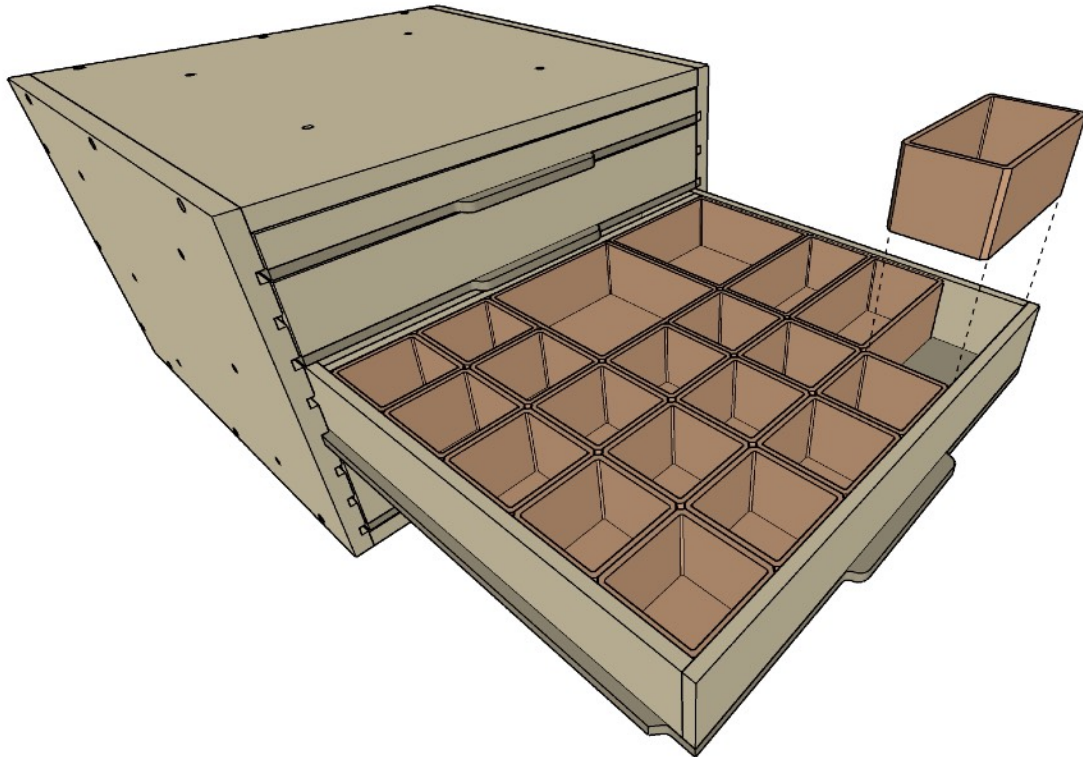


# Cardboard Hardware Box Plans

## Part of the Shop Cabinet System



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## Some important notes

1. These boxes are designed to fit the Drawers in my Modular Shop Cabinet System. If you haven't already seen this system, please check it out here: <http://jerswoodshop.com/cabinet-system/>
2. This project works best using 4mm thick corrugated cardboard, preferably in good condition. Common shipping boxes can be flattened and used for this.
3. If you haven't seen the YouTube video in which I build these boxes, please watch it by going to <http://jerswoodshop.com/cardboard-hardware-boxes/> and clicking the "watch build video" button.
4. If you have questions about the build, feel free to contact me at [jerswoodshop@gmail.com](mailto:jerswoodshop@gmail.com). I welcome constructive criticism & feedback on my design and plans.

