

BOX OF TRICKS



Better
Homes
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JUNE 2002

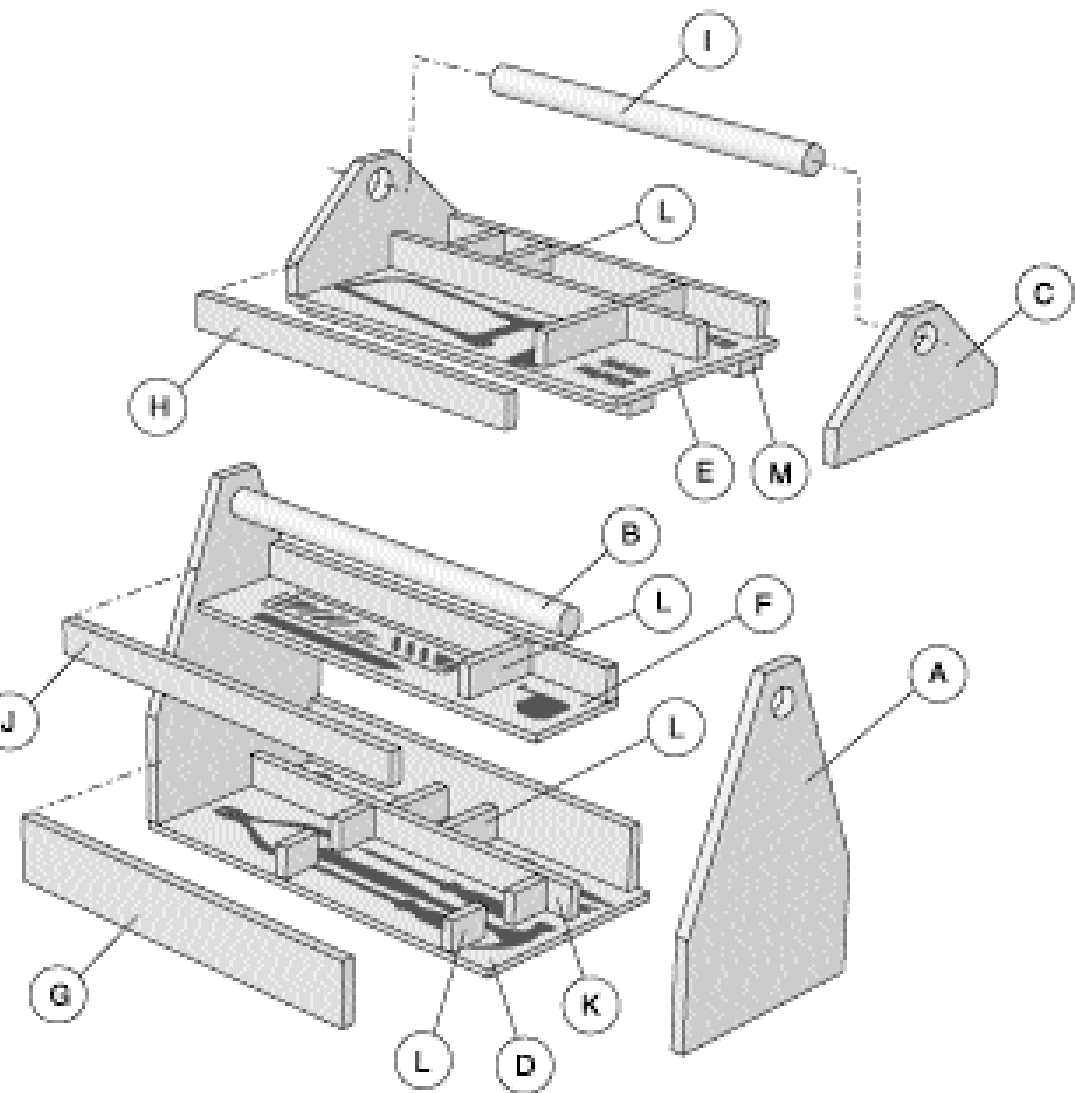
This child-sized tool box is a fantastic gift idea for that aspiring little builder in your family. It can be cut from a single sheet of plywood and is designed to house your choice of kid-friendly tools, with plenty of compartments for tidy tool storage.

