

DIY Appleboxes

These simple little boxes are a necessity for any studio, location or set. Incredibly handy for propping, sitting, elevating equipment, leveling, and a ton of other things. These things are the Ginsu Knives of the production world!

They come in 4 standard sizes:

Length and Width are always 20"x12" respectively.

Full = 8" tall

Half = 4" tall

Quarter = 2" tall

Eighth (aka Pancake) = 1" tall

The Materials

The material list for these things is incredibly simple:

- 4'x4' 3/4" Plywood (For sides and support) ~ \$25
- 4'x4' 1/2" Plywood (For tops and bottoms) ~ \$20
- 5/16" wood dowels (Or screws if you choose) ~ \$8
- Wood Glue ~ \$2

The Cutting List



I needed 2 extra pancakes which will be cut from the 3/4" wood and will be slightly thicker than standard pancakes. So this layout makes the most use out of the wood for my purposes. You may choose to alter the cuts to better use the wood for your project. Click the thumbnails to view the cuts to be made on to be made on the 4'x4' wood.

Cuts on the 1/2" 4'x4' Piece

- Measure in 20" from one side and scribe across the entire piece. Make **Cut #1**.
- Measuring from the cut edge, measure in another 20" and scribe across the entire piece again. Make **Cut #2**.
- Now, adjusting for 12" pieces** cut these 48"x20" strips into 8 12"x20". (**Fig 2**) These are the tops/bottoms of your boxes.

** You have a choice on how to cut these. Since the board is slightly shorter than 48", and the cuts you make actually take away wood, your pieces will be slightly shorter than 12" each. You can adjust for this anyway you like. Either make each piece 11 15/16", or perhaps make all pieces 12" and your pancakes 11 3/4", your choice.



Cuts on the 3/4" 4'x4' Piece

- Just like we did on the 1/2" piece, measure in 20" from one side and scribe across the entire piece. Make **Cut #1**. These will become your extra Pancakes, if you want them.
- On the remaining piece, measure down 20" and scribe across. Make **Cut #2**. This will become the sides.
- On the remaining piece, measure down 10 1/2" and scribe across. Make **Cut #3**. This will become the front/back/support for the full box.
- Measure down another 10 1/2" and scribe across. Make **Cut #4**. This will become the front/back/support for the half and quarter boxes.
- Go back to your "sides" piece and begin cutting your 2 1" strip from it. Then cut your 3" strips, then finally your 7" strips. You should now have your sides done (**Fig 3**)
- Now go back to your "front/back" pieces, and cut those pieces out as well. You should now have your fronts, backs, and supports done. (**Fig 4**)

Cutting Handles (Full and Half Apple Boxes)

- For the full apple box, measure in 1 1/2" from top and bottom, then 3" in from each side.
- The intersection of these measurements will create 4 marks.
- Drill a 1" hole at each of those 4 marks. (**Fig 5**)
- Using a reciprocating saw, cut between the 2 holes to form handle openings.
- For the half apple box, you'll only need one opening. You'll still measure 1 1/2" (Exactly half of the 3" height), and 3" on each side.
- For the quarter apple box, use a 3/4" drill bit and drill the holes after the boxes are assembled for more stability.



Assembly Of Sides and Supports

- Take all of your cut pieces and dry-fit them together to be sure everything is the right size.
- Clamp them together dry, and drill 5/16" holes for your dowels. **(Fig 6)**
- (Yeah yeah, when I took this picture my saw blade had broken so I hadn't finished cutting the second handle and I was too excited to wait.. so I glued it together and sawed the hole later.
- Dry-fit all your dowels to be sure they all line up correctly.
- Glue all dowels and all wood-to-wood surfaces. Clamp in place and allow to dry for at least one hour. (See drying times on your choice of wood glue)
- Repeat this for your Full, Half and Quarter Apple Boxes.