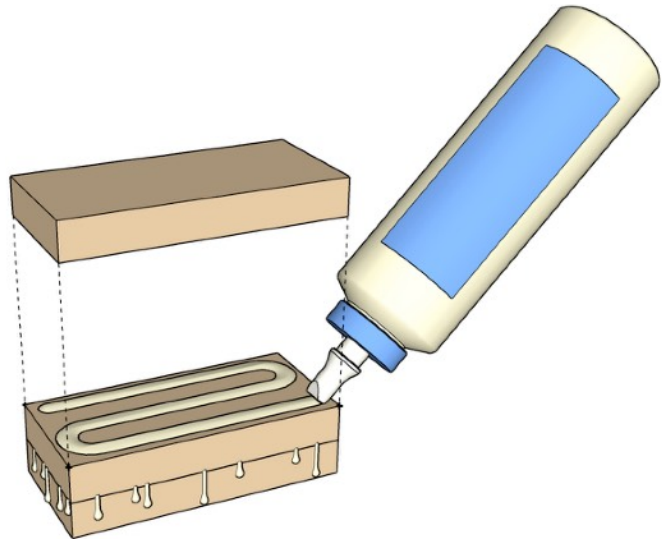
# Make the box form

To create repeatable boxes, you'll fold them all around the same form. First, determine the height that you want your boxes to be. I recommend making the form 8mm shorter than the drawer depth. This will result in boxes that are 1-2mm lower than the sides of the drawer. So for a 27mm deep drawer, the form should be 19mm tall, for a 65mm deep drawer, the form should be 57mm tall, and so on.

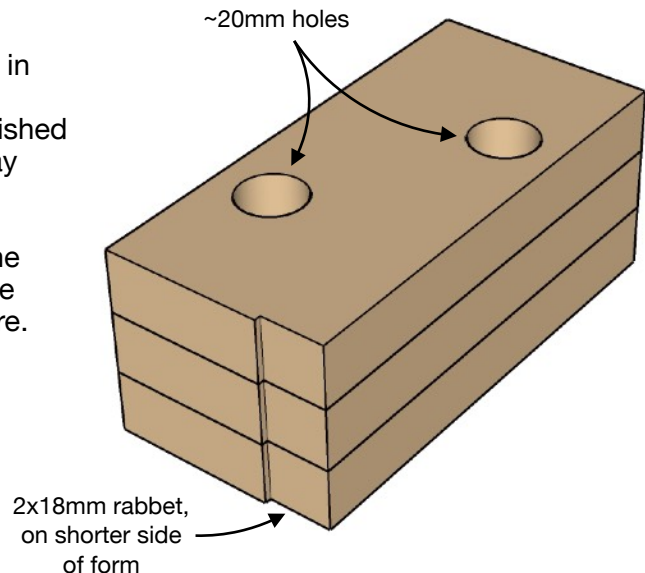
*Tip: it works well to use 19mm (3/4") MDF to make the form, since the depths will always be a multiple of 19mm.*

Next, determine the length & width you want your boxes to be. To perfectly fill the Drawers in my Shop Cabinet System, they need to be a multiple of 75mm (or 37.5mm, if you want really tiny boxes). The length & width of your form will be 8.5mm less than the outer dimensions of your box (to account for two thicknesses of 4mm cardboard, plus 0.5mm of clearance). So for 75x75mm boxes, the form will be 66.5x66.5mm, for 75x150mm boxes, the form will be 66.5x141.5mm, and so on.

Cut oversized layers of MDF or plywood to build up your box form, and glue them together. Once dry, trim them to the final dimensions you determined.