KIDS' TOOL COLLECTION

- Here are the tools we've included in the tool box
- 180g claw hammer
 - 150mm straight screwdriver
 - 150mm Phillips screwdriver
 - 3m tape
 - Carpenter's pencil
 - 225mm torpedo level
 - Mini (hobby) pliers
 - 100mm adjustable spanner
 - Mini vice grips
 - Compact hacksaw
 - Safety glasses
 - Small abrasive paper squares
 - 100ml Aquadhere

This simple tool box will please not only an eight- to 12-year-old, but grown-ups as well. A good size is two-thirds of an adult's tool box. The box has a removable tray so you can store two layers of tools, and a top section for other bits and pieces. The location for each tool is painted on the base of the trays, so kids can put tools back in the right place.

The box can be cut from two 1200 x 600mm sheets of plywood. If in doubt about the size, lay out the tools you'd like to house, and make the box to suit. Don't forget, when you hand over the tool box, spend some time helping and supervising your kids with their creative efforts.



Gather your supplies			
ITEM	PART	SIZE	MATERIAL
A	Main box ends (2)	300 x 200 x 12mm	Plywood
B	Main box handle	400mm x 25mm dia	Dowel/broom handle
C	Tray ends (2)	100 x 200 x 12mm	Plywood
D	Main box base	400 x 200 x 7mm	Plywood
E	Tray base	370 x 200 x 7mm	Plywood
F	Top box base	376 x 100 x 7mm	Plywood
G	Main box sides (2)	376 x 60 x 12mm	Plywood
H	Tray sides/divider (3)	346 x 30 x 12mm	Plywood
I	Tray handle	370mm x 25mm dia	Dowel/broom handle
J	Top box sides (2)	376 x 30 x 12mm	Plywood
K	Main box divider	376 x 30 x 12mm	Plywood
L	Cross dividers (total)	750 x 30 x 12mm	Plywood
M	Locaters (2)	370 x 30 x 12mm	Plywood
You'll also need			
		A4 manila folders; quick-drying black spray paint	

Notes: All of the flat components of the tool box can be cut from one 12mm and one 7mm sheet of 1200 x 600mm plywood, or you can simply use offcuts from a previous job. All the joints are glued and nailed. Components can be precut.



Step 1 Cut the main box ends (A), then measure 100mm up the sides and 80mm in from each side at the

top. Join the marks and cut off the triangles. Mark in the handle hole centres, centred 25mm from the top. Place the box end on a piece of scrap, fit a 25mm Speedbor bit to your drill and bore the holes. It's good practice to only drill halfway through, then come back from the other side of the piece. This avoids break-out of the timber at the back. Try fitting the handle (B) to ensure it is a snug fit.

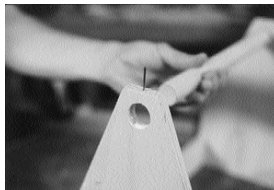
Step 2 Similarly, cut the tray ends (C), then measure 30mm up the sides and 80mm in from the 2 sides at the top. Join the marks and

cut off the triangles. Add a hole for a handle as for the larger ends, centred 25mm from the top.

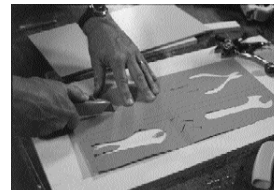
Step 3 Cut the bases for the main box, tray and top box (D,E,F), sand the edges, then paint the sides and edges in a bright colour (eg yellow) and let dry.



Step 4 Cut the main box sides (G) and glue and nail between the ends. Use 30 x 1.6mm brads, and predrill to make sure the nails go in straight.



Step 5 Push the handle into the holes in the main box ends, then predrill through the top and into the handle. Partly pull out the handle, then apply glue to the hole in one end and to the handle at the other. Push back in and secure by hammering in a 30 x 1.6mm nail at each end. Similarly, cut the tray sides (H) and fix them and the tray handle (I) to the tray ends, to complete the basic main box and tray.



Step 6 To make sure that tools go back where they came from, make a stencil to spray the shadow of the tools on the coloured base. Lay out the tools on manila folder card the same size as the base and mark in the tools on the card. Don't forget to allow 12mm for the width of the sides and ends. Also, allow for a 12mm divider, spaced 95mm from one side. If using the tool set we used, use the templates as

illustrated below. Cut around the outlines using a utility knife.



Step 7 Tape your stencils to the painted bases, making sure the tape overlaps the edges. If you don't want over-spray on your workbench, place each base on a sheet of newspaper before you start spraying. Spray on the patterns, using a small timber offcut to hold the stencil down if it curls up. Keep the spray can moving to avoid paint runs. Let dry.



