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Contributed by: [Mike Buzzeeo](#) | Published: November 2008 | Views: 25206 | [Email this Article](#) | [PDF](#)

How To Build A SANDING BOX



How-To Article by Mike Buzzeeo (MinnFlyer)

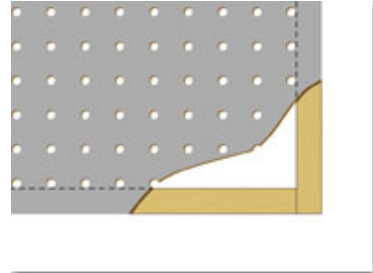
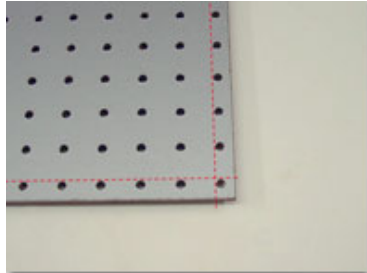
I have always tried to do my major sanding projects outdoors. It always seemed to work out well time-wise in that, I would usually get a new plane for Christmas, and by early spring, when the big sanding jobs came along, the weather would be tolerable. But several things have changed since I lived in New York. For one thing, Minnesota winters are much longer, and nowadays once spring arrives, I'm so busy doing product reviews that my own projects get sidelined until the weather gets cold again.

So here I find myself in late autumn doing a lot of sanding indoors. What bothers me about this is the dust that is created. Even on small jobs, when I look up at the fluorescent lights in my shop, I can see a cloud of tiny sawdust particles floating in the air. That happens to be the same air I am breathing! I started using a dust mask, but for one thing, I hate wearing those things, and for another, an hour after the sanding job was finished - even with my window fan running - I could still see a cloud of dust floating around! And even if I left the room overnight, the next morning there would be a fine coat of dust on everything in the shop (And I just CLEANED IT for the first time in 3 years!)

Something had to be done!

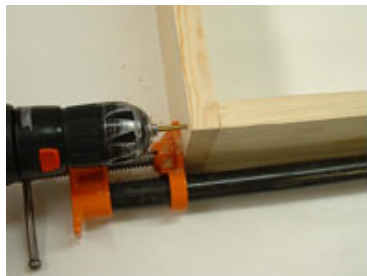
So recently, on a trip to my local Home Improvement store, I spotted some pre-cut 2' x 4' pegboard panels. Right next to that were some panels made of the same material, but without the holes. They were both about 4 bucks each. The gears started turning. A few isles away were some 6-foot pine 1 x 4's for less than \$3 each.

"Now what was it that my wife sent me here for?" Oh well, it must not have been too important. The next thing I know, I'm on my way out the door with two boards and two sheets of wood.



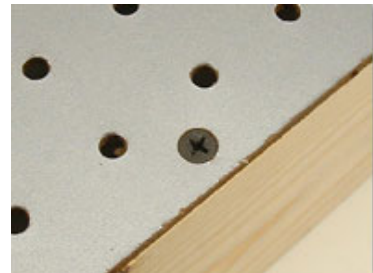
For starters, I noticed that the outermost row of holes was very close to the edge of the pegboard. If I placed this on top of the sides, the boards underneath would close off the first row of holes. This, in itself, is not a problem, but it would mean that each of those holes on all four edges would become little cups that would fill up with sawdust. So the first thing I did was to cut the pegboard right along the first row of holes. This left a 3/4" edge on all four sides.

The next thing was to cut the bottom to match, and measure the finished top and bottom so the sides could be cut to size.



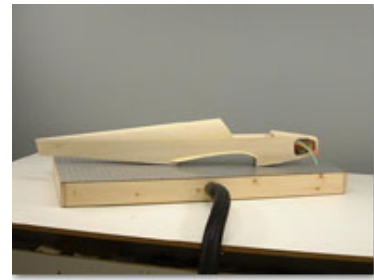
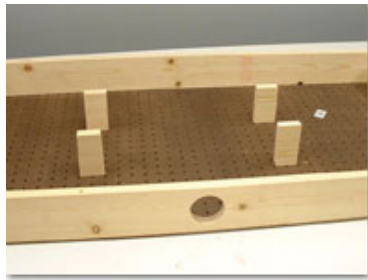
Now I needed a hole to fit my Shop-Vac hose into. With a little trial-and-error, I got the size just right for a snug fit.

With the sides clamped in place, I pre-drilled holes for the screws and put the sides together with wood glue and drywall screws.



When it's upside-down, you can see how the first row of holes will clear the sidepieces.

I was careful to counter-sink the holes so the screws would sit below the surface.



Again, being careful not to cover any holes, I glued some pieces of scrap from the sides to provide support for the center.

Finally, the bottom is screwed in place, the Shop-Vac is attached, and she's ready for testing.

Now

for the acid test - does it work?

I brought the sanding box out of my studio and into my workshop. With it sitting atop my workbench, I turned on the Shop-Vac but felt no noticeable suction. Undeterred, I placed the wing of my Ultra Sport on top of the table and started sanding away.

