

Coffin Kit Assembly Instructions

COFFIN KIT CONTENTS

2 Short sides – 24-3/8" x 16"

2 Long sides – 56-3/8" x 16"

1 (or 2) Lids – 81" x 26-1/2"

1 Floor panel – 78-3/8" x 24"

1 Head end – 24-3/8" L x 16" W

1 Foot end – 12" x 16"

10 Ribs – assorted sizes

1 Bag Screws – 1-1/2" Combo

THINGS YOU WILL NEED

Tape measure

Drill or power screwdriver

Wood glue (i.e. Elmer's)

Woodworking clamps (optional)

"Use a power screwdriver or drill with a #2 square drive bit to drive the screws. Do not over-tighten the screws. If you can, adjust the torque down so you do not turn the screws after the head seats against the wood surface. See p. 4 for more about hi-lo metal screws."

Before You Begin

Gather a few helping hands from friends and family. For many, the shared time to assemble a coffin for a loved one is a healthy part of the healing experience.

Assembly of this coffin kit will take about two hours. Take a few moments before you begin to get familiar with the parts, the assembly steps, and gather a few tools. Review all assembly steps before proceeding.

It is best to work on a flat, level surface. If you don't have a large table or workshop, the floor will do. Clear some room where you will have a



nice level surface to work and plenty of space.

Lastly, mistakes happen. If you install a rib in the wrong place, don't panic or get frustrated. The glue has a working time of 5 to 10 minutes, so take a few moments to

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fix it and everything will look great.

Additional photos and detailed instructions available at
CasketBuilderSupply.com/kit

About Rib Style Joinery

This coffin kit uses simple wooden ribs for structural integrity and easy assembly. These ribs also allow you to conceal the screw fasteners internally providing a clean, finished look from the outside of the coffin. Carefully position the ribs to make it easy to precisely align the panels during assembly. The rib

joints get their strength from two sources: glue surface and screws. We use Elmer's wood glue to provide a superior bond between the ribs and the boards. You need not use very much glue—if the glue squeezes out of the joint then use a little less glue in the next joint. When you secure with screws and glue, position the screws in the center

of the rib. The screws provide a tight fit while the glue bonds without requiring clamps.

For a metal-free coffin, the screws can be removed after the glue sets (2-4 hours). Consider reinforcing all panel joints with wooden dowels or Miller dowels.

Identify each panel. There are 2 long sides, 2 short sides, 1 small foot end, 1 medium head end, 1 lid, and 1 plywood floor for a total of 8 panels in the kit.

Panel	Len.	Width
Head	24 ³ / ₈	16
Foot	12	16
Floor	78 ³ / ₈	24
Lid	81	26 ¹ / ₂
Sides	56 ³ / ₈	16
Sides	24 ³ / ₈	16

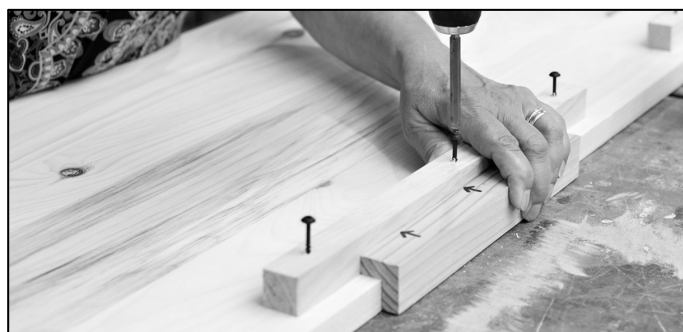
Table 1 – Panel Specifications (inches)

1) Attach Ribs to Panels

Start with the head and foot panels and notice the edges that are cut with a taper—the larger face is the inside where you will attach a rib. Place one rib on each 16-inch side. These vertical ribs secure the corners where the head & foot attach to the sides. Align the ribs flush with the top edge of the panel—this will be the top edge of the coffin. The bottom edge will have a ³/₄ inch gap to fit the floor.

Next, use a straight edge to place a rib precisely ³/₈ inches from the bottom edge of the head and foot panels. This rib will secure the floor and align the floor such that it is ¹/₈ inch proud. This ensures that while the coffin is moved, the outside lower edge is protected.

Attach the ribs precisely ³/₈ inches from the bottom edge of each of the long sides—these ribs will secure the floor.



▲ Align screws in the center of the ribs. **DO NOT** over-tighten the screws!

◀ Place floor ribs precisely ³/₈ from the bottom edge of the side and end panels.