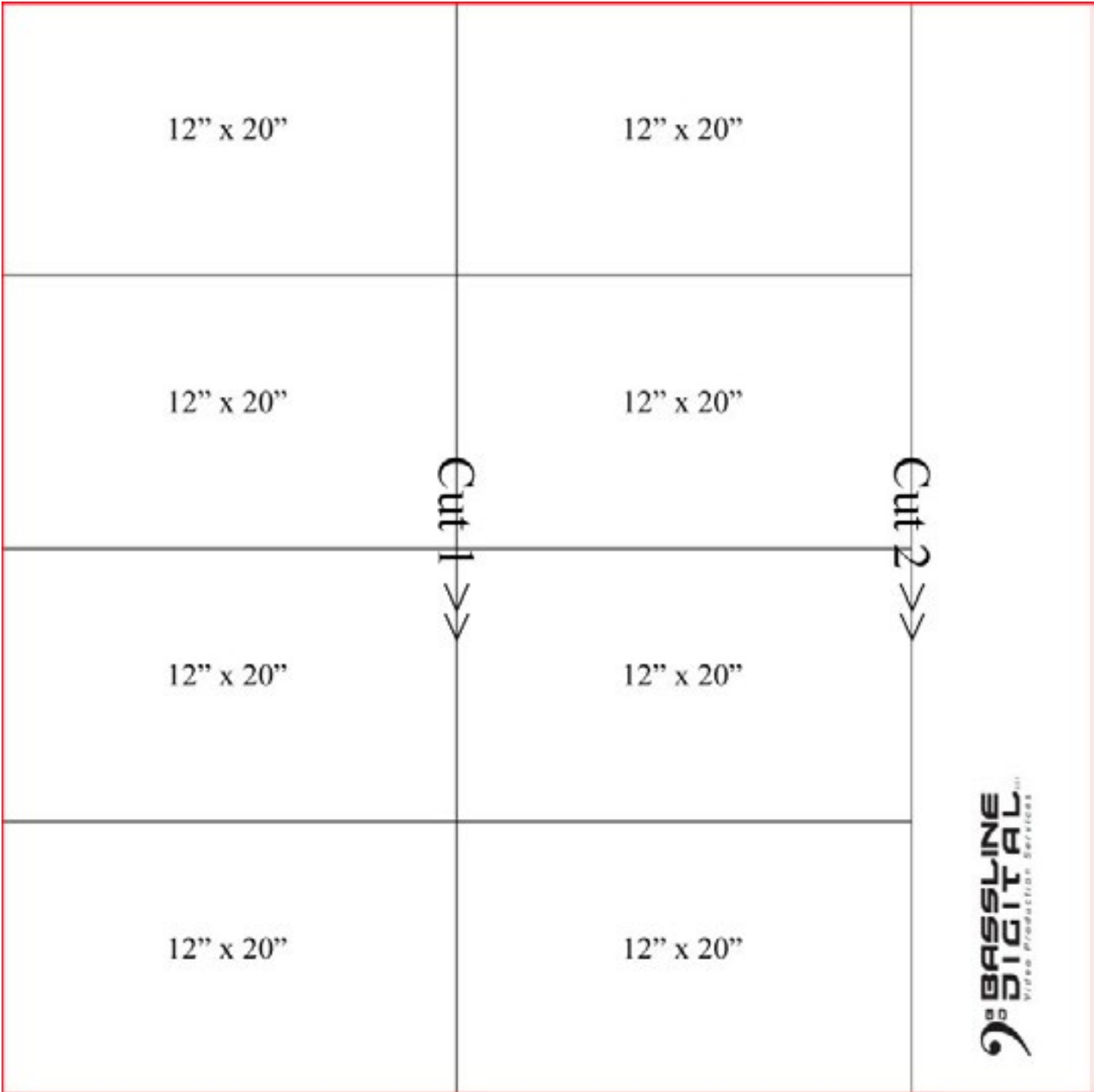
Assembly of Tops/Bottoms

- Put the tops and bottoms on your boxes and dry-clamp them in place.
- Drill 5/16" holes around the perimeter of the top for your dowels, dry-fitting your dowels as you go.
- Drill one hole into the center of the top that will go into the center support.
- I put a total of 11 dowels in the top. 2 on the front and back, 3 along each side, and one in the middle.
- Repeat for the bottom.
- Once everything is drilled and dry fit together, start glueing everything!
- When you're done, clamp everything tight and let it dry. **(Fig 7)**

Final Touches

- Saw off and/or sand down the dowels so that they are flush with the surface.
- Sand the hard edges so that they have a nice smooth semi-rounded edge to them.
- Take a sander to all of your completed boxes to get a nice splinter-less finish to them. **(Fig 8)**
- Optionally, you can use a 1/4" round router bit to round out the inside of the handles.
- Optionally, you can prime and paint your boxes to give them a nice non-glare matte black finish.





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