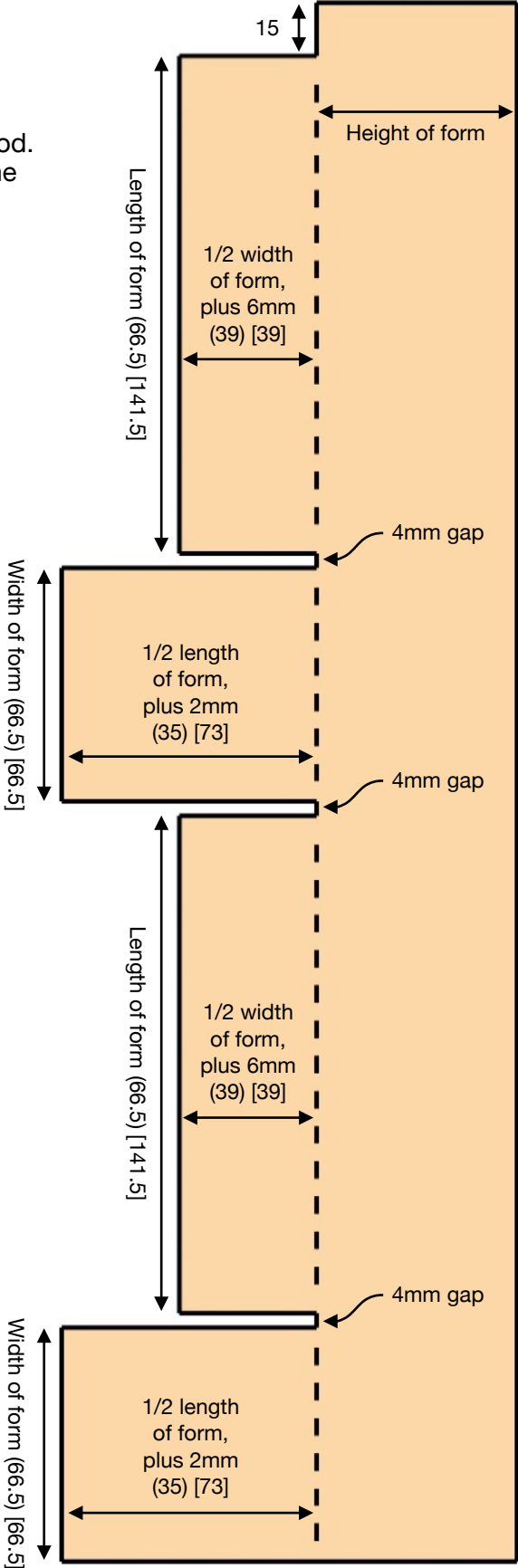
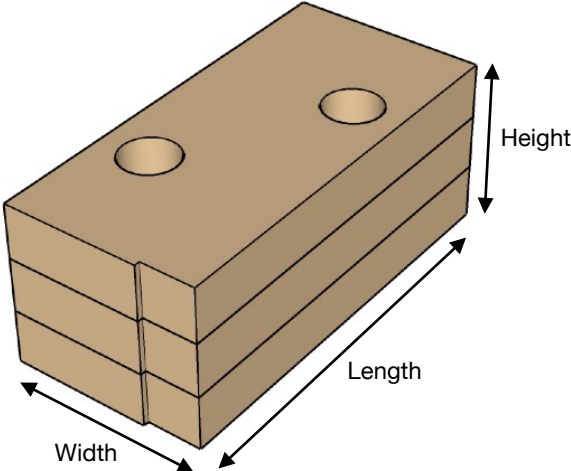


Once trimmed to the final size, drill two holes in the top, large enough to stick your fingers in. You'll use these to extract the form from a finished box. I recommend drilling the holes all the way through, so the jig isn't directional. Also cut a 2x18mm deep rabbet along one corner, as shown, to provide clearance for the flap on the inside of the box. The rabbet should be on the shorter end of the form, if the form isn't square.



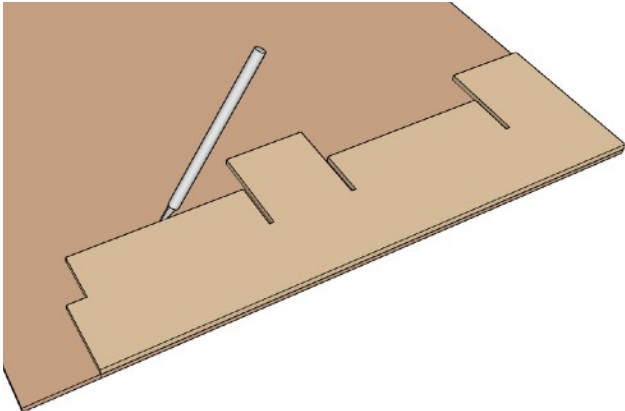
# Make the template

To cut out the shape of the cardboard repeatedly, you'll use a template. I made mine from thin plywood. See the image to the right to help you determine the size & shape of your template. The dimensions in parenthesis and in brackets can be used if you're making a 75x75mm box or a 75x150mm box, respectively.