Step 8 Glue and nail the base onto the underside of the box after predrilling. In the same way, nail the base to the tray box. Also nail the top box base to 2 sides (J). Fit the remainder of the dividers (K,L) to suit spacings in your box. Fit some partial dividers to hold the hammer in place. Glue the dividers in place and hold with tape until the glue sets.

top edges of the sides are flush with the slope on the box ends. Nail in from the ends.

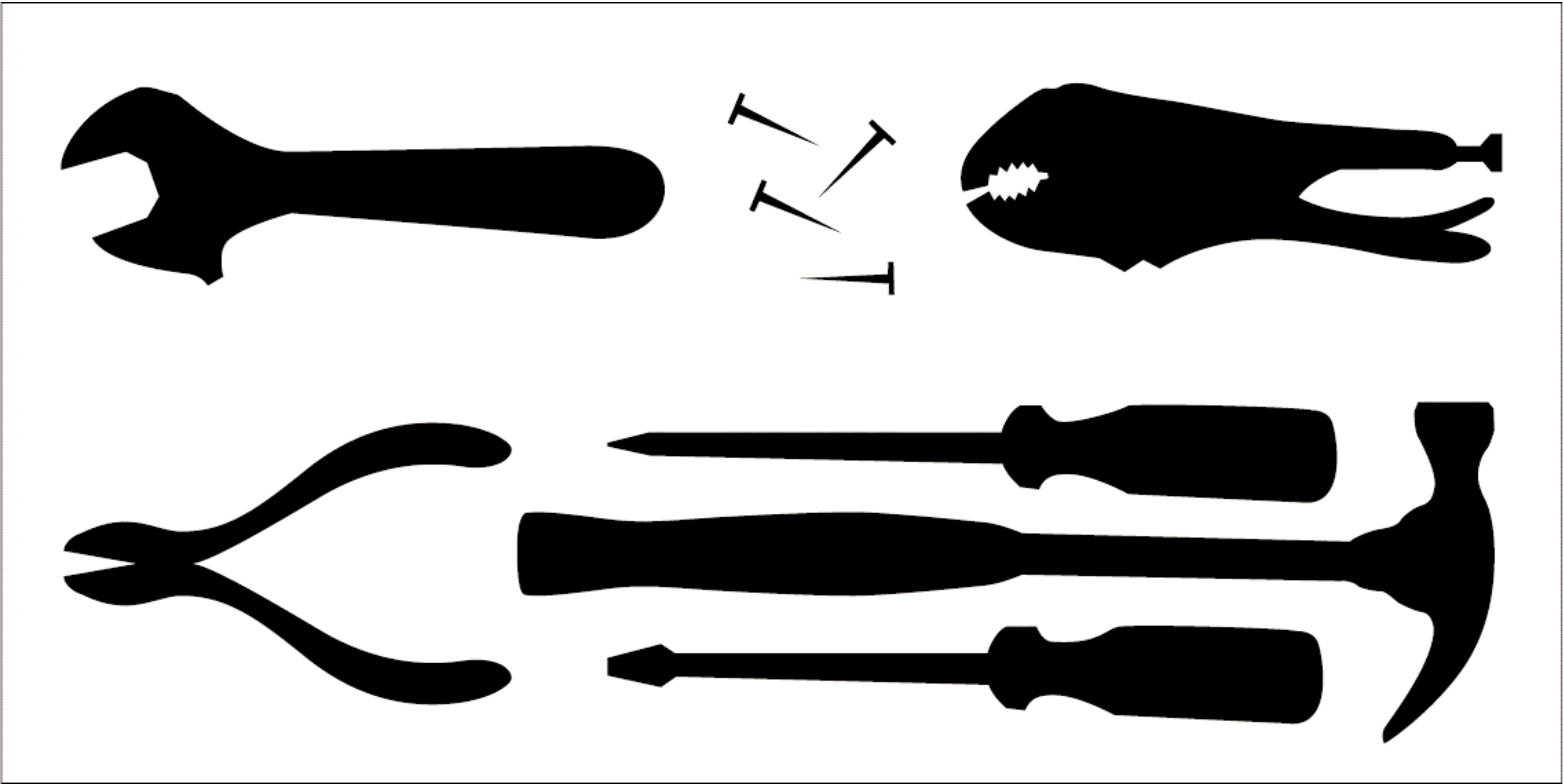
Step 10 Glue and nail on 2 locaters (M) on the underside of the tray, spaced 13mm in from the sides, so the tray cannot slip out of position.

