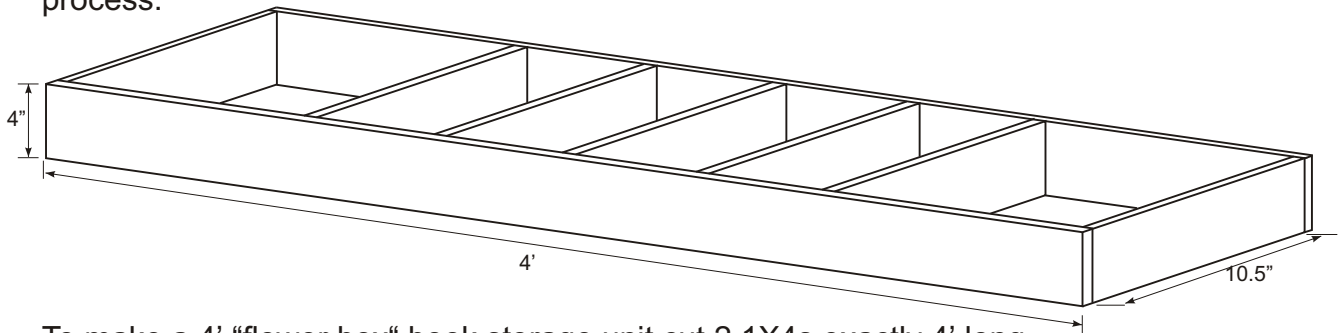


Flower box book storage/display boxes

The “flower box” concept is a very simple method of storing and displaying books in your classroom. Their construction is simple enough that it could involve some of the children from the classroom. They work best if they are 1 foot wide and can be 4' or 2' long. They can also be made in custom lengths that will fit on specific furniture in your room. The sides, ends and dividers are all made from 1 X 4 pine lumber. The corners are simple butt joints and either screws or nails can be used as fasteners. It is recommended that a $\frac{1}{4}$ " plywood bottom can be tacked in place. This allows for the moving of the boxes without removing all the books first. They can be painted bright non-toxic colors to brighten the room or stained and polyurethaned if desired. All the pieces can be cut ahead of time and put together in the classroom if you wanted to involve the children in the assembly process.



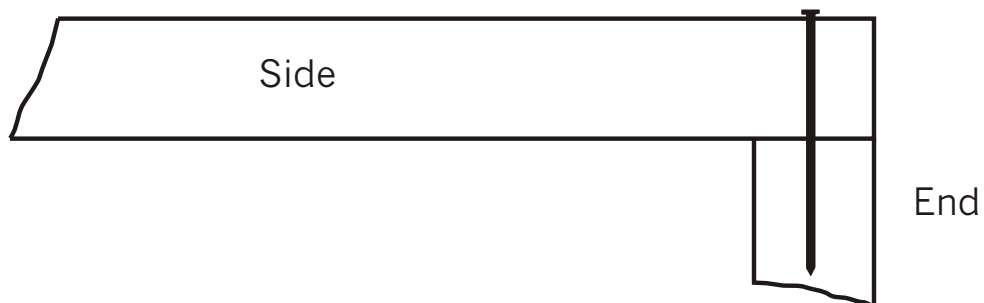
To make a 4' “flower box“ book storage unit cut 2 1X4s exactly 4' long.

As 1' lumber is actually $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick the ends should be cut $1\frac{1}{2}$ " shorter than the final width of the desired box. These plans will be for a box that is 1' wide -- therefore the ends should be cut $10\frac{1}{2}$ " long.

Determine how many dividers you will need along the 4' length and also their spacing. You can measure a “typical” book for the approximate divider spacing. The dividers are also (for this example) $10\frac{1}{2}$ " long.

The bottom $\frac{1}{4}$ " plywood for this example would be 4' X 1'. If it is difficult for you to cut the plywood to the right size you can usually have this done for a nominal fee at the lumberyard when you purchase the material.

Assembly is simple -- just stand one of the ends up vertically and align the side so that it is flush with the end (as in the diagram below). Fasten this joint with two or three nails (6 penny should be long enough) or several “sheet-rock” screws. If screws are used you may want to pre-drill starter holes to eliminate splitting.



Nail the other end in place and then mark the location of the dividers (every 6 or 7" for example). You can leave one or two spaces more than 7" for larger books -- as in the example on the first page.

Nail the dividers to the same side that you have nailed the ends.

Turn the whole assembly over and nail on the other side -- again using 2 or 3 nails at every joint.

The bottom, if already cut, can be nailed in place. Use small nails for this step in the assembly. I used flooring nails for this as they will hold better than smooth-shank nails.