



# CARVEWRIGHT™

## WOODWORKING SYSTEM

PROJECT  
BASIC  
DIFFICULTY

### PROJECT TUTORIAL

## Colonial Eagle Patriot Box

Designed for CarveWright™ by Michael Tyler - [www.carvebuddy.com](http://www.carvebuddy.com)



This project features a Colonial-style eagle relief carving on the lid and five-point star accents on the box sides to enhance the overall patriotic theme.

The project requires no special bits and the main components are carved and cut out with just the two standard bits that came with your machine.



The finished dimensions of the assembled Colonial Eagle Patriot Box are about 13½" wide x 7¾" deep x 6" tall.



Main items you will need:

**1) The Project Files (included):**

- Colonial\_Box\_Sides.mpc
- Colonial\_Box\_Top.mpc

**2) Boards with the following dimensions:**

**Box\_Sides:** .75" x 11.125" x 28"

**Box\_Lid:** .75" x 9.25" x 20"

**NOTE:** Do not use boards that are smaller than specified above.

**Cut the following piece to size (not an mpc)**

**Box Bottom:** .75" x 6.25" x 10.25"

**3) Hinge(s) for lid - your choice**

(I used a Brainerd 8" piano hinge # 1268XC from [www.hardwareworld.com](http://www.hardwareworld.com))

**4) Wood chisel and/or miniature router attachment for your rotary tool for creating a hinge mortise.**

**5) Sandpaper, box clamp (strap), wood glue, wood stain and/or paint and clear finish**

**6) A Dremel-type rotary tool with assorted sanding wheels and bits to sand small details and speed up preparation for finishing.**



# Colonial Eagle Patriot Box

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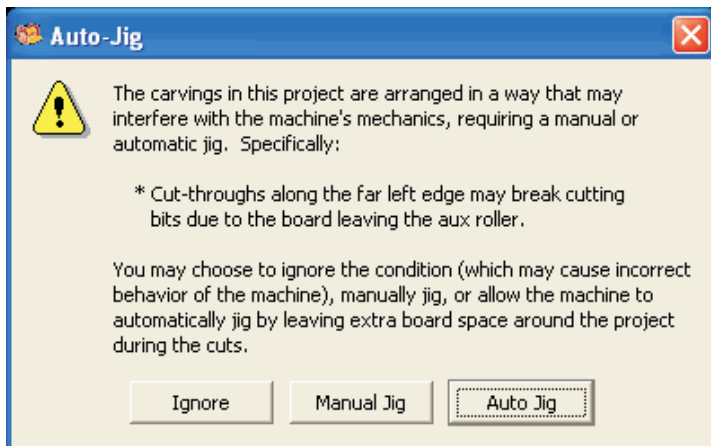
## STEP 1

Start your Designer software and open the .mpc files. (Fig. 1a)



All you need to do at this point is upload the project files to your memory card. (File/Upload). NOTE: You will see a “Hidden Carvings” alert window appear on-screen. Just press ‘OK’ to proceed.

During upload, you may or may not see a pop-up window with an “Auto-Jig” warning message (Fig. 1b)



If you do see the message, you may safely click on “Ignore” because the actual boards will be large enough that it won’t cause any problems at all. After each project is compiled, select “Best” or “Optimal” for the File Quality setting. **I recommend the “Optimal” setting.**

Click “OK” and upload each mpc project file to your memory card. Insert the card into your machine and load a board that measures the appropriate dimension specified for each particular mpc (see page 1 for board dimensions). Turn on your machine and proceed with the standard project setup in Step 2...

## STEP 2

You will see “Project Menu” on your LCD display. Press “1” then scroll to the Colonial\_Box\_Sides.mpc project, and press the green ENTER button to select it. Then follow the additional prompts....

