

## Instructions for the Tab and Slot Totes

- 1) The first step in making any of the totes is to verify the thickness of the plywood being used. We all know that just because the plywood was listed as  $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick at the store doesn't mean that it actually is  $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick. So, verify the thickness and change the dimensions of the mortises to match.
- 2) A sharp  $\frac{1}{4}$ " straight bit is the ideal choice of router bit for clean and accurate cuts. I ran my machine at 17500 RPM at 75 IPM.
- 3) Once the parts are cut sand all of the edges and faces.
- 4) The side edges of the tenons will need to be rounded to match the radius of the router bit,  $\frac{1}{4}$ " in my case. I find a large file to be the easiest and fastest way to accomplish this task.
- 5) Check the fit of the tenons and mortices. If they are tight a used a sanding block or block plane to ease the fit. Also, bevel the inside face of the lower tenon on the ends so that it will slip into the bottom at an angle.
- 6) Assembly of each tote varies slightly but all begin with the sides being fitted to the bottom. If your tote has dividers, tool holders or box lids get them in now. The parts lock into each other so that, in general, glue isn't needed, but I'd use glue for extra rigidity.
- 7) Next, slip the ends in place by inserting the lower tab at an angle into the mortice at the ends of the bottom. Now fold the end up and nearly vertical.
- 8) The handles can be made of a single piece of wood or glued up of two  $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick pieces. The glued-up handle has the advantage that you can machine an angled mortice for a wedge to lock the handle into the ends.
- 9) Insert the handle into the slightly open ends and close the ends. Check all the joints for a tight fit.
- 10) The handle can be held in place with a wedge or a small amount of glue. CA adhesive works well for the handle to end connection if you are using a clear finish.
- 11) Let the glue dry, do a little final sanding, and apply finish.
- 12) That's it. Simple, fast, practical and fun to build.