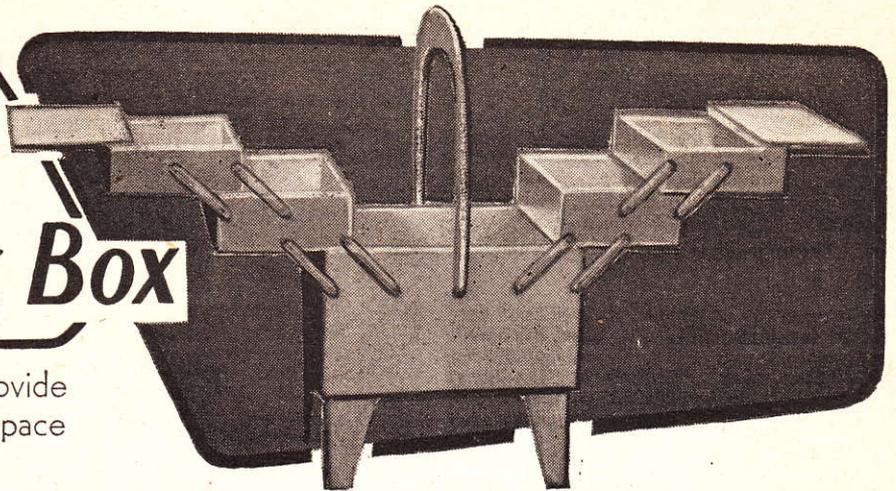


A Multi-tray Needlework Box

The Various Compartments Provide a Large Amount of Storage Space

By L. J. DAY



THE needlework box described here is primarily designed for construction by the novice, and involves no technique requiring much skill. The finished article,

is made of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. plywood, which was ultimately enamelled to match the paintwork in the room in which the box is kept. The various wooden parts are illustrated, with all the important dimensions, in Figs. 1 and 2. In addition, the following hardboard panels will be required for the bases of the five compartments:

- One off 1ft. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. (Item I).
- Four off 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. x 6 $\frac{13}{16}$ in. (Item J).

4. Glue the edges of the hardboard panels and slide into the slots (which should also be brushed with glue first).
5. Fit the second side panel A.
6. Fit the details E (Fig. 5), glueing and pinning in position.
7. Use a centre-punch to recess the heads of the panel pins and fill with plastic wood.

The Hinges

The next important step is the making of

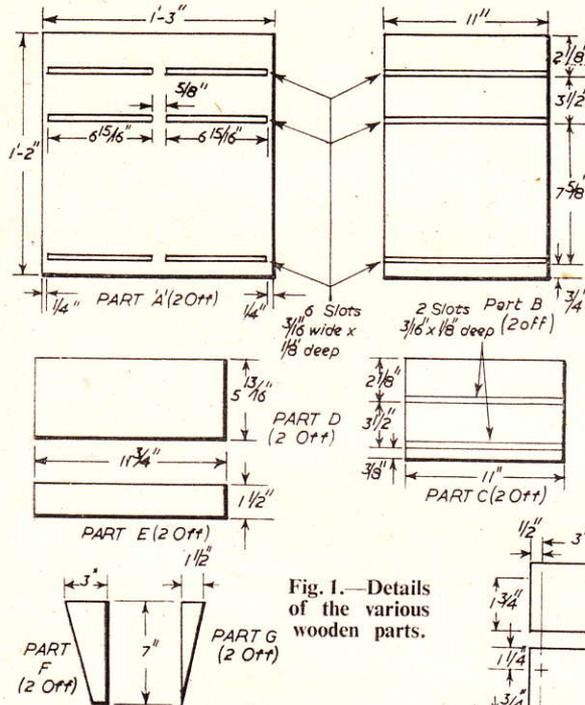
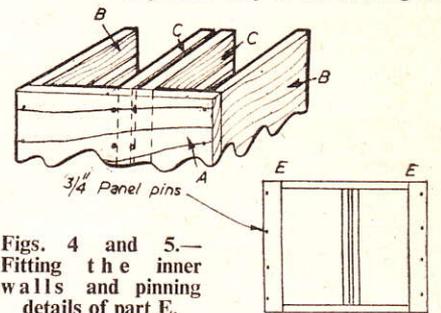


Fig. 1.—Details of the various wooden parts.

Order of Construction

Having cut all the parts to size, plane and sandpaper them. The joints are all glued and pinned with $\frac{3}{8}$ in. panel pins, and should be tackled in the following order:

1. On the sides A mark in two lines, $\frac{1}{16}$ in. each side of the centre line, to act as guides for the fitting of the centre dividing walls (see Fig. 3).
2. Take one of the sides A and fit the two ends B (see



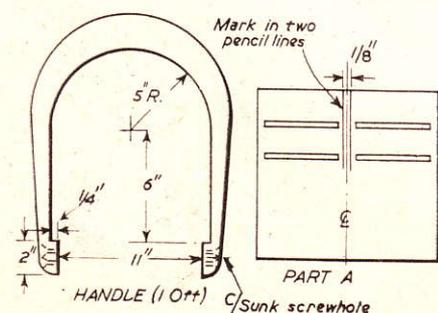
Figs. 4 and 5.—Fitting the inner walls and pinning details of part E.

the special hinges and preparation of the box for their fitment, which is carried out later. The hinges themselves may be of hardwood or metal, but the author used $\frac{3}{16}$ in. Perspex sheet. The details of the important dimensions are given in Fig. 7; 16 such hinges will be required. The distance between the centres must be measured very accurately or trouble will be experienced in fitting.

however, will be found both pleasing in appearance and of great practical use. The five separate compartments provide a large amount of storage space for the hundred-and-one items which comprise a housewife's needlework kit, and the special hinging arrangements give instantaneous access to any one or all compartments at once.

