



Wooden Candy Dispensers

Grade level(s) I use with: 7th and 8th graders. I've also had 5th and 6th graders make this as part of a special afterschool class and they did great - just for my classes those younger grades do a couple simpler projects where I can focus on learning how to safely use saws, drills and sanders in preparation for this one when they hit 7th / 8th grade.

Lesson Overview: When I started this job in 2022, I was given a room that used to be a full fledged woodshop up until that teacher retired about 10 years ago. The next teacher was much more of a technology focused makerspace teacher, so the majority of the tools and equipment has set idle since then. But one message I immediately heard from kids was that they really wanted elements of woodshop so I've really tried to incorporate at least a couple weeks (out of

a six week cycle) to let them cut, saw, drill and sand. My exit surveys definitely show that it's one of their favorite parts of our Design Tech classes.

I love this project because it requires that students put their hands on just about every woodworking tool in the shop. But I also recognize that this means that the majority of Makerspaces simply won't have the equipment to make this happen in their space. I won't try to walk through the entire project step by step - if you look at my slide deck that is probably the best overview as well as the original plans from Four Oaks from which I developed our approach.

Materials and equipment I use:

- 1 4 foot 1 x 6 common pine board (from Home Depot) - 8 ft is approximately \$12
- 1 small mason jar with lid
https://www.amazon.com/KAMOTA-Regular-Magnetic-Whiteboard-Included/dp/B07RDHMRB9/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?crid=2VVRYP6T5OJVM&keywords=small+mason+jars+with+lids&qid=1699323810&srefix=small+mason+jars+with+lids%2Caps%2C92&sr=8-1-spons&sp_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9hdGY&psc=1
- Drawer pulls - any type can work but I've found these work well and kids like the outcome:
https://www.amazon.com/Brushed-Nickel-Cabinet-Furniture-Hardware/dp/B07LGRNXS8/ref=sr_1_9?crid=11UN1F69KOYIB&keywords=t%2Bdrawer%2Bpulls&qid=1699323996&srefix=t%2Bdrawer%2Bpulls%2Caps%2C92&sr=8-9&th=1

Necessary equipment:

- Chop saw to cut 1 x 6
- Band saw to cut slider and sides
- Bench Sander and / or palm sander to smooth body
- Hammer and 1.25 in nails
- Drill press and 1 inch forstner bit
- CNC router to create "catcher" hole in base
- Scroll saw to cut front curve on base
- Battery powered Nailer - not necessary but sure makes putting the final bases on smoother, I have students nail their bodies together with hammer and then they also appreciate this tool :-)
https://www.amazon.com/Ryobi-P320-Airstrike-Cordless-Included/dp/B00CRFEZFC/ref=sr_1_6?crid=1NWUCM0Q92N8S&keywords=power+nailer&qid=1699324130&srefix=power+nailer%2Caps%2C89&sr=8-6
- Cricut Vinyl Cutter - I usually tie in a lesson on Cricut Vinyl Cutting since a nice addition to this project is a personalized sticker to go on the Mason Jar at the end. Not necessary and it does add at least 3 days since it takes awhile for everyone to get comfortable working with vinyl and not every Makerspace has these machines - but if you do have them I'd recommend adding this too.

Related links:

Here is a copy of the slide deck that I use with this unit - lots of step by step elements to help support the verbal instructions:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1HLOirSnA4IFbw2-DUaqBf4MMviZxB5e8ROKscljXBB8/edit?usp=sharing> I open the lessons with a basic overview with wood since this was this particular classes first woodworking project ever. Now I just use that particular set of slides and the lesson with my 5th and 6th graders when they begin.

Where did I find this? Most of the guidance for this project came from this website:

<https://www.fouroakscrafts.com/how-to-make-a-candy-dispenser/> This is also a .pdf with pictures from that site:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mnsJIUdNSUhDvJZoniyyp5DYqOmprFM/view?usp=sharing> My first test of this was with a small afterschool group and we did use oak, maple and birch boards from Home Depot - the results were really stunning. But it was so much more expensive and challenging working with hardwood that for my full classes I opted to use 1 x 6 common pine boards (also from Home Depot) and the results are just as satisfying and especially the sanding, pounding nails is infinitely easier for everyone.