H. Gerstner & Sons Style 35B Kit Chests



35B Chest Parts and Hardware

Solid wood top Solid wood back Right & left sides Birch plywood bottom with cap Front lid stop strip (14) Maple drawer slides Birch plywood small partition with cap

- (8) Box corners w/screws
- (4) Rubber bumpers w/screws
- (1) Lock w/key and mounting screws
- (2) Lid slide plates w/ nails
- (2) Steel rod lid pins
- (1) Nameplate with brads
- (3) Finish Nails
- (2) Felt Dots

35B Drawer Parts: (7 Drawers)

- (4) 1-5/8" high short drawer fronts (oak)
 (1) 1-5/8" high long drawer front (oak)
 (2) 2" high long drawer fronts
 (5 Pair) 1-9/16" high right & left sides (poplar)
 (2 Pair) 1-15/16" high right and left sides (poplar)
- (4) 1-9/16" high short backs (poplar)
- (1) 1-9/16" high long back (poplar)
- (2) 1-15/16" high long backs (poplar)
- (4) Small hardwood drawer bottoms
- (3) Large drawer bottoms (masonite)

Recommended tools

#2 Philips screw driverWood glueRubber Mallet/Hammer100 and 150 grit sandpaper

Router with flush cut bearing bit 3/16" round over bearing bit (4) 24" clamps Electric drill Drawer bead bit if desired Paraffin wax 90 degree square Your Choice of Stain/Finish

Please Note: If you are not going to start building the chest right away, you will need to weight down the parts. The parts are unfinished and can warp if left in the box for extended periods of time. Gerstner is not responsible for replacing warped parts 15 days after receipt.

35B DIY Assembly Instructions

Parts prep before starting the job

Make sure you are working on a sturdy flat work surface that will not scratch or dent your parts while handling them. Lightly sand the part edges so that they are free from burs and splinters. Always clean excess glue off of your parts with a damp rag as this will make final sanding and finishing after assembly easier.

Chest Sides

1. Install the drawer slides: Glue (5) maple drawer slides in the grooves on the side. Align the maple drawer slide so the spray-painted black edge of the slide is facing toward the bottom edge of the side. The maple drawer slides should be aligned 1-1/2" from the front edge of the side. The maple drawer slides are a snug fit in the groove and a little extra sanding/fitting may be needed. Use glue lightly and use a hammer/rubber mallet to tap the slides into the grooves.

2. Install the lid slide plate: place the Lid Slide Plate into the recessed groove at the front edge of the side. Align the lid slide plate so the cut-out on the plate is lined up with the groove in the side. Before nailing into place, slide the steel rod lid pin back and forth in the groove to make sure that the Lid Slide Plate is properly aligned. Tap the 2 nails into the pre drilled holes in the Lid Slide Plate.

3. Repeat the process for the other side.



Drawer Partition

Glue (2) Maple Drawer Slides in the grooves of the Birch Plywood Small Partition with Cap. Align the maple drawer slide so the painted black edge of the slide is facing toward the bottom edge of the Partition. The maple drawer slides should be aligned 1/2" from the front edge of the Partition. If the maple drawer slides are tight in the groove, use a rubber mallet to tap the slides into the grooves. Flip the partition over and repeat.



Top Assembly

The top edge of the Birch Plywood Small Partition with Cap has a 3/16" notch. Glue the top edge of the partition into the center groove on the top. The partition should be 1" from the front edge of the top. Use a square to make sure the partition will hang straight in the chest.



Box Assembly

It is recommended that you pre-assemble the box WITHOUT glue to familiarize yourself with the process.

1. Lay the side of the chest on your work surface and align the front edge of the top with the side of the chest (the front edge has the lock slot groove). Glue the top into the top groove of the side.

2. Glue the back into the groove on the underside of the top and also in the groove along the back of the side.

3. Glue the bottom into the groove at the bottom of the side.

4. Once you have all of the pieces lined up, add glue to the parts and then place the right side on top and align each part with the grooves in the side. Use a rubber mallet to tap the side onto the other parts.