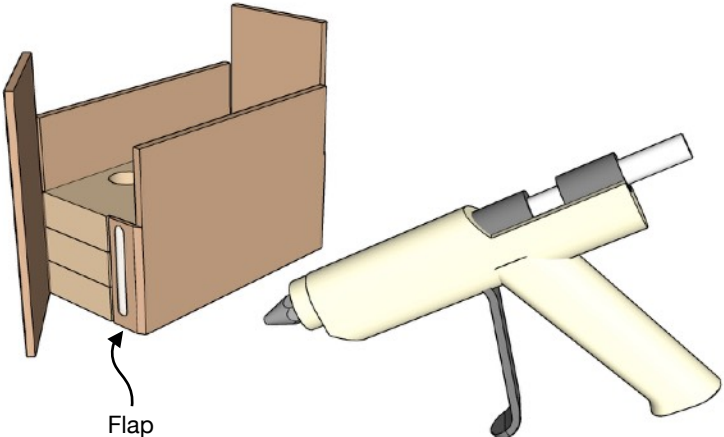


# Make the Hardware Box

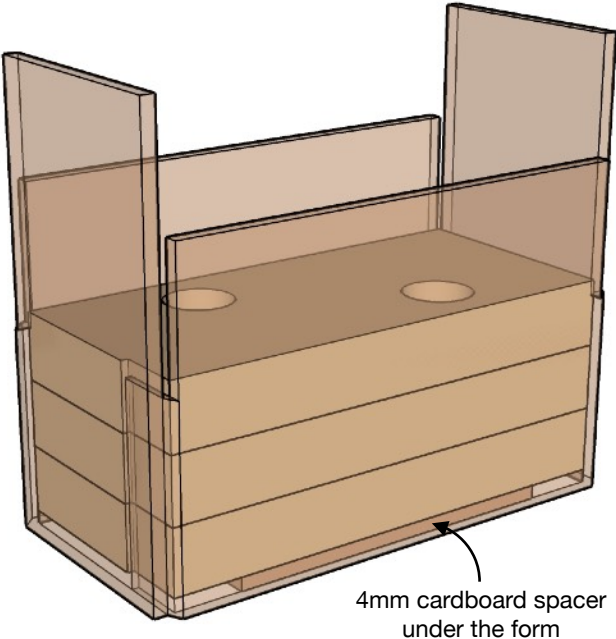
Use your template to cut out a box blank from 4mm corrugated cardboard.



Fold the cardboard around the form, so that the flap ends up inside the rabbet. The corrugations on the flap will get flattened — that's ok. Apply hot glue to the flap, then glue the box end to the flap.



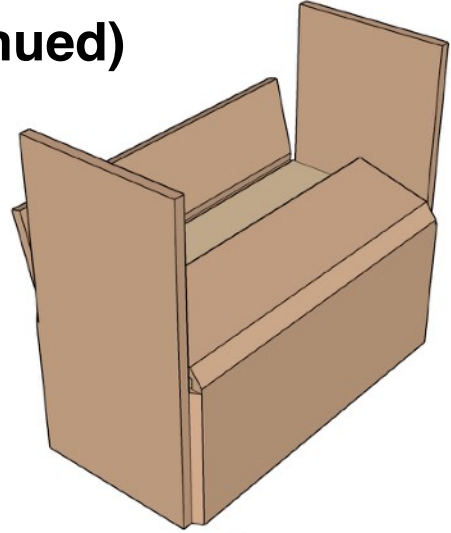
Place a scrap of the same 4mm cardboard under the form, and push the box down, so the jig slides up by 4mm inside the box.



## Make the Hardware Box (continued)

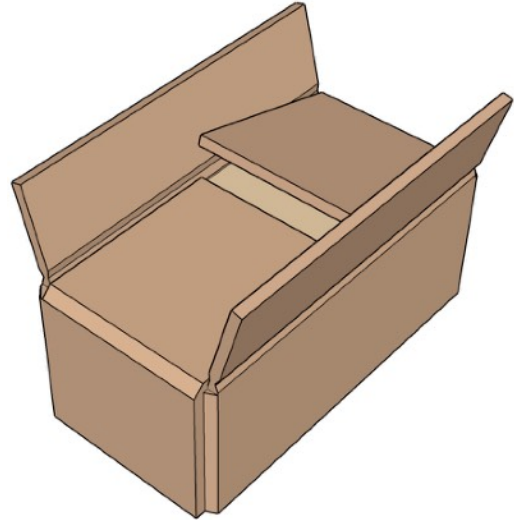
Crease the two side flaps over the top of the form. The box will tend to slide up the form while doing this, so be sure to keep it pressed down. Once they're creased, fold them back out of the way.

On a square box, the "side flaps" are the ones that stick up farther. On a rectangular box, the "side flaps" are the lower ones on the long edges of the box.



Remove the cardboard spacer from under the form, and push the form back down against the table. Fold the end flaps in, again making sure the box doesn't ride up the form as you fold them.

On a square box, the "end flaps" are the ones that don't stick up as far. On a rectangular box, the "end flaps" are the taller ones at the ends of the box.



Apply two lines of hot glue near the center of the box, where the ends of the side flaps will land when you fold them in. Fold the side flaps, then immediately flip the box over and press down on the form to smash the bottom flat while the glue cools. I like to use my drill press to press it down, and I like to press it against an aluminum plate to cool the glue quickly. It's ok to flatten the corrugations on the bottom. Once cooled, pull the form out of the finished box.

