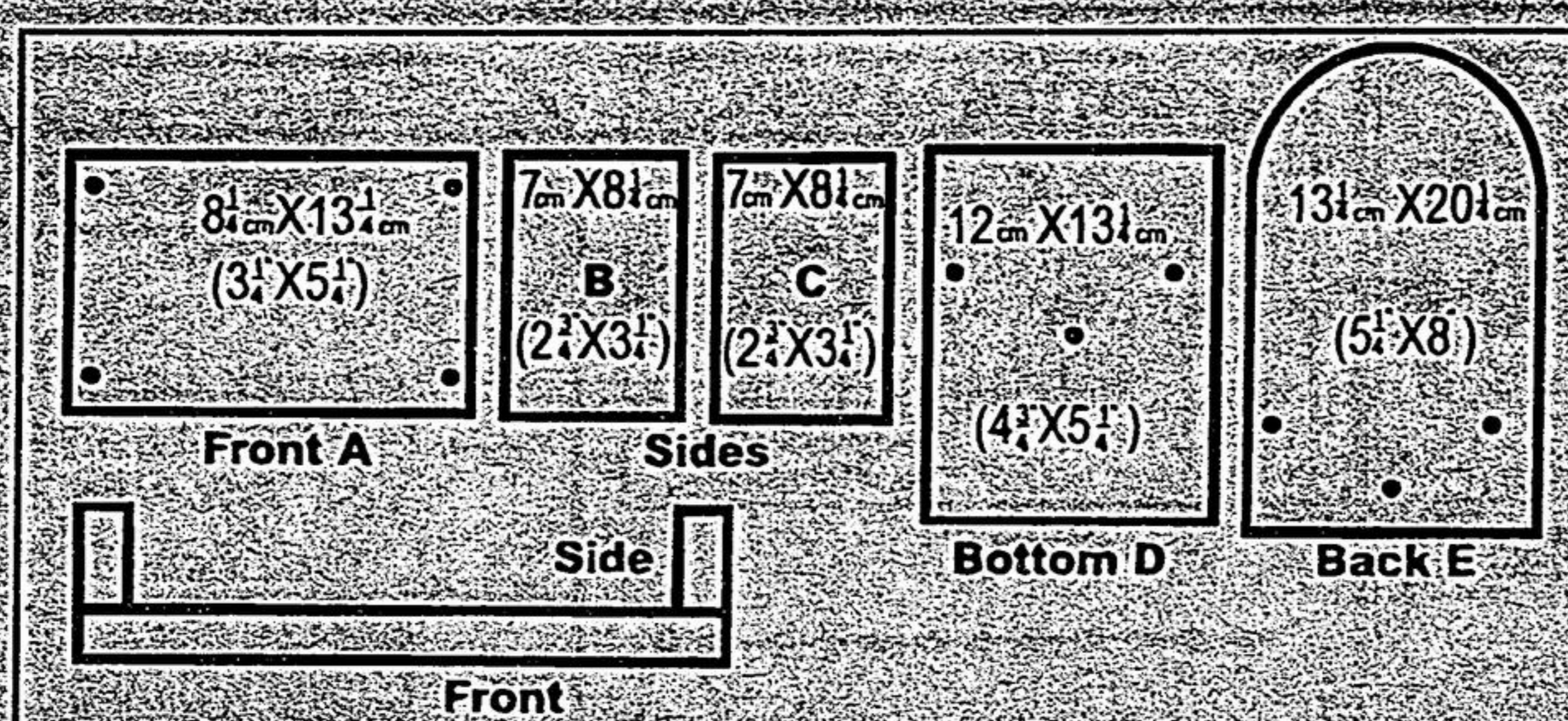
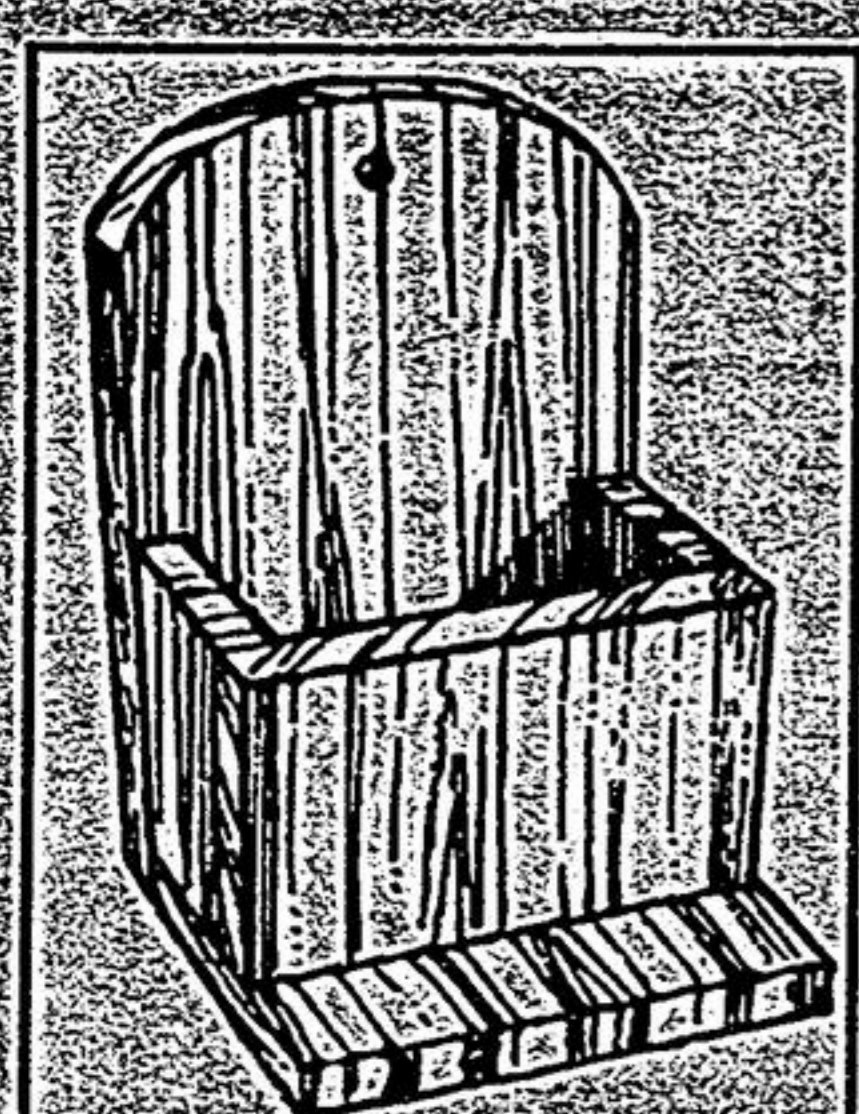


