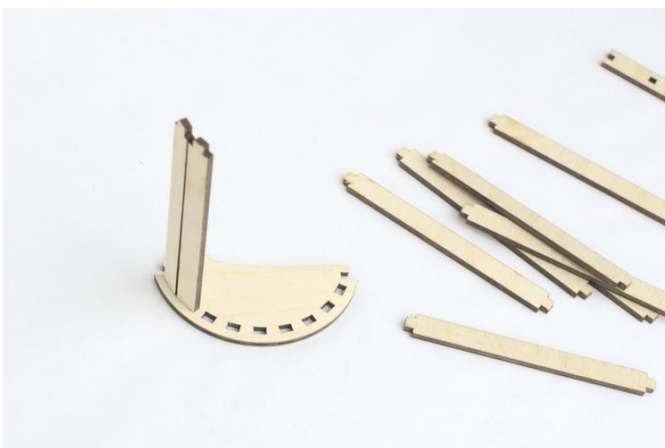
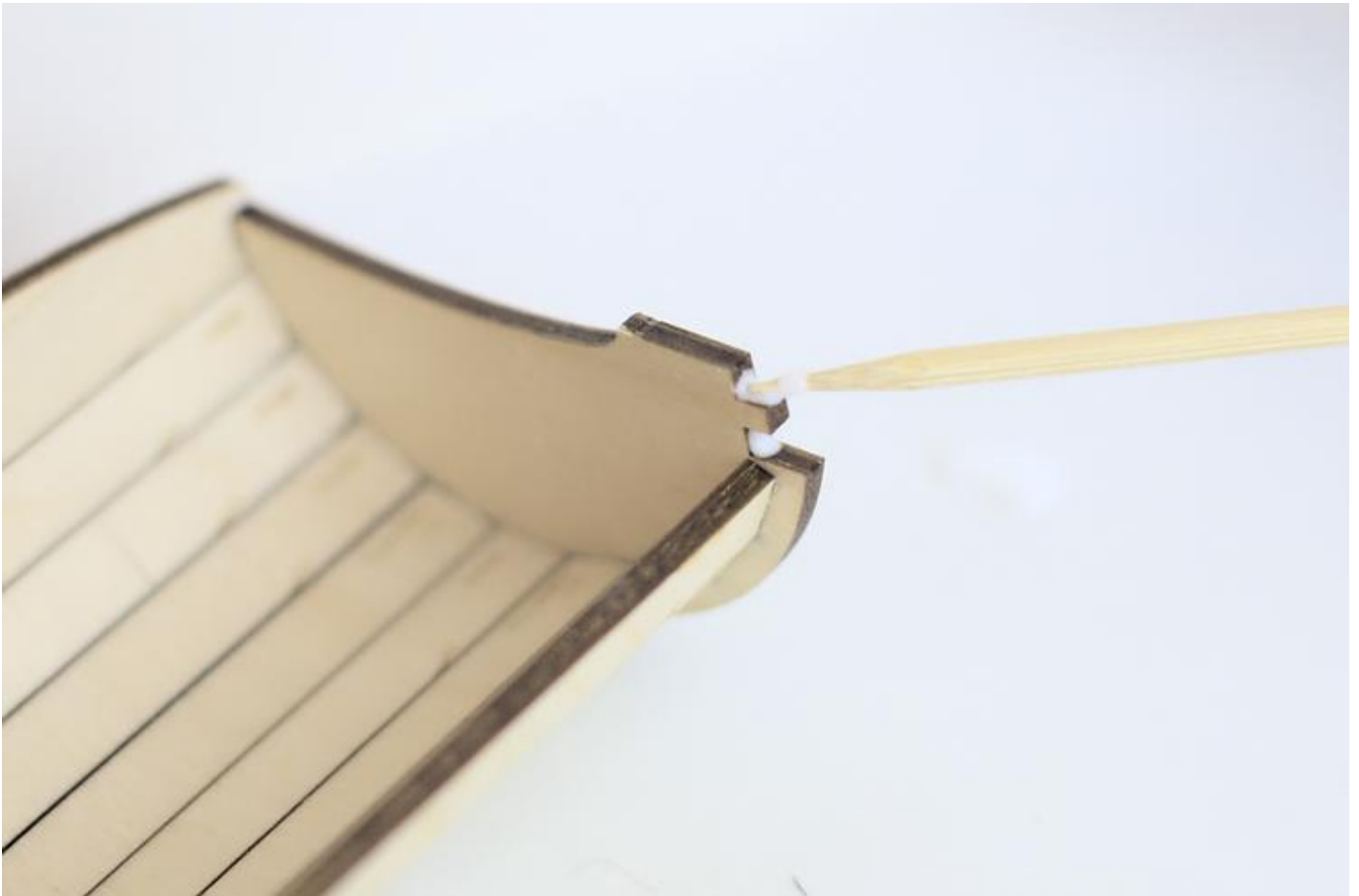


