# The Anything Chest

It's called the "Anything Chest" because it can be used to store most anything - bottles and glasses, sewing items, family games, children's toys or whatever. And it can do double duty as a coffee table.

**Building the Basic Chest:**

First, build the basic chest (Figs. 2 & 3). Cut the two end and two side pieces out of 1 x 12. Nail and glue a strip of 1 x 1 along the bottom edge of each side piece flush with the bottom and 3/4" from the end to support the bottom of the chest. Attach another set of 1 x 1 strips to the sides 4" down from the top as supports for the tray. Cut the plywood bottom.

Use glue and 6d nails to assemble one end piece to the two side pieces. Install the plywood bottom and then add the remaining end piece.

Add the 2" or 2-1/2" molding along the base. Tack a strip of molding into place, then mark the exact location of the cuts. Use a mitre box and back saw to make cuts and use a mitre clamp to hold the pieces together while nailing with 6d nails. Apply the corner molding with 1" brads.

**Making the Lid:**

Figure 3 shows lid detail looking up and down as well as section view. Figure 4 shows hinge detail and Fig. 2 shows lid in relationship to chest.

Make up lid frame with miter joints. Cover completed frame with 1/2" plywood. Attach lid to chest with 2" Stanley hinges No. 838 which only require a 1/16" mortise.

With lid in place, apply decorative insert over plywood – fabric, old print, map, etc. Cover insert with sheet of acrylic plastic. Plastic is held in place by the corner molding. Secure the molding to the edge of the lid frame with brads. Do not nail through plastic.

