

Cabin Keepsake Chest

Finger joints are used in this project. They are square interlocking fingers that join the corners at a right angle. The top, bottom and sides of the chest are of basswood.



The sides are joined and the bottom glued in. Then the carving in the top is completed.



It takes a lot of hand sanding.



Next a geometric design is chip carved in the front of the chest.



In the photo below I am resawing some aromatic cedar into thin strips which I will use to line the inside of the chest. This will give the chest a nice aroma.



Below the lining is clamped into place.



Below I am measuring in preparation for adding the hardware.



All the hardware has been added in the photo below.



This view shows the nice look of the finger joints in the end of the chest.



Some final touches to the finish.



And the chest is now complete.



All done!



"The Leavenworth"

The steam locomotive depicted in this carving is a reproduction of the first engine, the Leavenworth, that was delivered to the newly formed, Kansas Central Railroad. The railroad was based in Leavenworth, Kansas. The locomotive was 35 feet, 4 inches long, including the tender and weighed 12.5 tons. Built by Baldwin in Philadelphia, the 2-4-0 type locomotive was said to be capable of pulling 12 passenger cars, with 400 passengers at a speed of 40 mph.

The Kansas Central was one of the earliest narrow gauge railroads built in the United States. It originated in the plans of business leaders in Leavenworth, Kansas. Construction of the railroad began in October, 1871 and on December 20th of that year the first engine, the "Leavenworth", was delivered.

On February 21, 1872 a large crowd gathered near the center of the city to witness the first demonstration run. The results were reported to be highly satisfactory.