# Home & Garden

## Kids can make their own beautiful letter box



Building a letter box can be an easy and fun way for kids to begin to work with wood and also use math and measuring skills at the same time.

Wood comes in many different widths and grades - some pieces may have more knots than others - so you will want to be careful when you pick out the piece to use.

For this box, you can use 1 1/4 cm (1/2 inch) width pine wood or two two cm (3/4 inch) pine. You can find it at your local home centre.

When you get it home, take out a measuring tape and make a pattern from

the measurements listed here.

If you are careful, you can draw directly onto the wood. It is very important to keep the pieces even on all sides or the box will not be square and fit together evenly.

"If you have a wood burning tool you may want to use it after you finish building the box," said Eric Schmidt, a home improvement expert for The Home Depot.

"The kids who make them at our store will hang them on the wall or they even fit nicely on a shelf."

**You'll need 10 nails, five wood pieces, a saw, hammer and sandpaper.**

1. Begin by tapping nails into Front A in four places shown on the diagram. Do not hammer the nails all the way through.

2. Stand Side B and Side C, with the long side up on a table top. Place Front A on top, placing side pieces flush with the short edges of

Front A. 3. Nail the front to sides, making sure to keep edges flush.

4. Turn assembled piece so that the front faces you (see diagram).

5. Set Bottom D on top, placing back edge of bottom flush with open end of assembled piece. (Bottom D will extend over Front A).

6. Nail bottom to front and sides.

7. Turn assembly so Front A touches the short edge of Back E, even with the sides and Bottom D. Nail back into sides and bottom.

8. Sandpaper project for smooth finish.

9. Paint it if you like, varnish it, or just leave it natural.

10. Watch it fill up with letters as we get closer to the holidays.

**Not recommended for children under 3 years old.**

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