Aside from the noise of the Shop-Vac, I noticed nothing out of the ordinary. When I was done with the section I was working on, I stood the wing on its leading edge and lightly bounced it on the table to knock off the loose dust. Then I smacked it lightly with my hand to further remove the dust.

There was a noticeable amount of dust on the top of the sanding box, which disappeared down the holes with a few wipes of my hand. "Impressive", I thought, but now for the real test. I looked up at the fluorescent lights in my shop, and there was nothing! Not even a hint of any dust-borne particles.

It works!

Now my shop can stay clean, I don't have to wear a mask to prevent breathing in those dust particles and my wife will have one less thing to complain about.

Now it's back to the Home Improvement store for those light fixtures she wanted.

Comments on RCU Review: Minnflyer on: How to Build a Sanding Box.

Posted by: [deothoric](#) on 11/17/2008

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Nicely doen! I just finished refurbishing my basement. The floor is epoxied, I have a ceiling at last, the walls are fresh white. The worst job was getting all that dust off all the stuff I had piled on racks and shelves. I was trying to figure out how to enclose all the storage to cut down on the dusting. Now I can simply reduce the dust. brilliant!

Posted by: [deothoric](#) on 11/17/2008

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Posted by: [Tom Nied](#) on 11/17/2008

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Nice solution for a common problem. As soon as I saw the first photo, I understood how you built it. I've been thinking using the same materials for making a charging station for transmitters and receivers with all the "wall warts" and chargers I use. Maybe using the hooks that go into the peg board. Hanging it on the wall near a wall socket.

Posted by: MinnFlyer on 11/18/2008

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Yea, I was thinking it could double as a wall-mounted pegboard when not in use.

Posted by: flybug on 11/18/2008

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MinnFlyer, you've done it again. Utterly amazing work, gotta love the simplicity. Thank you and keep up the good work it is very much appreciated.

Posted by: ray foley on 11/19/2008

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Hi there from Toledo: A simple and elegant solution to a dusty old problem. I need one too. Ciao -rjf

Posted by: OldRookie on 11/20/2008

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How do you keep from marring the finish sanded balsa. With your airplane parts laid directly on a hard surface, it seems as if you would get dents, and compression marks. When ever I finish sand, I need a towel or foam rubber block to rest the part on, to keep the hard bench top from marring up my balsa. Other than that I guess it is OK. Greg

Posted by: MinnFlyer on 11/21/2008

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You could add some pieces of foam weatherstripping between the holes









Posted by: FATBOY on 11/24/2008




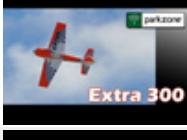



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I like it! You can afix a foam or cloth saddle on each side & just above this box to keep your model from marring.

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	Minnflyer on:	Flutter	Most of us are familiar with the term "Flutter". For those of you who aren't, it is when a surface or control surface of an a...	10/03/2010
	The Wings Maker	Slick 540	The first thing that has to be said about the Wings maker Slick 540 is that it is a big airframe for a 50cc. The ARF comes wi...	09/26/2010
	FlyZone	Select Scale Super Cub	The Select Scale™ series is larger than a micro flier and even larger than some of the typical park fliers, yet they are not ...	09/26/2010
	E-Flite	F-86 Sabre 15 DF ARF	When outfitted with E-flite's own Delta V fan and motor and a 4S Li-Po, the Sabre will hum with power and speed....	09/19/2010
	ParkZone	Sukhoi SU-26XP BNF	Lo and behold, along comes the new ParkZone Sukhoi-26 XP BNF. Not only is it a 4-channel plane, but a fully aerobatic plane a...	09/19/2010
	ParkZone	Night Vapor BNF	My first experience with the Vapor came two years ago at E-Fest where Horizon was allowing the spectators to fly them due to ...	09/19/2010
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	<u>Futaba</u>	<u>Tactic TTX404</u>	This year, Tactic has introduced two new 2.4GHz, Spread Spectrum radios: The TTX240 which is a 2-channel surface radio, and t...	09/05/2010
	<u>E-Flite</u>	<u>Blade MCX2</u>	The Blade mCX2 is supplied in two flavors. The first is an Ready to Fly (RTF) with everything required ready to go out of the...	09/05/2010
	<u>Tower Hobbies</u>	<u>TECHone Rainbow</u>	I have to admit, I was like a kid in a candy store. I spent hours going over each airframe at Tower's site looking at each on...	09/05/2010
	<u>ParkZone</u>	<u>Extra 300 PNP</u>	I think that the Extra 300 is great value out of the box. For a little more than the price of a competing ARF, you get a read...	08/30/2010
	<u>Great Planes / Electrify</u>	<u>Evader EDF Jet ARF</u>	Recently I was introduced to the new "Evader" from ElectriFly. My first impression was, "Wow! That is one slick-looking airpl...	08/30/2010
	<u>The Southern Minnesota Model Aircraft Club-</u>	<u>Watts over Owatonna</u>	Owatonna Minnesota is located about 40 miles due-south on Interstate 35 from Minneapolis. With a population of about 23,000, ...	08/24/2010
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