

Project 19830EZ: Barbecue Tray

This barbecue tray doubles as a handy tote box to transport food and utensils to and from the backyard or deck. It certainly cuts down on the number of trips required to get the cookout under way. If

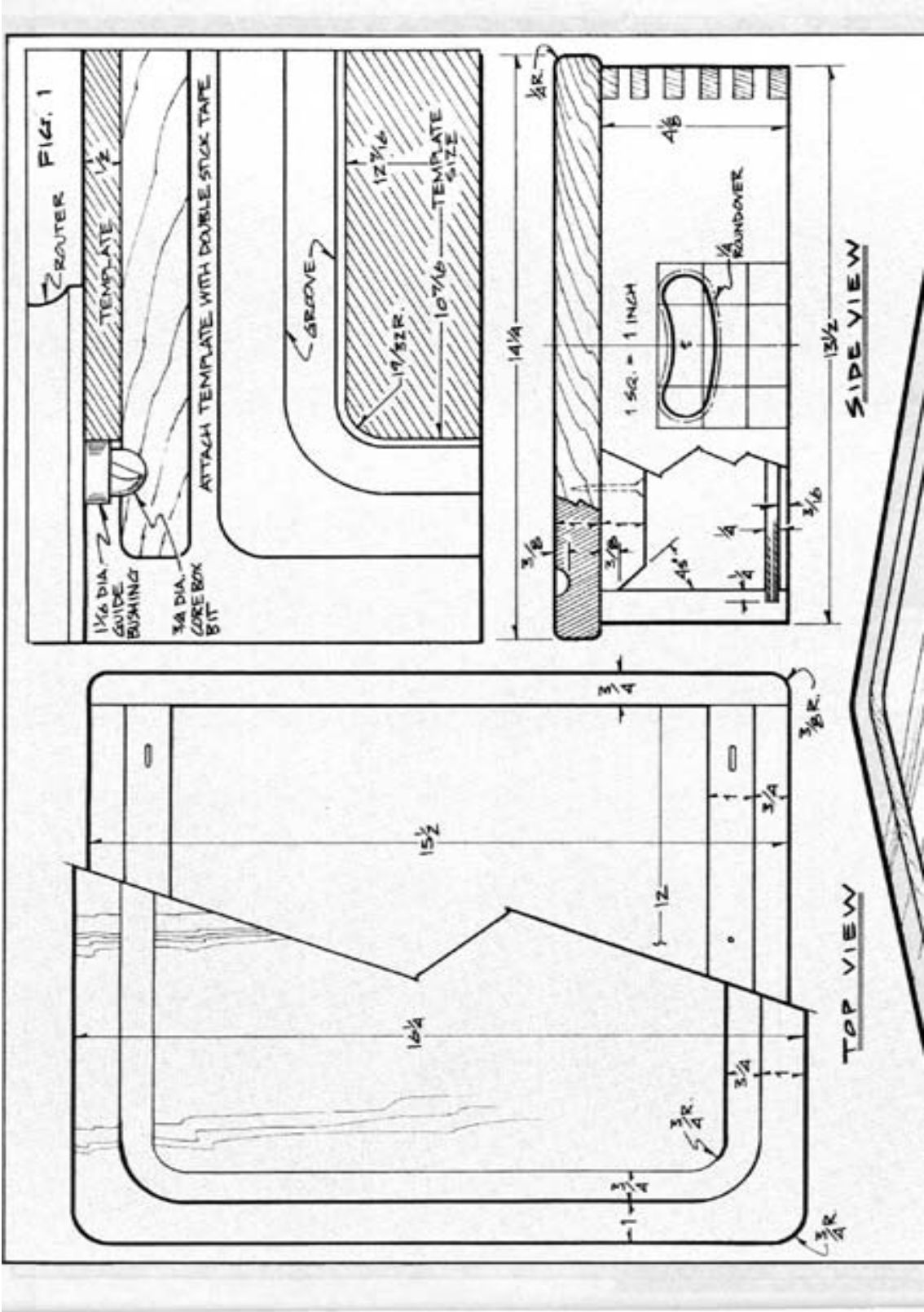
you cook outdoors and eat inside, the platter and box are attractive enough to adorn the dinner table. The box is bird's-eye maple and the top is teak. We used teak for the top because it's very resistant to warping, a common problem for platters that must endure hot juices and frequent dips in the sink.