- **Stay Under Rollers** - press 1) YES
- **DO NOT RESIZE or SCALE the projects!** If prompted, always Keep the Original Size. No scaling!
- **How To Place** - press 1) Center
- **Cut Board to Size?** - press 2) NO
- **Select Cutting Bit: 1/8" Cutting** - Press ENTER. The machine will move the bit holder to the center of the machine in preparation for the bit installation.
- **Load Bit: 1/8" Cutting** - Insert your 1/8" cutting bit, then press the green ENTER button. (homes, etc.)
- **Select Carving Bit: 1/16" Carving** - Press the green ENTER button. (Moves to center of machine.)
- **Load Bit: 1/16" Carving** - Remove the 1/8" cutting bit, and insert your 1/16" carving bit, then press the green ENTER button. After homing and finding surface, the machine will begin the carving process.
- **After it is done carving, you will be prompted to load your 1/8" cutting bit.** Remove the 1/16" carving bit, insert your 1/8" cutting bit, then press the green ENTER button. Cutouts are always done last.

(cont.)



# Colonial Eagle Patriot Box

(cont.)

## STEP 2 (cont.)

• The machine will now proceed to perform the cutout as it moves around the component outlines. It leaves little tabs to hold the part in the board. When the machine is finished, remove your board and clean your machine of excess sawdust.

- Repeat the same procedures for the Colonial\_Box\_Top.mpc

Your boards will look like this (fig. 2)



Colonial\_Box\_Sides.mpc



Colonial\_Box\_Top.mpc

fig. 2

## STEP 3

Separate all the pieces from the boards with a utility knife or hobby saw, then sand all the components to remove any fuzzies and undesirable tool marks. (fig. 3a)



fig. 3a

Use a Dremel-type tool with various abrasive wheels and tips to make the job go faster. (fig. 3b)



fig. 3b

## STEP 4

Cut the bottom of the box measuring about .75" x 6.25" x 10.25". **TIP:** Arrange/tape the box sides together (upside down on top of your wood stock) and trace the inside area with a pencil for a perfect fit for the bottom. Place some 3/4" scrap wood under the bottom to raise it up to the correct level inside the box. Glue the sides and bottom together and clamp overnight. (fig. 4a, 4b)



fig. 4a



fig. 4b

## STEP 5

When dry, remove the clamps. Select your hinges. You can use a single piano hinge or two 'regular' hinges. I used a 8" x 3/4" piano hinge. Position the hinge on the box edge and outline it with a pencil. (fig. 5a)



fig. 5a

(cont.)

# Colonial Eagle Patriot Box

(cont.)

## STEP 5 (cont)

Using your mark as a guide and working very carefully, use a hand chisel or miniature router to remove enough material within the mark so the closed hinge will sit flush with the box edge.

(fig. 5b, 5c)



fig. 5b



fig. 5c



Make pilot holes and screw the hinge into the recessed area. Line up the lid, make pilot holes, and screw on the lid. (fig. 5d)

fig. 5d

Sand the box lid so that it is flush with the box sides. (fig. 5e)

Remove the hinge before applying your box finish.



fig. 5e



## STEP 6 - Finishing

Apply stain/paint and clearcoat of your choice. Here's what I used on my Colonial Eagle Patriot Box made from Select Pine:

- one very light coat of thinned Bullseye Sealcoat (2 parts sealer/3 parts Denatured alcohol)
- sanded again with very fine sandpaper & Dremel
- Minwax English Chestnut #233 stain
- three coats Krylon Clear Gloss Acrylic spray
- three coats Minwax water-based Satin polycrylic
- Gold Rub-N-Buff (from an arts & crafts store) to accent select details

After the finish is dry, re-install your hinges.

## IN CONCLUSION

I hope you have enjoyed this project!

This project lends itself to numerous finishing possibilities. A red, white and blue color scheme, with a dark stain applied and wiped off would give a nice 'antique' appearance. Other options include flocking the interior of the box or lining the interior with self-adhesive felt. Have a great time coming up with your own ideas!

Happy Carving!

*Michael*





# Additional Resources

## RESOURCES...

There are numerous resources for the CarveWright/CompuCarve owner to make their experience with these machines much more enjoyable.

Every owner should join the [CarveWright User Forum](http://forum.carviewright.com/index.php) (<http://forum.carviewright.com/index.php>) where fellow users share their experiences and knowledge with these machines on a daily basis. It is a FREE service that you will surely appreciate. A handy Search Feature helps you find answers to any questions you may have.

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picture of June's Project