Materials Required

The material chosen by the author was



Figs. 2 and 3.—Handle construction and dividing walls.

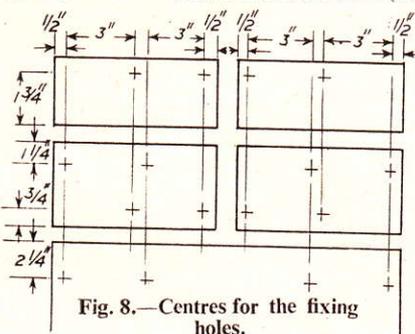


Fig. 8.—Centres for the fixing holes.

Fig. 4).
3. Fit the two inner walls C, making sure that they are separated by $\frac{1}{8}$ in. to allow for a sawcut later on (see Fig. 4).

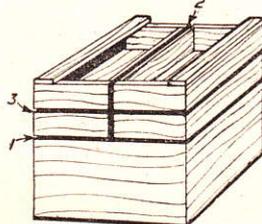


Fig. 6.—Parts assembled for hinging.

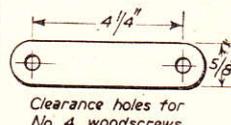
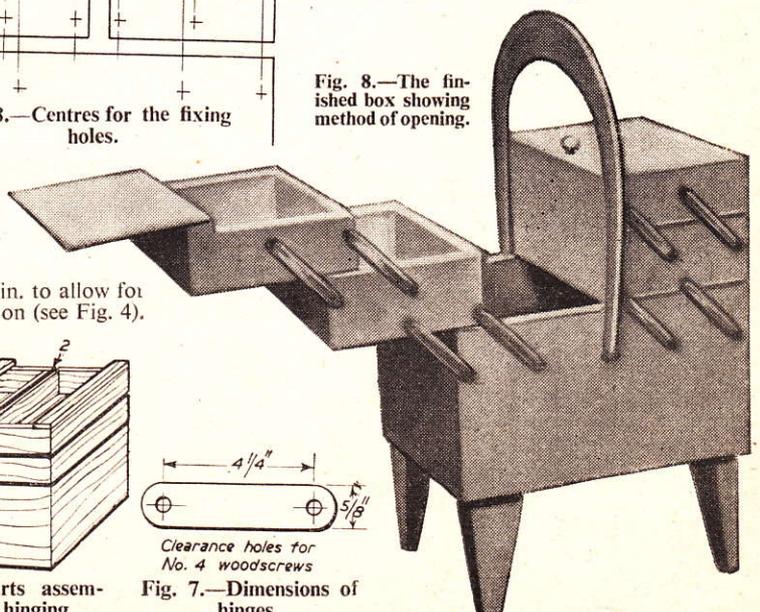


Fig. 7.—Dimensions of hinges.

Fig. 8.—The finished box showing method of opening.



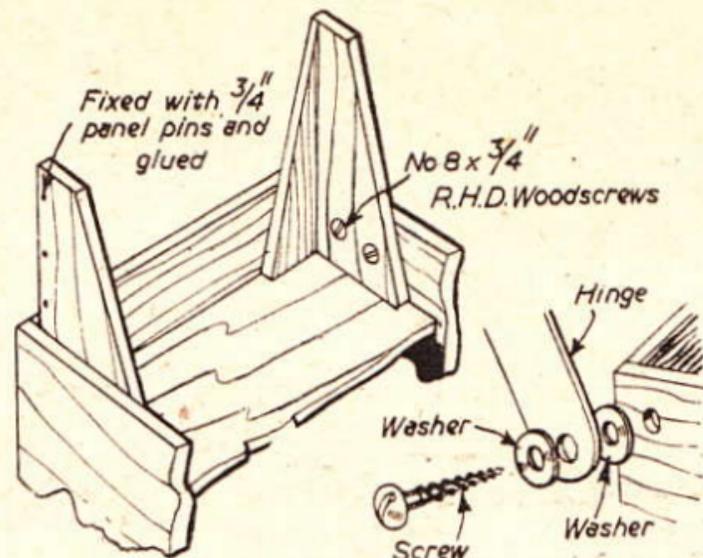
Centres for the fixing holes in the boxes are given in Fig. 8 and great care should be exercised again. These centres should be drilled with a $\frac{3}{64}$ in. drill (or thereabouts) and the drill should not penetrate right through to the inside of the box. Should it do so, however, the small hole on the inside may be plugged with plastic wood.

When the glue has fully hardened on the assembled portions of the box, the sawcuts shown in Fig. 6 should be made, thus dividing the box into five separate compartments.

The Legs

The legs are assembled and screwed into position as shown in Fig. 9. Next, the handle is fixed by means of four 1in. screws and the holes filled in with plastic wood. The lids D of the two upper trays are each fixed with three 1in. brass hinges, and a suitable knob screwed on to each lid.

The construction work is now almost complete and only planing of the sawn edges and



Figs. 9 and 10.—(Left) Details of the legs. (Right) Method of fixing the hinged trays.

a final rub down with sandpaper is required before painting. For a good finish at least three coats—primer, undercoat and gloss top coat—will be required.

Completion

When the final coat of paint has fully dried, the box is completed by the fitting of the four hinged trays. For this some $\frac{1}{2}$ in. No. 4 round-head brass screws and 4 B.A. washers will be needed. The method of fixing is illustrated in Fig. 10.

The inside of the boxes may be "upholstered" with some suitable material, if so desired, in the conventional manner for needlework boxes, but it is doubtful if there is any practical virtue in this and an enamelled finish is far easier to keep clean. Similarly, various internal fittings to accommodate cotton reels, scissors, etc., can be added as required to suit individual tastes.