

Pirate's Treasure Trunk

Build a Pirate's Treasure Trunk, with alternative "steam punk" style hinges and flip-up top. The entire build can be made from scrap lumber, only a small amount of wood is needed. You can cut down larger scrap to the "will be" sizes in the cut list.

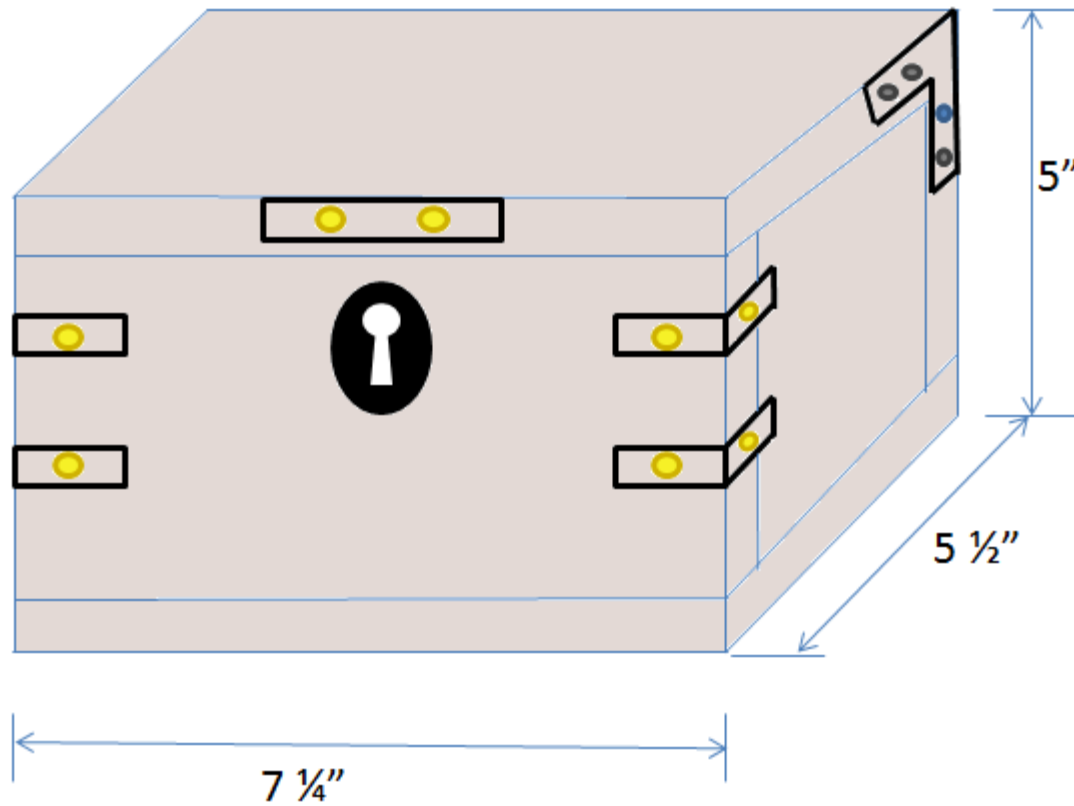
For this build, instead of regular hinges, I used 3/8" x 2" zinc flat angle braces, attached to the top at the back, and to the box side at the back, by just the bottom screw. This acts as a pivot for opening the box. Update 9/15: For the 2nd build I tried the 1/2 x 2 1/2" angle brace, and prefer it over the smaller one for sturdiness. Substitute some longer screws too (I used 1 1/4" Kreg screws) for extra strength.

If you prefer, other styles of flat (surface) hinges will work as long as the hinge lays flat on the back side of the box. Using 3/4" thick wood, the width of the hinges must be 1 1/2" or less, and length at 3 1/2" or less for this size box.

Additional decorations added are spray painted corner brackets on the front corners, and a mending brace bracket on the front of the box lid, attached with super glue and furniture nails.

If you prefer not to use hardware for the decorations, they can all be painted on using the templates in this plan, or, there are pictures included that can be printed and added with decoupage medium.

