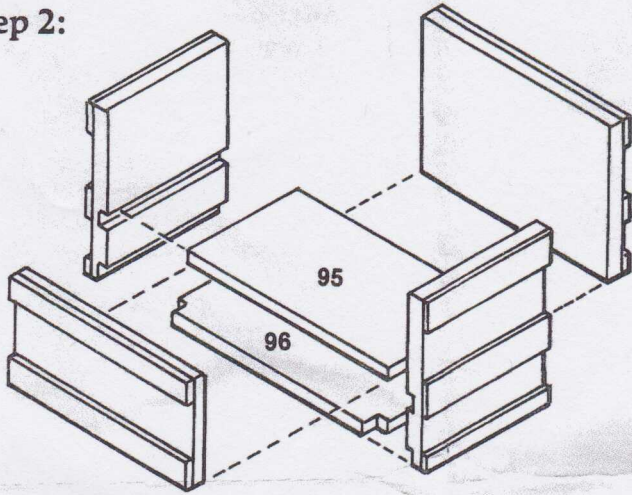
Step 1:



A. Glue all trim strips (42, 43, 44 & 45) to sides (93), front (94) and back (92). Glue strips (42) to the front (94) first, flush to top and bottom, then use this piece to align strips (43) on the top and center of sides (93) and strips (42) on the top and center of back (92). Strips (44 & 45) are glued flush with the bottoms of the sides (93) and back (92.)

Detail Views

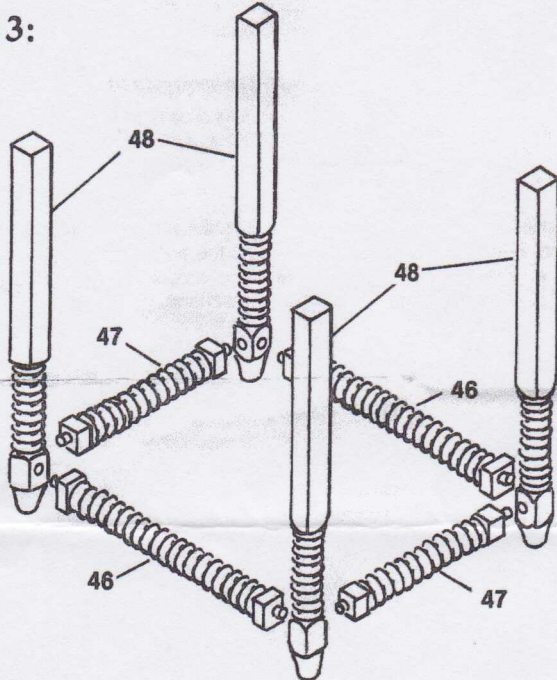
Step 2:



A. Glue center divider (95) and bottom (96) into the dadoes of sides (93) so that back edges are flush with the rear of the sides (93).

B. Glue the back (92) and the front (94) to the assembly formed in A. All top edges should be flush. There will be notches formed in all four corners.

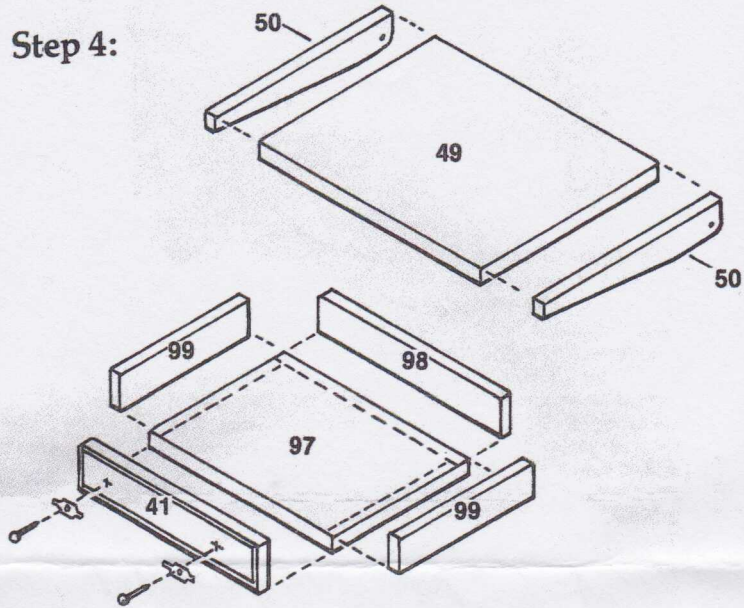
Step 3:



A. Glue the side spreaders (47) and front and rear spreaders (46) into the legs (48). Try all parts first since length of the dowels on the ends of the spreaders may need to be shortened slightly by sanding.

B. After glue is set, glue the assembly made in Step 2 to this leg assembly so that top of legs are flush with the top of the chest.

Step 4:



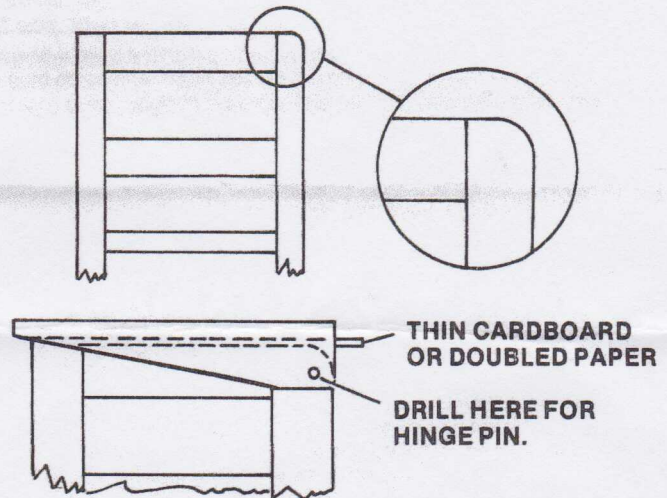
A. Glue sides (50) to lid (49) so they are flush on top and at the rear.

bottom (97) against end of sides (99).

B. Glue drawer sides (99) on top of drawer bottom (97) so that front & side edges are flush. Glue drawer back (98) on top of

C. Drill pilot holes in the drawer front using the guide marks on the layout sheet. Do not install hardware now. Finish drawer front before attaching.

Step 5:



A. Round rear edge of chest assembly as shown. Place cardboard or paper between lid and chest as shown. With back edges flush, drill holes in chest for the hinge pins. Insert pins partway in and check that lid opens and closes properly. Ad-

ditional rounding of edge may be needed. Remove pins.

B. Apply final finish to all parts.

C. Insert hinge pins. Deepen holes if necessary. Glue front to drawer and install drawer pulls.