

This project was the result of my neighbour who was trying to clean up his yard. The sleigh was in disrepair and had some wood rot on the back end of the sleigh, however my curiosity prevailed and I dragged it home for further consideration. I apologize for not taking any pictures of the sleigh before I started in on it. I have, however, drawn some pictures to help describe this stage of the project. All told, I spent the better part of 2 weeks from drawings to final assembly.

I had been curious because at the time I was researching 'Cooper' chests and I was willing to try to adapt the slats orientation to a vertical alignment. Some research was essential as I needed to expand the sleighs' front bend from an 8 inch arc (Okay if you want a smaller chest) to a full 10-12 inch arc base. The **whole idea is to bend wood with water** or steam. I cut off the head of the sleigh at the first crossmember and filled a 45 gal. barrel half full with water and placed it in the water with a cinderblock to hold it down. I let it soak overnight. Meanwhile, I removed the remaining (6) crossmembers of the sleigh. I kept the 3/4" screws (about 42+/-) in an empty tuna can for further consideration.

I needed four walls some corner posts and a bottom for the box. Around this time, a light switched on to include a 'secret compartment'. I designed the Base Plate to include a secret compartment at the bottom of the chest. It was large enough to fit **75 Canadian pennies** to commemorate the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. The pennies are no longer in circulation, but my wife kept a large collection of pennies & It was my hope to furnish the "Treasure Chest" with 75 pennies that would correspond to the year 'Liz' began her reign and then one for each year after that, including 2022 (D.o.D). Alas, I couldn't find anything older than 1954. **aRrrr!**

This chest is being built for my 'Great Nephew', **Cooper**, who came into the world just this year. Coincidentally, there is a style of chest lid by that name. (Think Pirate Chest). Google it!

Included in the "Treasure Chest" box is a globe, a retractable telescope, a compass and a chart of the open seas...**aRrrr!**

With the lid cut off and soaking, and the crossmembers removed, I took some notes and measurements and put the project to bed. The very next day, I went to check on the head of the sleigh (Lid). It had expanded the better part of 16 inches.

Excellent! According to my initial plans, the outside dimensions were approx. 13 inches wide, 20 inches long and 16 inches tall. Now, I had to constrain the lid at a **manageable bend** of 10 -12 inches wide.

Once it dried, I added two crossmembers to the exterior base of the lid. *See Pictures shown here & below.

The Okanagan Sun was my furnace! (we had a 6 week heatwave of 100 deg. F(+/+). It was important to keep an eye on the project all day while it dried. I left the form on overnight.

The next day, it was ready to go. I created cardboard templates of the "ends" by standing the lid upright. Be sure to label & mark the cardboard with regards to interior / exterior. They may not be symmetric, so label them appropriately. As my lid was **crooked** already, I was forced to make 2 **custom end** pieces. I transferred the pattern to some cold press cardboard (ie. cereal box) and cut it out. Repeat for the other side of the lid. I selected some 5/8" stock: good both sides, and transferred the patterns to the 5/8 in. stock and cut them out with a jigsaw and sanded them down to fit in the openings. Finally, I had to secure both ends with (2) large clamps, glue and screws (use 4 @1.5in. screws per side). Clean up excess glue. Allow to dry.



Here, there are 4 cross members attached to Lid. The inside is flush, and the outside is approx. 1.5 in. from the bottom of the exposed slats.



I used a 2x2 (1.5" by 1.5") to gage the ht. from the bottom of the lid. I secured the crossmembers on the inside walls with screws that I had salvaged earlier...



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Lid with End caps

6 man Wooden Tobaggan - Rescued
 ~7 feet Long (84") and approx. 17 inches wide.
 6 crossmembers
 The sleigh had some nasty wood rot.
 Before cutting anything, I gave it a bleach bath.

~ Wood Rot ~
 Bleach diluted 4:1. apply with sponge.
 Leave on for 12-15 minutes.
 Rinse with clean water. Let dry.



Proposed Rendering

Salvage the Rope and you might use it instead of the leather straps!

With the head cut off and the crossmembers removed, I proceeded to inspect the slats with a critical eye. Move to the sanding table and removed any 'unwanted'. Start with 40 or 50 grit sandpaper and slowly run the sander over the slats. Ultimately get to 120 grit and sand in direction of the grain, both sides and the edges. I need 22 pc.s cut @ 10 1/4in. Also: 4 rails cut at 17 1/2 in. and 4 @ 11 1/4in. The rails are for the walls.

Tools:

- Tape measure
- Carpenters Pencil / Pencil / marker
- 2' square or a metal straight edge
- Hammer
- Mitre saw 10"
- Shop Vac or a broom & dustpan
- Drills and Bits | 2 are Ideal - drilling /screwing with a woodbit
- Circular saw 7 1/4"
- Clamps (numerous / various sizes) (8-15-36 inches)
- Cargo Straps (to constrain) Opt.*
- Compressor + hose + attachments
- Brad nailer and power stapler
- Propane blow torch Opt.*(finish)
- Sander and sandpaper various grits (40 to 120)
- Utility knife
- Wood filler
- Varathane
- Paint Brush(s) 2"-3"&
- Mineral spirits (clean up)

