



# Dado Blade Storage Case

Use your dado blade to build its own storage case and keep everything organized and protected.

It seems like I use the dado blade in my shop almost every day. So it didn't take long for the bulky cardboard box the blade came in to fall apart.

To solve this problem, I made this easy-to-build storage case to keep all the parts together and within easy reach. All you have here is a two-sided open case. One side holds the scoring blades, and the opposite side holds the chippers and shims, as shown at right. To keep the case lightweight yet sturdy, I built it from  $\frac{1}{2}$ " Baltic birch plywood and used basic dado joinery to put it together.

**GETTING STARTED.** If you take a look at the drawing on the following page, you'll see how the case goes together.

Since the sides and bottom are the same width and will have the same center groove, I found it easier to make them all at the same time.

After cutting the pieces to size, I put the dado blade on my table saw and cut the dados in the sides for the bottom and two top pieces. I cut a groove right down the middle of each side to hold the center panel.



One side of the storage case holds chippers and shims, and the other holds scoring blades.



Using the same setup, I cut the groove in the bottom.

Next, the bottom corners were rounded and the top edges mitered to eliminate the sharp corners.

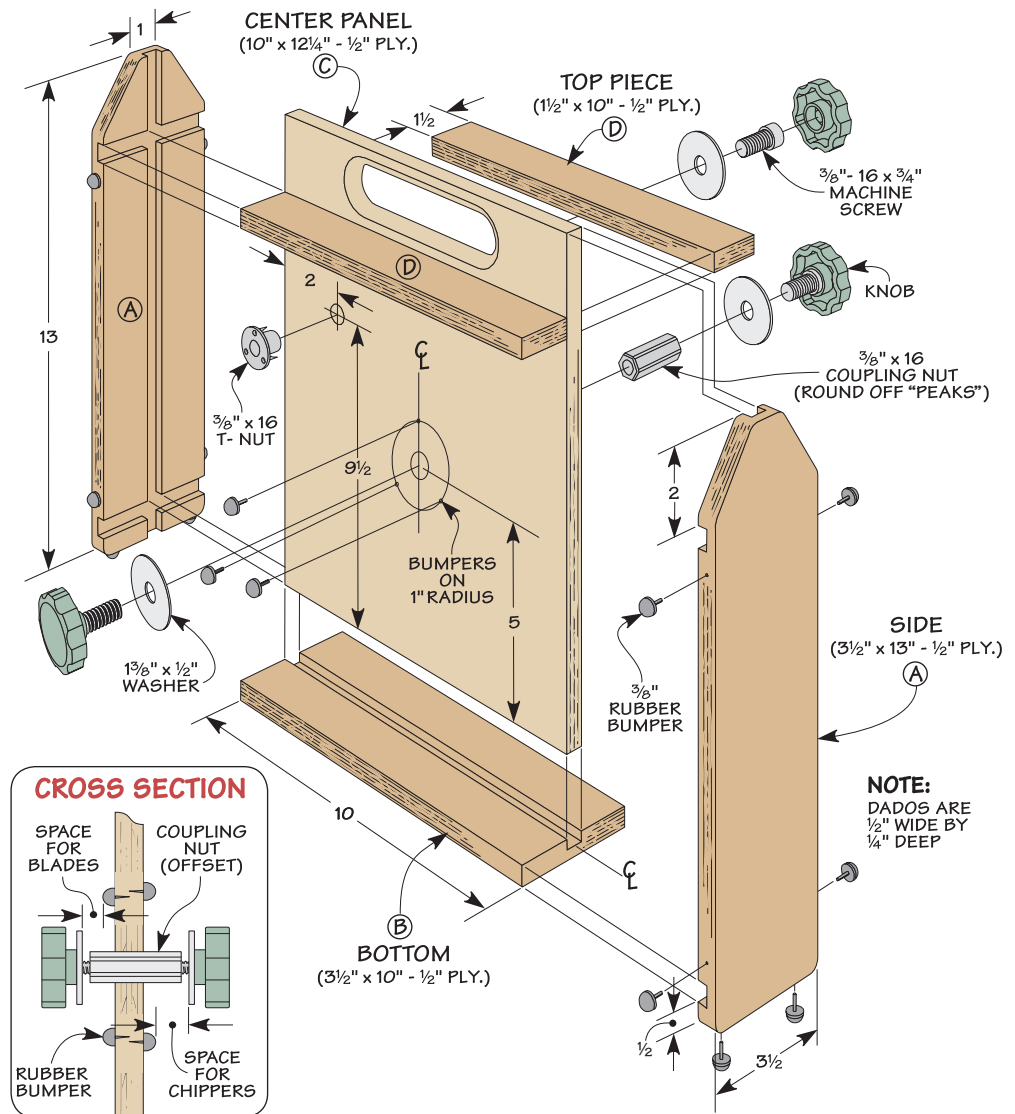
With the sides and bottom complete, I turned to the center panel. The main work here is making a rounded cutout at the top of the center panel to create a comfortable handle (take a look at the box below). Then holes were drilled for the coupling nut that holds the two scoring blades and chippers, and for the T-nut that holds the shims.

The two top pieces slip into the dados cut earlier. They are simply trimmed flush with the edges.

**HARDWARE.** Glue and a couple of clamps are all you need for the assembly. Once the case is assembled, a little bit of hardware that's available from most home centers will make it ready for use.

Rubber bumpers on the outside edges will help protect the case when it's banged around. I also added bumpers to the inside of the case to lift the scoring blades and chippers off the center panel — making it easier to get them out.

The  $\frac{3}{8}$ " coupling nut was a tad too large for the scoring blades and chippers to fit over it. So sand off the "peaks" just enough so it will fit the arbor holes in the scoring blades and chippers. Since the chippers take up more space than the scoring blades do, the coupling



nut is offset to the chipper side of the case (Cross Section drawing above). Epoxy will hold both the T-nut and the coupling nut in place. I added knobs to the machine screws

for the coupling nut to make them easier to tighten and loosen.

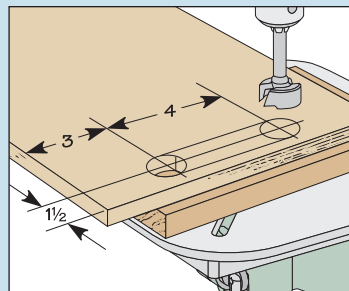
Now I have a convenient place to keep my dado blade and all of its accessories handy.

## Making the Handle

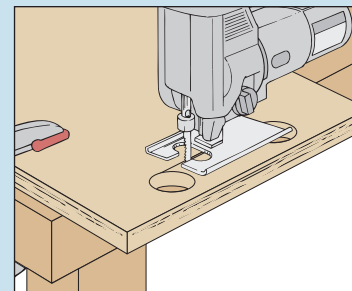
Three tools were used to make the handle for the storage case.

First, after laying out the cutout at the top of the center panel, I drilled a hole at each end with a 1"-dia. Forstner bit. Then I used a jig saw to remove the waste and sanded the edges smooth.

Finally, to make the handle more comfortable, I took a minute to rout the sharp edges of the cutout with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " roundover bit.



**Set the Boundary.** Use a 1"-dia. Forstner bit to cut a hole at each end of the handle.



**Remove the Waste.** A jig saw is the best tool to remove the waste for the handle in the panel.