Dimensions:



Shopping list: (Check your scrap wood – you’d need 23” of 1x4 and 15” of 1x6, or cut larger pieces of scrap down to the “will be” sizes in the cut list)

1 pc 1x4 at 2 feet long

1 pc 1x6 at 2 feet long

1 ¼” finish nails

Glue (wood glue, plus super glue if using optional decorative hardware)

Finishing materials for desired finish

Hardware:

3/8” x 2” zinc flat braces (2)- looks like this:

\$2.38/ pkg of 4

OR you could use the larger one if the box will get regular use::

1/2” x 2 ½” zinc flat corner braces (2)

\$2.60/ pkg of 4



Optional decorative hardware:

½” x 1” corner bracket (4) – looks like this:

\$2.06/ pkg of 4



2” mending brace (1) – looks like this:

\$1.92/ pkg of 4



½” furniture nails – looks like these:

\$1.30/ pkg of 25



Links to hardware used:

Zinc flat angle brace 3/8" x 2":

http://www.lowes.com/pd_315660-1277-MPB117_4294934474_?productId=3168397&Ntt=flat+angle+brace



OR – this larger one is stronger– 1/2" x 2 1/2" :

http://www.lowes.com/pd_315661-1277-DPB117_0_?productId=3168399&Ntt=corner+bracket&pl=1¤tURL=%3FNtt%3Dcorner%2Bbracket&facetInfo=

Corner Bracket 1/2" x 1":

http://www.lowes.com/pd_315680-1277-DPB115_0_?productId=3168407&Ntt=corner+bracket&pl=1¤tURL=%3FNtt%3Dcorner%2Bbracket&facetInfo=



Mending Brace:



http://www.lowes.com/pd_315712-1277-DPB118_0_?productId=3169853&Ntt=mending+brace&pl=1¤tURL=%3FNtt%3Dmending%2Bbrace&facetInfo=

Furniture nails:



http://www.lowes.com/pd_58196-37672-532455_0_?productId=3036029&Ntt=furniture+nail&pl=1¤tURL=%3FNtt%3Dfurniture%2Bnail&facetInfo=

Tools:

Measuring tape

Pencil

Square

Miter Saw

Sander

Drill

Nailer (or hammer and nail set)

Protective equipment

Supplies:

1 ¼" finish nails

Glue (wood glue, plus super glue if using decorative hardware)

Finishing supplies for desired finish

Cut List:

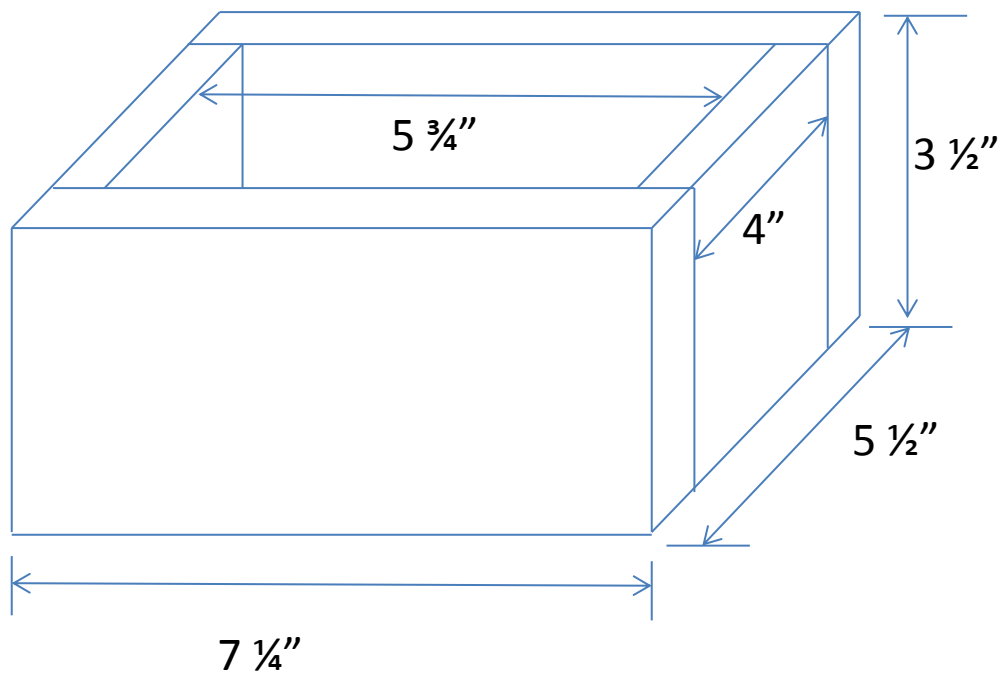
(all of these can be cut to size from larger pieces of scrap wood, to the “will be” measurements):

1x4 – 2 pc @ 7 ¼" (front/back – will be 7 ¼" x 3 ½")

