

Book Review

By Irena Petsche

In the Spring 2019 issue we published Dennis Zongker's article - "Lion Marquetry with the Packet Method". It was easy to follow, with great photographs that made you feel you were right there beside him as he worked through each step. His book **Wooden Boxes** is of similar high instructional quality.

The book includes detailed steps, with plenty of photographs, for making seven distinctive boxes all of which include either marquetry or veneer. His boxes are packed with a variety of techniques specifically designed to build the reader's skills.

As far as marquetry techniques, he covers the window method, the packet method, and sand shading. Dennis also provides guidance on glues and veneering.

What I particularly liked about the book was that each technique was clearly laid out providing helpful information that can be used on any project. I could focus on the techniques I was interested in and design my own boxes. For example, his instructions for the Cameo Jewelry Box (see lower box in photo below) include details and helpful hints (e.g. using hot animal hide glue) for working with the small ribbons of veneer that wrap around the box.

I also felt I could modify the designs if I was not interested in a particular technique. I will not try to lathe box feet, or carve the roses for the Rose Box, but that's OK, I can still build a simpler box without those features.

This is not a basic box-making book - there are plenty of those out there. But if you want a book that will help you improve your skills and give you ideas for designing your own boxes then you should definitely read this book.

Wooden Boxes is published by Taunton Press and is available direct from the publisher's website (www.taunton.com).