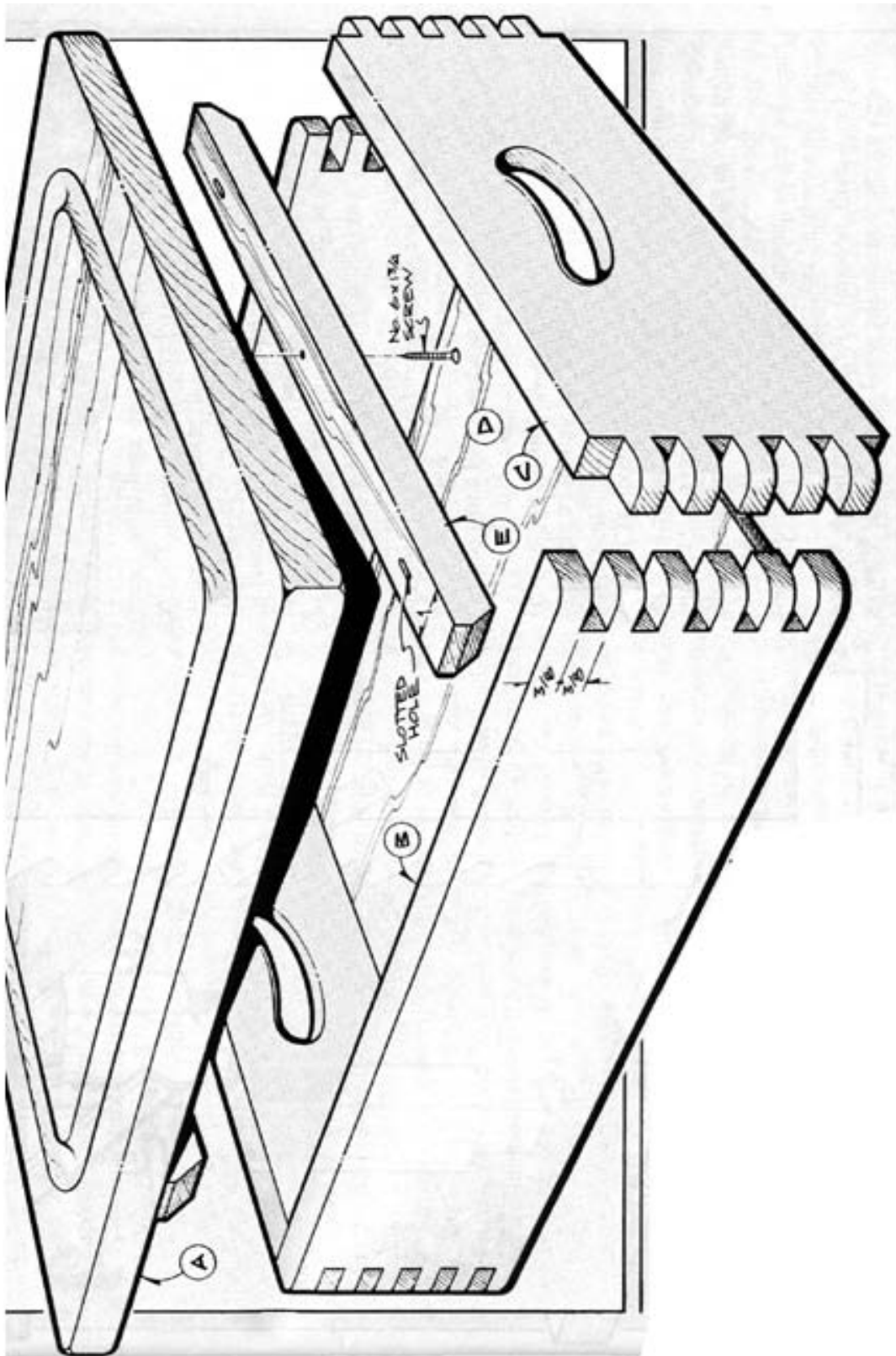


Barbecue Tray Materials List

Part	Description	Size	No. Req'd
A	Top	1" x 14-1/4" x 16-1/4"	1
B	Side	3/4" x 4-1/8" x 15-1/2"	2
C	End	3/4" x 4-1/8" x 13-1/2"	2
D	Bottom	1/4" x 12-1/2" x 14-1/2"	1
E	Cleat	1" x 1" x 12"	2

Barbecue Tray Complete Schematic





Barbecue Tray Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Cut the sides (B) and ends (C) to the sizes given in the Materials List.
2. Make a simple jig with a pin to index the cuts for the box joints.
3. Use the jig in conjunction with a dado head and the table saw to cut the box joints.
4. Establish the handle cutouts.
5. Cut the 1/4" x 1/4" groove for the bottom (D).
6. Cut the bottom to size from 1/4" thick plywood.
7. Glue up the box.
8. Edge-glide with waterproof glue two or three narrower boards to achieve the 14-1/4" width needed for the teak top (A). **NOTE: Teak can be tricky to glue, so make sure you joint the edges just before glue-up. This removes the oils, which tend to collect on the surface and prevent a good bond.**
9. Glue up the top.
10. Trim the top to size.
11. Use a template made from 1/2" plywood, a guide bushing (Figure 1), and a 3/4" diameter core box bit to rout the 3/8" deep groove.
12. Use a scroll saw to cut the radius on the corners of the top.
13. Use a 1/4" radius roundover bit to round over the top edges and handle cutouts.
14. Use a 3/8" radius roundover bit to round over the box corners.
15. Apply the cleats (E) with slotted screw holes as shown to allow for wood movement.
16. Give the top and box a thorough sanding.
17. Break all sharp edges with sandpaper.
18. Complete the project by applying a coat of non-toxic, salad bowl finish.

These plans were originally published in Volume 14, Issue 4 of *The Woodworker's Journal* (July/Aug. 1990, pages 46-47).