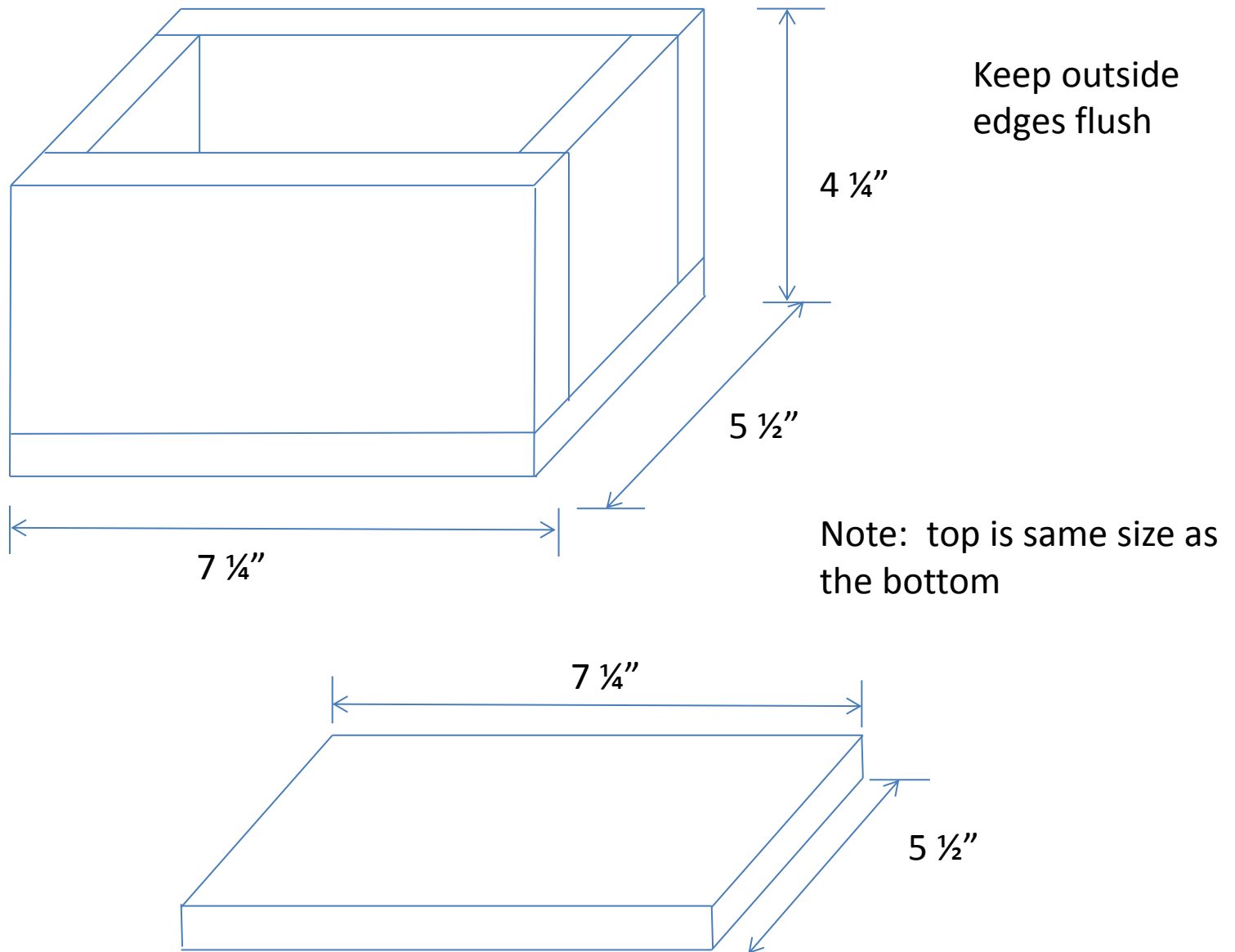
1x4 – 2 pc @ 4" (sides – will be 3 ½" x 4")

1x6 – 2 pc @ 7 ¼" (top & bottom – will be 5 ½" x 7 ¼")

Step 1. Attach front and back to sides as shown in the diagram. Keep top/bottom and outside edges flush. Use glue and 1 ¼" finish nails.



Step 2. Attach bottom to box, keeping outside edges flush. Use glue and 1 ¼" finish nails.