5. Clamp the box at the top and the bottom, and check to make sure that the box is square.



6. Use the finish nails to nail the back to the bottom of the chest. **Make sure the bottom of the chest is flat, not bowed in or out from your clamps before you nail the back to the bottom.** You can use a nail set to set the nail flush with the wood.

Drawer Assembly

1. Align the top edge of the drawer front with the top edge of the drawer side. Glue the drawer front to the drawer side.

2. Align the top edge of the drawer back with the top edge of the drawer side.

3. Slide the drawer bottom into the bottom groove of the drawer front, back and side. (The drawer bottom floats in the groove, do not glue into the groove).

4. Once you have all of the pieces lined up, add glue to the parts and then place the opposite drawer side on top and align each part with the grooves in the side. Use a rubber mallet to tap the side onto the other parts.



5. Clamp the drawer at the front and back of the sides and check to make sure that the drawer is square. Once the drawer is square, let the drawer sit until the glue dries.



6. Repeat for the remaining drawers.

Front Lid Assembly

1. Align the outside edge of the end rail with the outside edge of the bottom rail of the front lid.

2. Put the center panel of the front lid in the groove of the end rail and the bottom rail. The center panel floats in the grooves of the front lid, **do not** glue the panel into place. (The center panel is undersized to allow for expansion and contraction).

- 3. Align the outside edge of the other end rail with the outside edge of the bottom rail of the front lid.
- 4. Align the top rail with the outside edges of both of the end rails.



Recommended Steps to Sand and Finish your Gerstner[®] Kit Chest.

1. Flush-up all joinery. This may be done with a flush cut router bit or by hand sanding.

2. Round over all edges of the chest as desired. The corner protectors have a 3/16" radius.

3. Fit the drawers to the box making sure that the gaps between the drawers are uniform. Because all wood swells under certain conditions, a drawer fit with minimal clearance is not recommended. (Gerstner recommends 1/32"-1/16" gap on all sides of the drawer.)

4. Final sand all parts of your chest to desired grit. (Gerstner recommends at least 150 grit). Install the Front Lid Stop Strip (see next page for details).

5. Stain and finish the parts as desired. Gerstner stains and then applies 1-2 coats of a lacquer sealer and then 1-2 top coats of lacquer. (Make sure to use a style finish that you are comfortable working with.)

6. Cut the felt to fit the box and drawers.

7. Use a 50/50 mix of animal hide glue and water to install the felt. Brush the mixture onto the wood or metal surface and then carefully press the felt into place.

8. Install hardware on the chest as desired. The 4 rubber bumpers are mounted on the bottom of the chest, using the 4 1/2" screws. The screw goes through the rubber bumper and through the hole in the leg of the bottom corner.

9. Install both lid pins in the front lid. The pins should protrude about 1/8" from the edge of the front lid. The 2 felt dots will be put in the bottom of the chest, 3/4" from the front edge to keep the front lid from rubbing against the bottom of the chest.

10. There is a video on how to install your front lid in your chest. The video can be seen on our website at www.GerstnerUSA.com.videos.htm.

10. Rub paraffin wax onto the drawers and the inside of the chest to help the drawers glide smoothly.

11. Congratulations, you are finished, now sit back and enjoy a lifetime of use of your new chest.

Have a question? Call H. Gerstner & Sons at 937-228-1662 Ask for Scott Campbell or Bert Wilson.

Front Lid Pins

Once the front lid has been fit to the chest, you will need to drill for the Front Lid Pins with a 5/32" diameter drill bit. The locations for the holes are shown below.



Front Lid Stop Strip

1. Once you have completed the sanding of the chest and the front lid, you will need to install the front lid stop strip.

2. The front lid stop strip keeps the front lid from pushing too far inside the chest at the top when the front lid is in the upright, locked position. The stop strip is mounted to the underside of the chest top. The distance from the front edge is determined by how much you sanded your front lid. Measure the thickness of your front lid, and then glue the stop strip the same dimension back from the front edge. Make sure the notch for the lock is facing toward the front of the chest, and not covering the lock slot before you glue the stop strip into place.



- 3. Once your glue the strip in place, clamp the strip until the glue dries.
- 4. Resume sanding and finishing your chest.