Step 11 Sand units with 120- and 180-grit garnet paper. Coat with a tinted clear finish.

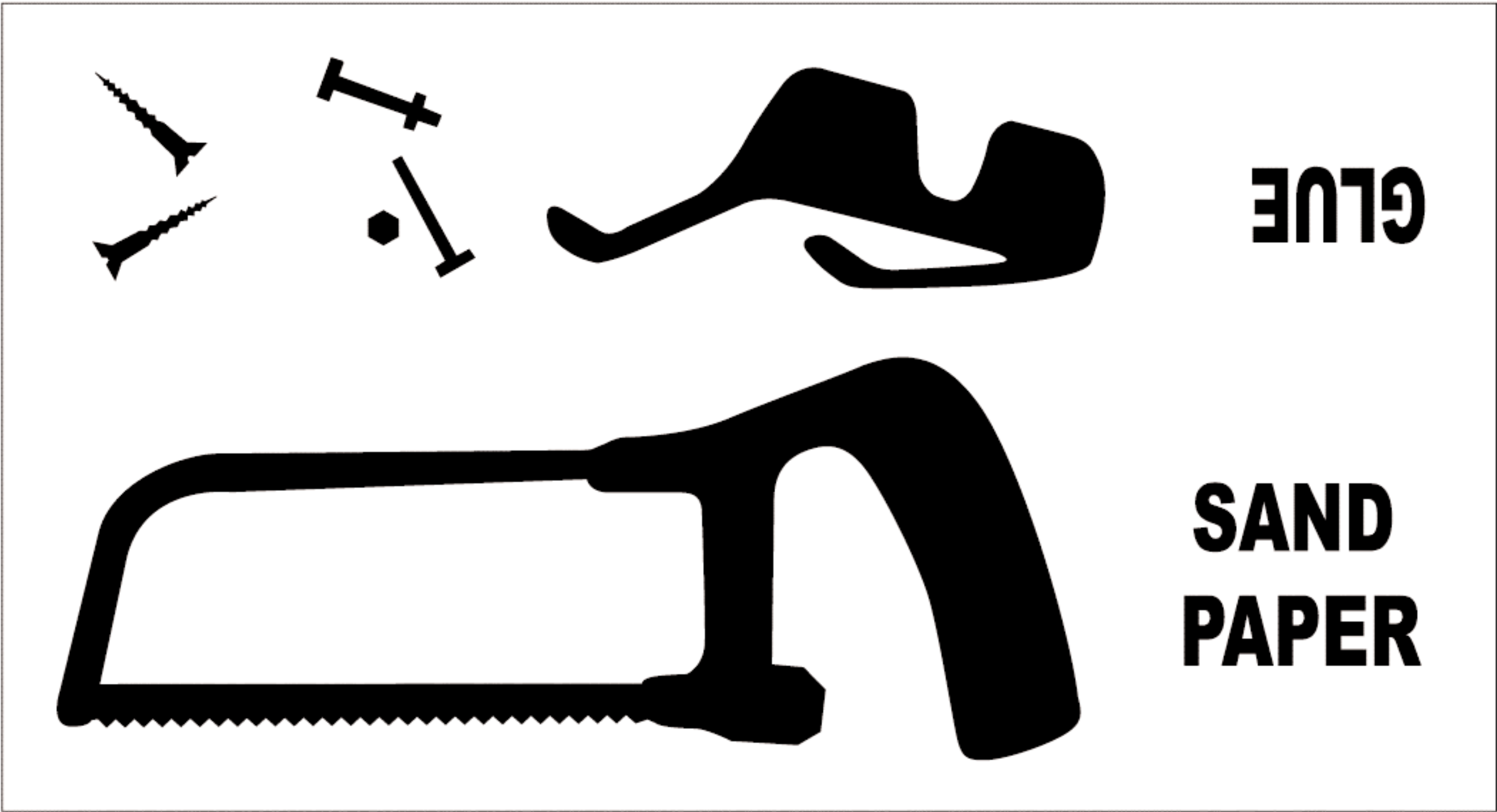


A kid-sized tool box, for kid-sized tools, made by a very big kid

Item F



Item D



Item E