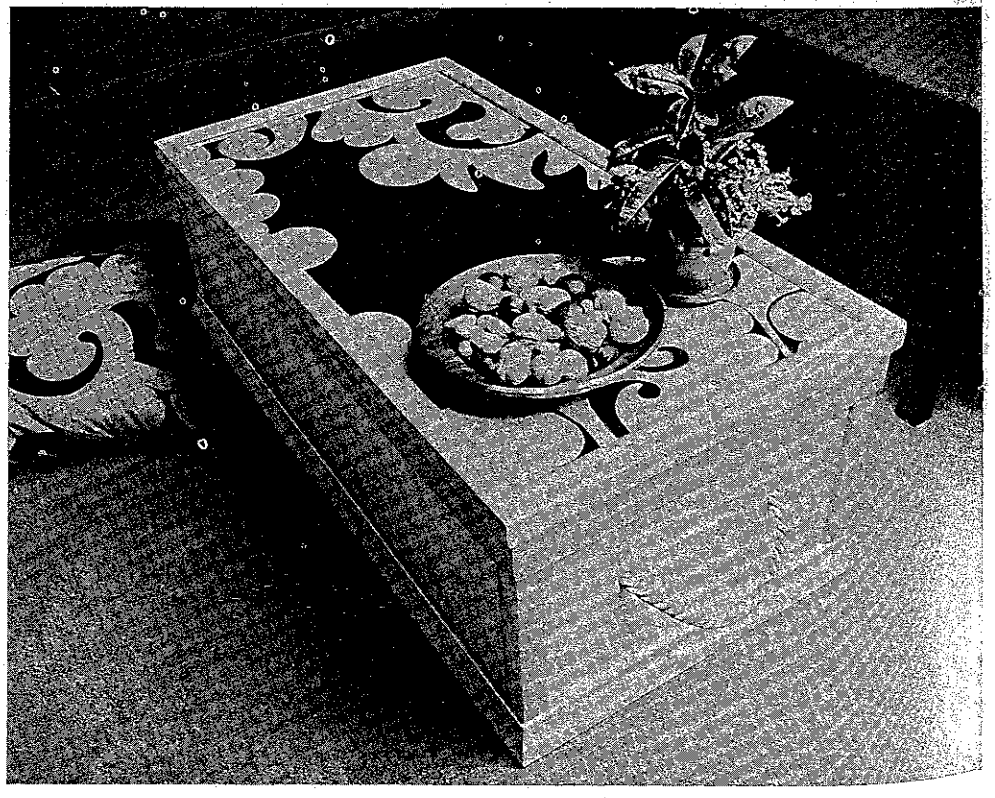
**Tools You'll Need:**

1. Powerlock rule
2. Combination Square
3. Mitre box and back saw
4. Crosscut handsaw (A 10 or 11 point saw is best for the fine cuts required)
5. Coping Saw
6. 1/2" wood chisel
7. Surform Tool
8. Claw Hammer
9. Push-pull drill with assorted bits and countersink
10. Screwdriver
11. Wood brace or electric drill with 1/4" and 5/8" bits
12. Nail set
13. C-clamp or wood vise
14. Mitre Clamp

**Materials You'll Need:**

For the Basic Chest:

1. 10' of 1 x 12 pine
2. 10' of 2" or 2-1/2" molding
3. 14' of 1-3/8" corner molding



4. 10' of 5/4 x 3 pine
5. 14' of 1x1 pine
6. 1 piece 1/2" plywood 16-1/2" x 34-1/2" for bottom
7. 1 piece 1/2" plywood 19" x 37" for lid
8. 1 piece 1/10" acrylic plastic (Plexiglas) 19" x 37"
9. Two chest hinges (Stanley No. 838)
10. Rope for handles or metal handles
11. 12 No. 8 flathead wood screws 1/4" long
12. Box of 1" long brads
13. 1 pound 6d finishing nails
14. Wood glue
15. Spackle or plastic wood
16. Sandpaper

**Materials for Tray:**

1. 10' of 1/2 x 3 pine
2. One piece acrylic plastic (Plexiglas) 1/10" thick 16-1/2" x 19" for bottom

**Materials for bottle rack:**

1. 8' of 1 x 4 pine
2. 10' of 1/4" diameter wood dowel

Figure 1 shows the basic elements of the chest and how they are put together. All principal dimensions are given in detail drawings. If you wish to vary any dimensions, use the scale provided for this purpose.

**The Sliding Tray:**

Figure 5. Make up the frame of the tray. Use acrylic plastic for the bottom and secure with No. 4 flathead screws. Drill holes in the plastic to take the screws and countersink for the heads.

Make up the tray handles. Use 1/4" graph paper to transfer and enlarge handle from Fig. 5 onto wood. Cut handles to rough size with a coping saw and then finish them with Surform tool. Clamp the rough handles together and then finish both at same time to insure a good match. Attach handles to tray with glue and 6d nails.

**The Bottle Rack:**

Figure 6. Cut the two end and side pieces to size. Clamp each pair of pieces together so that holes can be drilled through both at the same time to insure getting exact alignment of the holes. Note that the location is not the same on the side pieces as for the end pieces. The difference is necessary so that the dowels will overlap properly.

After drilling the holes, assemble the rack with 6d nails and glue. Cut the 1/4" dowels to length. If the dowels are loose in the holes, put a spot of wood glue on the ends of each one.

As the bottle rack sits on the bottom of the chest, it doesn't need a bottom but if you plan to use it for some other purpose you can add a bottom made of 3/8" hardboard.