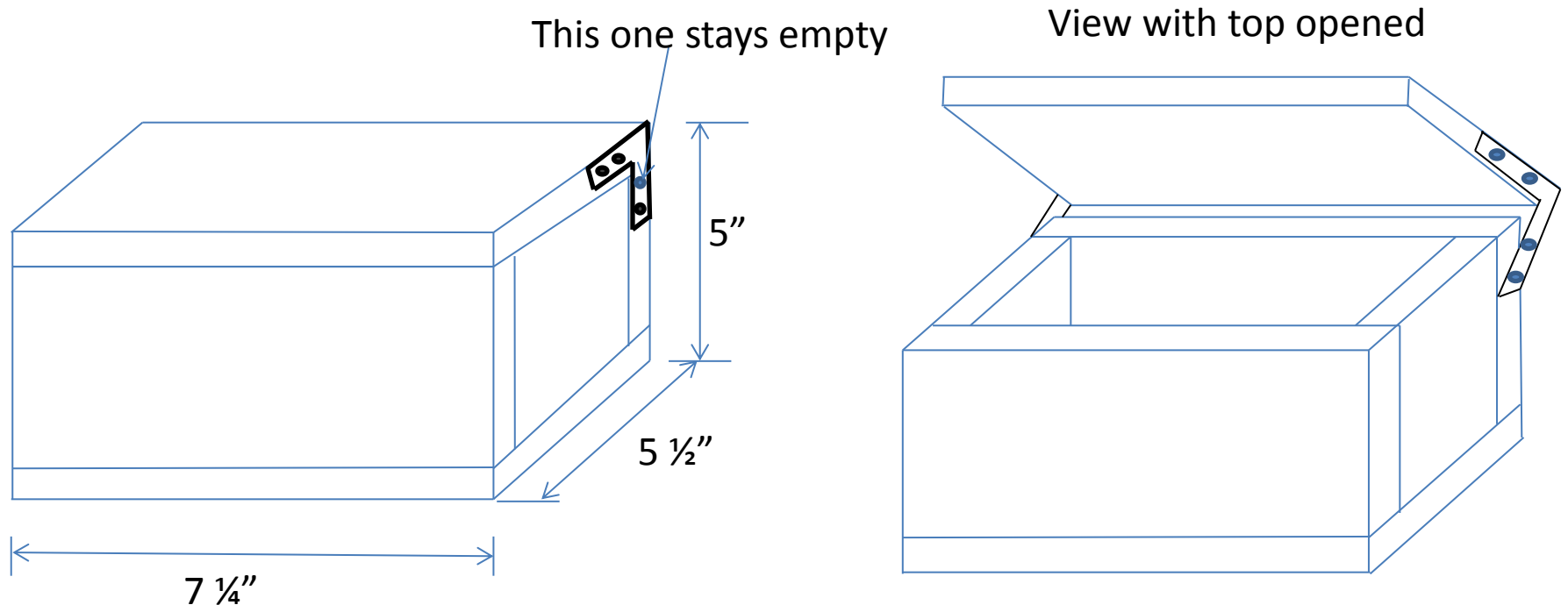


Step 3: Finishing: At this point finish the box and top.

Fill nail holes if desired. Use matching or stainable filler if staining. After filler dries, sand until smooth, remove all sanding residue, and apply desired finish.

On this build I used a gray paint wash, then walnut glaze.

Step 4: Attaching Hinges: Attach flat angle braces to top and box as shown in the diagram. To make attaching easier, mark on box and top where the screws will go, and drill small “starter holes” to make driving in the screws easier. There should be screws in the top 2 holes, and only one screw in the bottom hole to act as a pivot, as shown in view with top opened. (Stop just short of driving the bottom screw in all the way tight, to allow for the brace to pivot on it.)