2) Attach End Panels to Side Panels

Start with one long side panel and lay flat on your level work surface. Attach a short side panel to the long side panel with the

shoulder V-rib. Be sure the floor ribs are on the bottom edge of both panels. Repeat for the other long & short side

panels. Next attach the side panels to the head and foot panels until all six sides are attached. Align the sides for a nice flush outside corner.

This completes the six sides of the coffin and you are ready to attach the floor.



◀ Align the corners and attach the End and Side with glue and screws. Corner ribs should be flush with the top edge of the casket box.



“This kit contains about 100 screws with self-tapping hi-lo threads specifically designed for superior holding strength in softwood. It is important that you not overtighten and strip the wood. If you do, back out the screw and move it over ¹/₄ inch. If using a drill, step down the torque setting. The head of the screw should just dent into the wood surface.”

3) Attach the Floor

Place the six-sided coffin box upside down and lay a bead of glue on all the ribs that will secure the floor. Place the plywood floor flat on your work surface. If the floor is warped, place on the table with the warped side down so the floor *does not rock*.

Next, flip the six sides of the coffin over and place on top of the floor. If the floor is warped, get a few helping hands or some clamps to push down on the sides until the floor is flat. Drive 12-16 screws through the floor ribs into the plywood floor.



- ▲ Lay a bead of glue on each of the ribs that will secure the floor.
- ◀ Add a custom tailored cotton lining (not included with kit).

Don't forget to order handles!

"The more glue, the longer the setting time. If the glue squeezes out of the joint, then you have just a bit too much."

DO NOT wipe away the glue while wet. Let glue dry and pick it off later. Otherwise you force glue into the wood grain and it will not take a finish."

4) Attach Ribs to the Coffin Lid

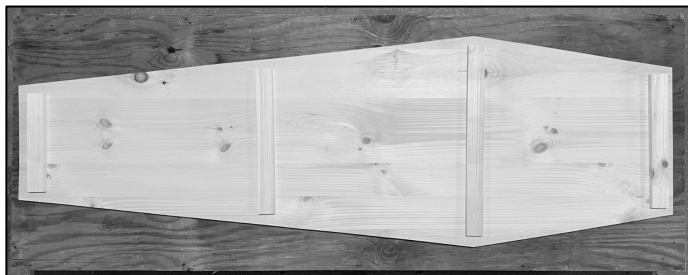
There are four ribs for the coffin lid. The ribs serve two purposes. First, the ribs help keep the lid in position when placed on the coffin box. Second, the ribs will help prevent the coffin lid from warping under the influence of

humidity and temperature changes in your environment.

It is **very important not to use glue** to secure the ribs to the lid. Use screws only. If building a metal-free casket, then use glue

and dowels to join the ribs to the coffin lid, but do not use glue between the rib and the lid panel.

Position the ribs as shown. Place the head and foot ribs in the center of the lid panel and 1-1/4 inches from the outside edge. The remaining two ribs should be evenly spaced and placed no less than 1-1/8 inches from the outside edges.



"Do not use glue between the ribs and the lid panel—secure with 3 screws only to allow the lid panel to expand and contract without warping."

"We offer a wide variety of coffin and casket handle styles including wood, metal, and cotton rope handles."



5) Install Coffin Handles (not included in kit)



When it comes to coffin handles, there are many options to choose from. Shown above is a typical casket "bale" style handle made in Chicago, Illinois from stamped steel and

then powder coated black. We offer this handle in several colors. We also have wooden handles, and swing bar style handles in many colors compatible with either

metal or wooden dowel bar stock. Consider placing enough handles on the coffin so that 3 people can carry the coffin on each side. Adding handles to each end of the coffin makes it easier for two people to move and carry the empty coffin. End handles also make it easier to get the coffin into and out of a hearse.

Avoid using furniture handles or drawer pulls as they are generally not designed to support the weight needed for a coffin handle.

About Hi-Lo Metal Screws

This kit uses about 100 metal screws with a combo drive head for either Phillips or a #2 Square drive bit. These screws have self-tapping

hi-lo threads designed to provide superior pull-out strength, are easier to drive than conventional screws, and reduce splitting and cracking of

the wood. Do not over-tighten these screws. You can stop driving the screw when the washer head makes contact with the wood surface.

Finishing Touches

This coffin kit is natural, unfinished pine. You can sand and finish this material with any number of finishes from Casket Builder Supply or your local home improvement store. We encourage you to decorate your coffin in any way you choose.

Some of our favorite wood finishes that are

very easy to work with include Rubio Monocoat, Real Milk Paint, and Pure Tung Oil. These finishes are non-toxic and safe for in-home use with family and friends.

We also leave the method of coffin closing entirely up to you. You can use nails, wood screws, or dowel pegs.



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