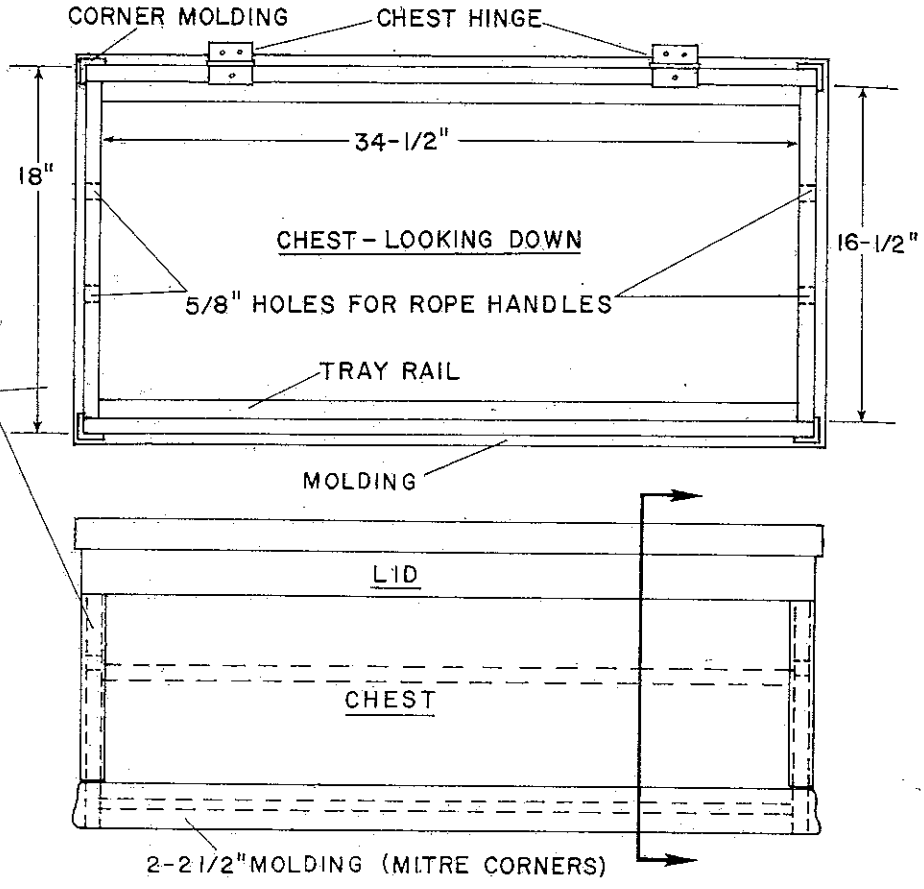
**Finishing:**

After all work is completed, set nails and fill in over them with spackle or plastic wood. Sand down rough spots and then finish. Use either a clear sealer, a pigmented stain, shellac, varnish or paint. After finishing add the handles - rope or metal.

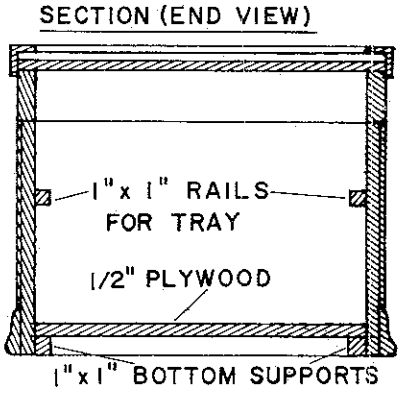
If you are going to paint the chest you can save about 60% on the cost of lumber by using No 2 pine instead of clear pine. Just be sure to pick out the pieces yourself so you'll know that the boards are straight and all knots are firm.

