Jewellery Chest

Drawer Dividers

Customise each drawer to hold exactly what you need.

There’s little doubt that the jewellery chest will be used to store a wide variety of items. So it makes sense to divide the drawers to make the best use of the space. I’ve included a few different plans that all rely on half-lap joinery to create dividers. Using this technique, you can easily create your own custom spaces.

5 x 5 Grill Divider

For earrings and other small pieces of jewellery, these small, square compartments are the perfect solution. The drawings and details below show you how to make the dividers.

Don’t feel too bound by the measurements shown. Just make the lengths of the pieces a snug fit for your drawers and evenly divide the joinery cuts for uniform compartments.

NOTE: Dividers are made from 3mm-thick hardwood

**First and second cuts for lower divider**

**Third and fourth cuts for lower divider**

**First and second cuts for upper divider**

**Third and fourth cuts for lower divider**
**3 x 3 Grill Dividers**

I made these slightly larger compartments for items like broaches or other larger items. Once again, the techniques are the same as before.

After planing your stock to 3mm thick, you simply cut it to final length and width. Then, at the table saw, make the joinery cuts using an auxiliary fence on the mitre gauge.

You’ll notice that I chose to make these compartments deeper than before (by making the dividers wider). I think this works out well for larger items, but you’ll have to be the judge, depending on the contents you intend to store.

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**Ring Tray**

The final touch is to add a removable ring tray. The nice thing about this tray is the padded ring holders shown in the photo at right. They hold the rings upright and prevent them from sliding around in the drawer. You can find the details for making the padded holder in our other on-line extra.

Assembling the box is pretty straightforward. I used butt joints to attach the sides. For the bottom, I chose 3mm plywood cut for a snug fit and glued in place. It’s a good idea to leave the tray a little bit shorter than the drawer so it’s easy to get in and out when you need it.

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**4 Compartment Grill Dividers**

To store longer items, all you need to do is leave out the inner grid pieces. As you can see in the drawings at left, I used only two pieces to serve as end bars to hold the dividers vertical. Then I cut the half-lap joints on the ends of the three dividers. I didn’t use a stop to cut the ends, but you’ll want to be careful not to cut more than the thickness of the saw blade to avoid gaps in the assembly.

As I said earlier, your drawer sizes may vary slightly, so be sure to take accurate measurements of both the length and width before you begin. Then you can cut the ends and dividers for a snug fit.