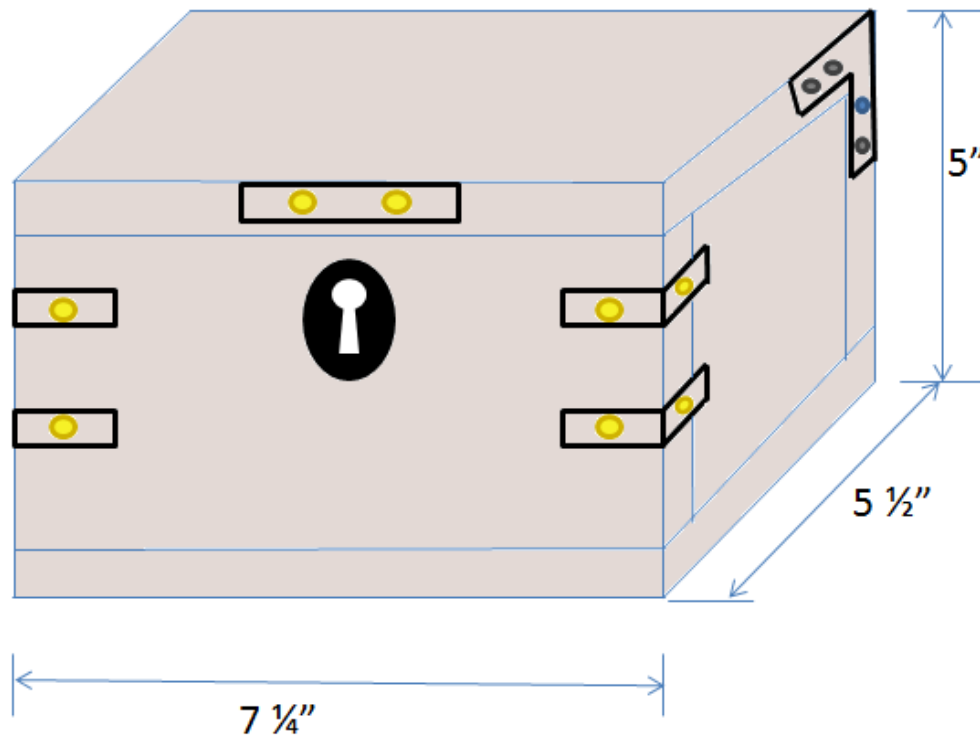


Substitution: regular flat hinges (no more than $1 \frac{1}{2}"$ x $3 \frac{1}{2}"$) can be used instead, attached to the back of the box and lid

Step 5: Optional decorations:

The keyhole is a painted piece of foam shelf liner, glued on. Everything is topped with a coat of clear poly. The decorations are “L” brackets and a mending plate, spray painted, and attached with super glue and furniture nails. Also add a dab of super glue to the point of the nail just before hammering it in, to make sure it stays in place. Once these were all on, I top coated everything with a coat of mod podge.

If you would prefer to paint these decorations on instead, you can use the templates provided in the plan. Template is also included for decoupage decorations you can print and mod podge.

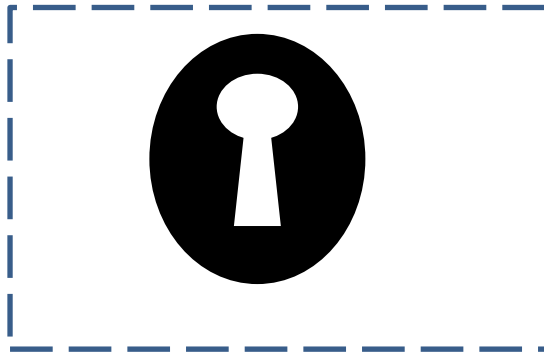


For this look I wanted the weathered look like the trunk may have washed up on some beach from a sunken pirate ship. 😊

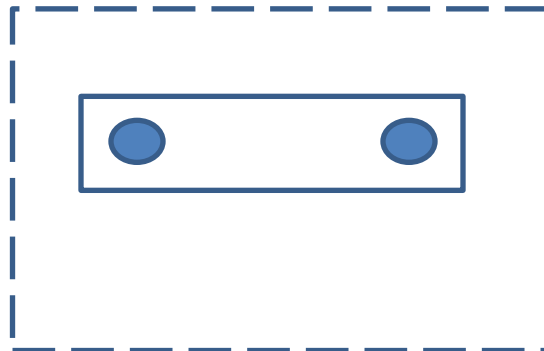
Painting on the Decorations: Templates provided below

To trace the templates on: Print, cut out templates on dotted lines, and tape in place on the box. Trace around the edges of the design with a ballpoint pen, applying pressure to make a dent in the wood. Remove the template and use a small (artist type) paint brush to fill in the indented lines and inside the lines.

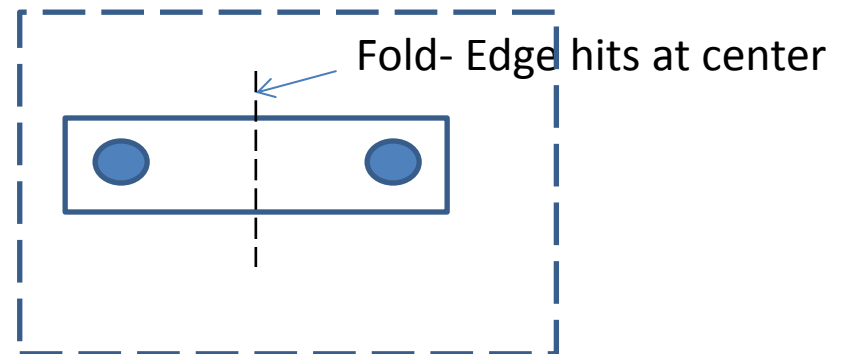
Template for keyhole



Template for Front of Lid:



Template for Front Corner Braces:

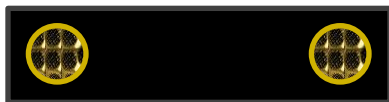


Decorations for decoupage

Keyhole



Mending Plate



Corner Brackets (fold in center, use on
Front corners)