# The Anything Chest Plan

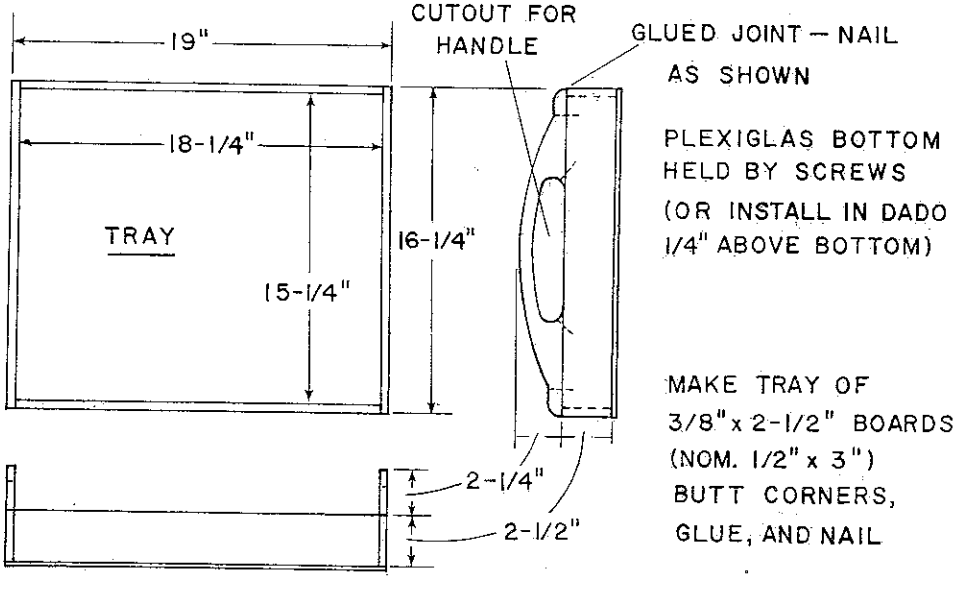
## Fig. 1




## Fig. 2

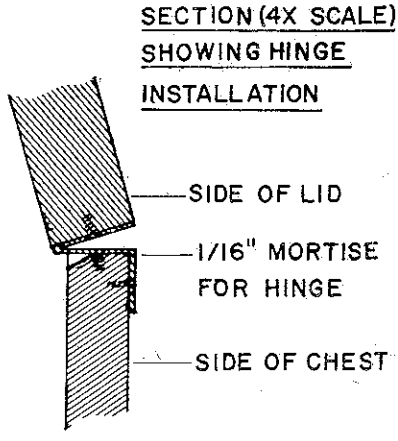



## Fig. 5




TRAY TRAY RIDES ON RAILS IN CHEST

## Fig. 4



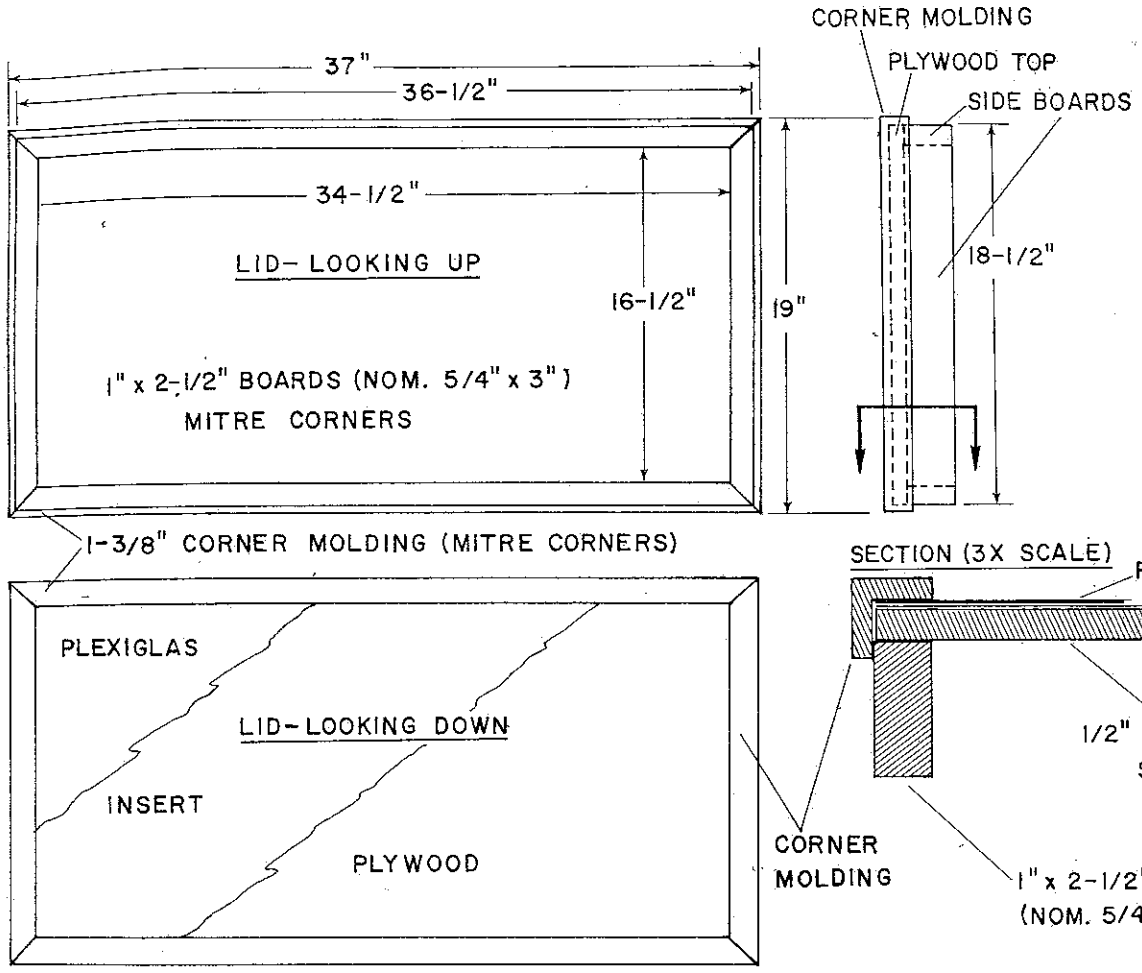



Fig. 3

Fig. 6

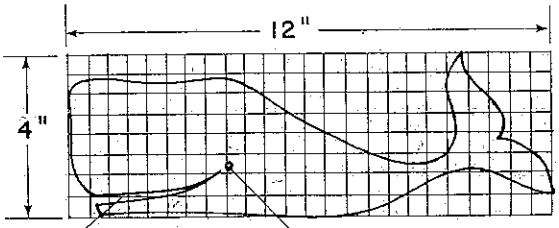
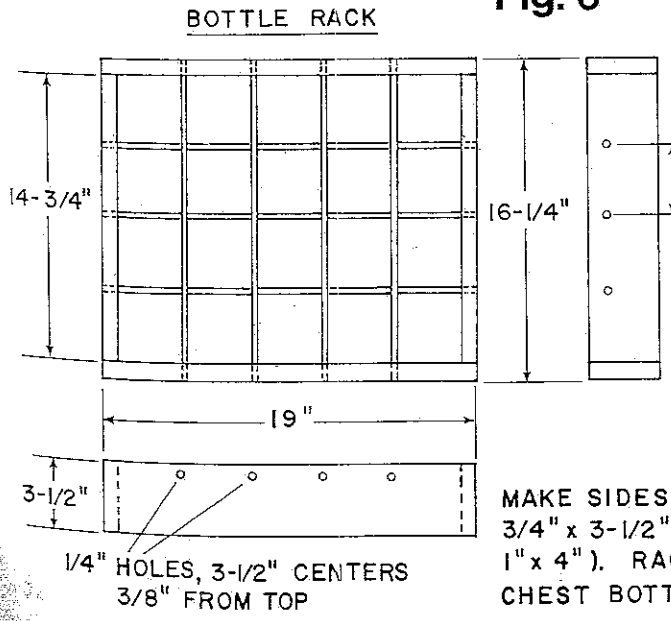



Fig. 7

WHALE MASCOT (2 X SCALE)

MAKE FROM 3/8" OR 3/4" (1/2" OR 1" NOM.) WOOD. SHAPE AND CHAMFER EDGES WITH SURFORM TOOL.




1/4" HOLES 3/4" FROM TOP (DRILL HOLES THROUGH— IF DOWELS ARE LOOSE FIT, USE GLUE)

MAKE SIDES AND ENDS OF 3/4" x 3-1/2" BOARDS (NOM. 1" x 4"). RACK IS LOOSE ON CHEST BOTTOM.