

# Cheese or Bread Board

Nibbly Server, Display board - whatever!

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These boards are a great gift idea and will help keep the wife happy too! They are simple and satisfying to construct making use of many tools that boxmakers use every day. Almost any wood will do, however if they are to see real action, you may wish to use a durable hardwood. The board pictured here is from Huon Pine so it is more for show than go!



A Huon Pine Cheese Board - Geoff Birtles  
0412 360 510

## What you need.

1. Wood Blank. About 150 x 485 x 16mm thick.
2. A cutting pattern (6mm mdf). We have one that all can use. Some double sided tape.
3. A band or fret saw.
4. A 45mm hole cutter. Or Forstner bit.
5. A pattern following router bit (and router table!)
6. A 5/16 round over bit with bearing.
7. An orbital sander - preferably 3mm with paper ranging from 180 thru to at least 320. 400 and 600 will give you an even silkier feel.
9. Sanding sealer (Rustin's Shellac Sealer is good. Mirortone's Mirorbild #3622 two pack high build spraying sealer is better again)
10. Mirortone's Mirorwax #328. Available from Mirortone or Allboards.
11. Three *Scotch* self-stik pads for feet

## The manufacturing process

1. We assume the cutting pattern is made
2. Thickness plane your blank, sand to #180
3. Place the template on your blank and tap a flat head brad thru the small hole in the centre of the circular cut out area.  
*Note:* This is important as you will be using this brad hole time and again for location purposes
- 4 Use a thick pencil to draw onto the blank and around the pattern.
5. Band saw just outside and around this pattern line
6. Reposition the pattern onto the board using your brad hole. Use 3 or 4 small squares of two side adhesive tape to secure the pattern.
7. Raise your pattern following bit (in your router table) so that the bearing is above the wood blank, but still with plenty of contact with the 6mm pattern.
8. Feed the wood blank and pattern from R to L across the bearing face. Seek help from experts when you get to the hole end! (I prefer to grind the handle end on my disc sander, but I'm told it can be routed).
9. You should now have a platter outline resembling the pattern. Remove the pattern. It's at this stage you will regret having used too much tape! Shellite works well.
10. Position the 45mm hole cutter over the brad hole and drill it out (from both sides). A Forstner bit works also.

11. Install your round over bit and run both sides of the platter around it ( R to L, with the workpiece between you and the bit). This is pretty easy but you may wish to seek help because you do not want to stuff it up at this stage!
12. Use the same round over bit for the insides of the circular handle. Anti clockwise around the bit - but get help, just in case.

## Finishing

I like to use a #320 paper on a foam block for the edges and adjoining face edges. Then its Orbital sanding time. #220 grit, then #320 grit.

Then apply one or two coats of sanding sealer, allow to dry, about one hour, and sand with #400 grit . Follow with #600. #600 is so fine you can safely use it on your rounded edges with the orbital sander for a silky feel.

Now liberally apply Mirrorwax with a rag, dip some #0000 steel wool into the Mirrorwax and rub it in with the grain. After one hour wipe off the excess and leave it overnight. Then buff with a soft clean cloth. It will already look and feel soft and silky, but it will continue to harden for a week.

This finish is very durable. I've used it with great success on furniture and even cooking trivets. Its perfect for boxes and to my mind has a better finish than tung oil and is a much quicker process

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