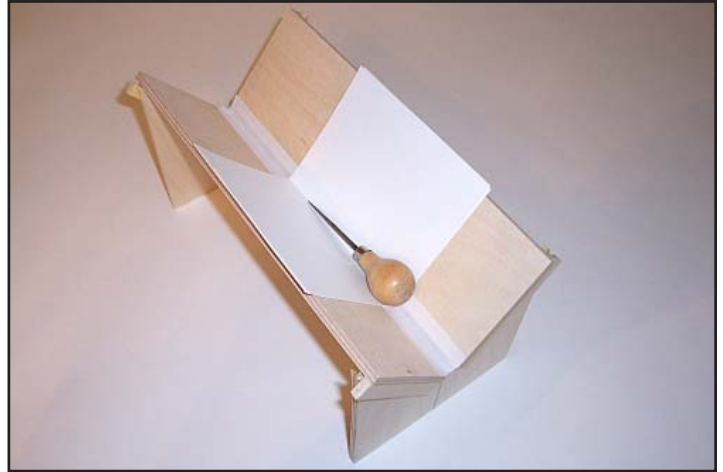


# A Visual Guide

## How to Make a Simple Sewing Cradle

For those of you starting out in book and album making sometimes a few simple tools will make the job go smoother.

For punching holes in signatures for sewing, a simple sewing cradle can make the job go quicker. I made this cradle out of craft plywood which is available at most craft and hobby stores.



### Materials Needed:

- 2 pieces 1/4" x 4" x 12" craft plywood
- 1 piece 1/4" x 6" x 12" craft plywood
- 1 piece 1/4" x 1/2" x 24" Basswood
- Elmers white wood or craft glue or similar

### Tools Needed:

- Ruler
- Jig saw
- Mitre box and saw (optional)
- Clamps
- Pencil for marking cutting lines

### Step 1:

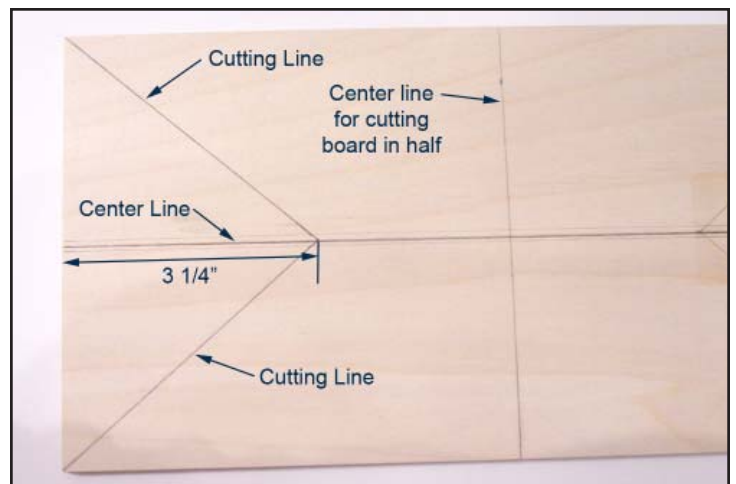
The first thing you need to do is mark the 6" x 12" board for cutting.

Mark center lines of the board both vertically and horizontally.

Next, measure down 3 1/4" from the edge on the horizontal center line and place a mark.

Draw a line from each corner of the board to the mark as shown in the photo. This indicates the area that will be cut away to make the end boards.

Do this on both ends of the board.





### Step 2:

To make the two end pieces you will first cut the larger board in half as marked using a jig or hand saw. If using a jig saw make sure to use a fine tooth blade so the plywood doesn't chip.

After you cut the board in half, cut out the "V" shape as indicated by the cutting lines in the previous photo.

### Step 3:

Cut 4 pieces of the Basswood the width of the 4" boards. Even though the dimensions on the label say the board is 4" wide you'll want to double check the measurement as it will be a little smaller than indicated. I used a mitre box and saw to cut the Basswood pieces.

### Step 4:

Using your wood glue, attach a piece of the Basswood to both ends of each of the 4" boards.

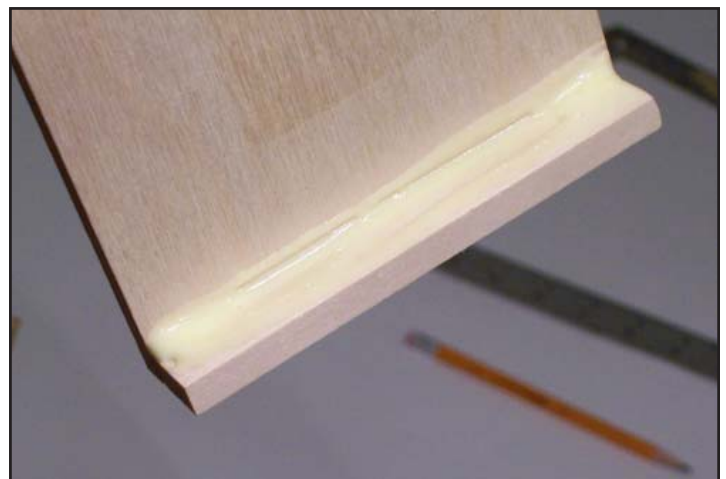
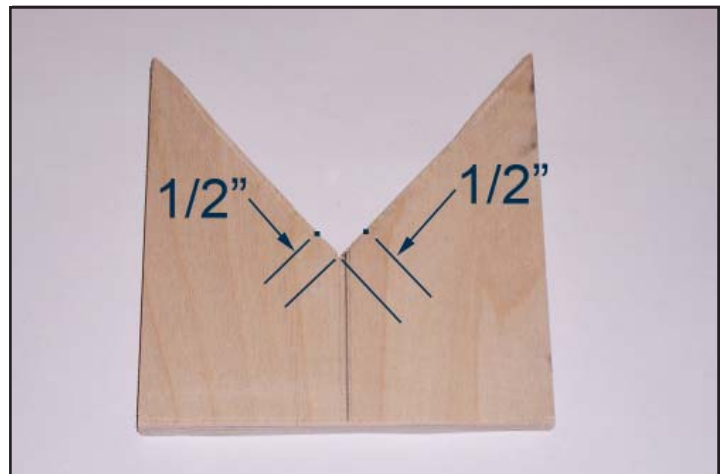
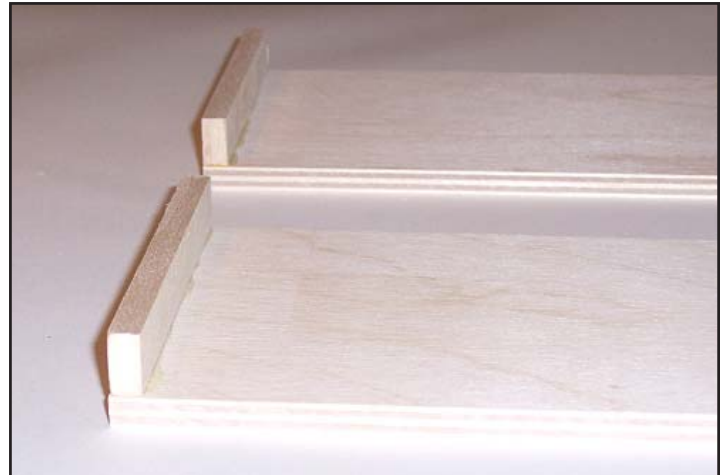
You will glue the short side to your board as indicated in the photo.

Let the glue dry before continuing. About an hour or so.

### Step 5:

Measure 1/2" in from the point of the "V" and place a mark. Do this on one side of both boards.

Apply glue to the Basswood strip and along the edge of one of the boards.



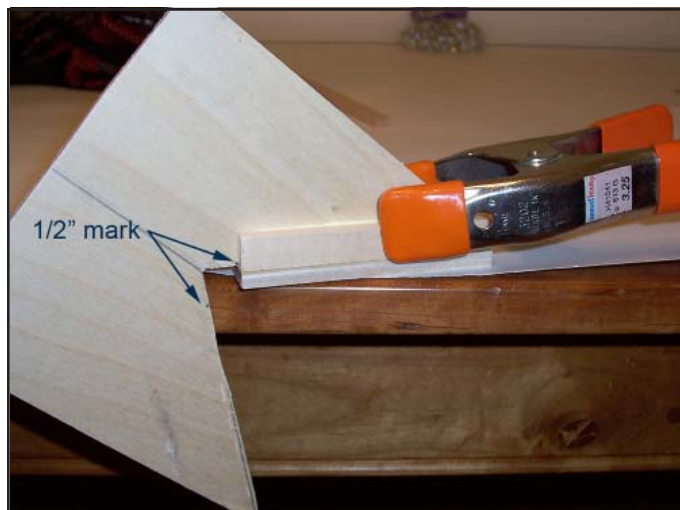
## Step 5 cont.:

Attach the glued 4" boards to the end pieces. Make sure to line up the bottom of the board with the 1/2" mark that you made on the end board. Clamp in place.

You can hang it over a table edge for a few minutes while the glue sets up.

Glue and attach the second end board to the opposite side. Leave to dry for about 15 mins then repeat the procedure with the second board.

Clamp all pieces and leave to dry over night.



## Finish and Enjoy

I attached a piece of self adhesive linen hinge tape to the bottom of the cradle to help hold the signature in place while punching the holes. You could also use a piece of blue painters tape or Duck tape. You'll need to replace this every so often if you use it a lot so don't use a tape that is too sticky.

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