The first step is to assemble all the parts of the inner layer. Start with the top part of the chest. It is made up of two side parts, 9 parts that form the arch of the chest lid, and a front and back plate.



Important: Make sure that the rounded front plate connects with the sides as shown in the image above. The back plate with the two rectangular cutouts should meet with the flat part of the sides.

All parts are glued using wood glue. I like to use a skewer to precisely apply the glue in tight spots.



Afterward, make the lower part of the chest. It consists of five parts: bottom, left side, right side, front and back.

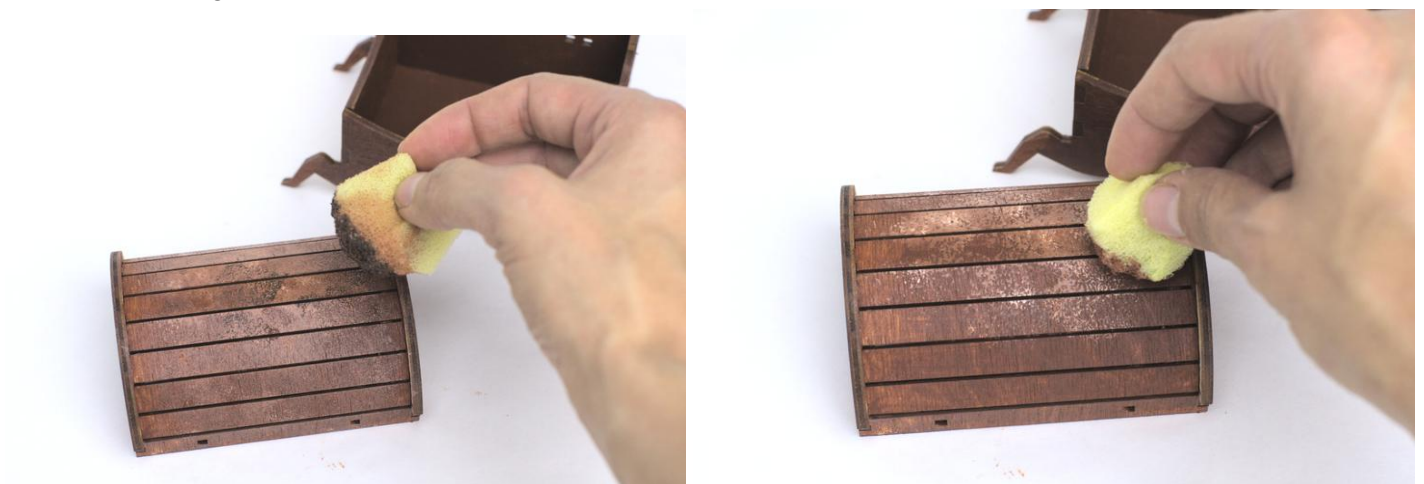


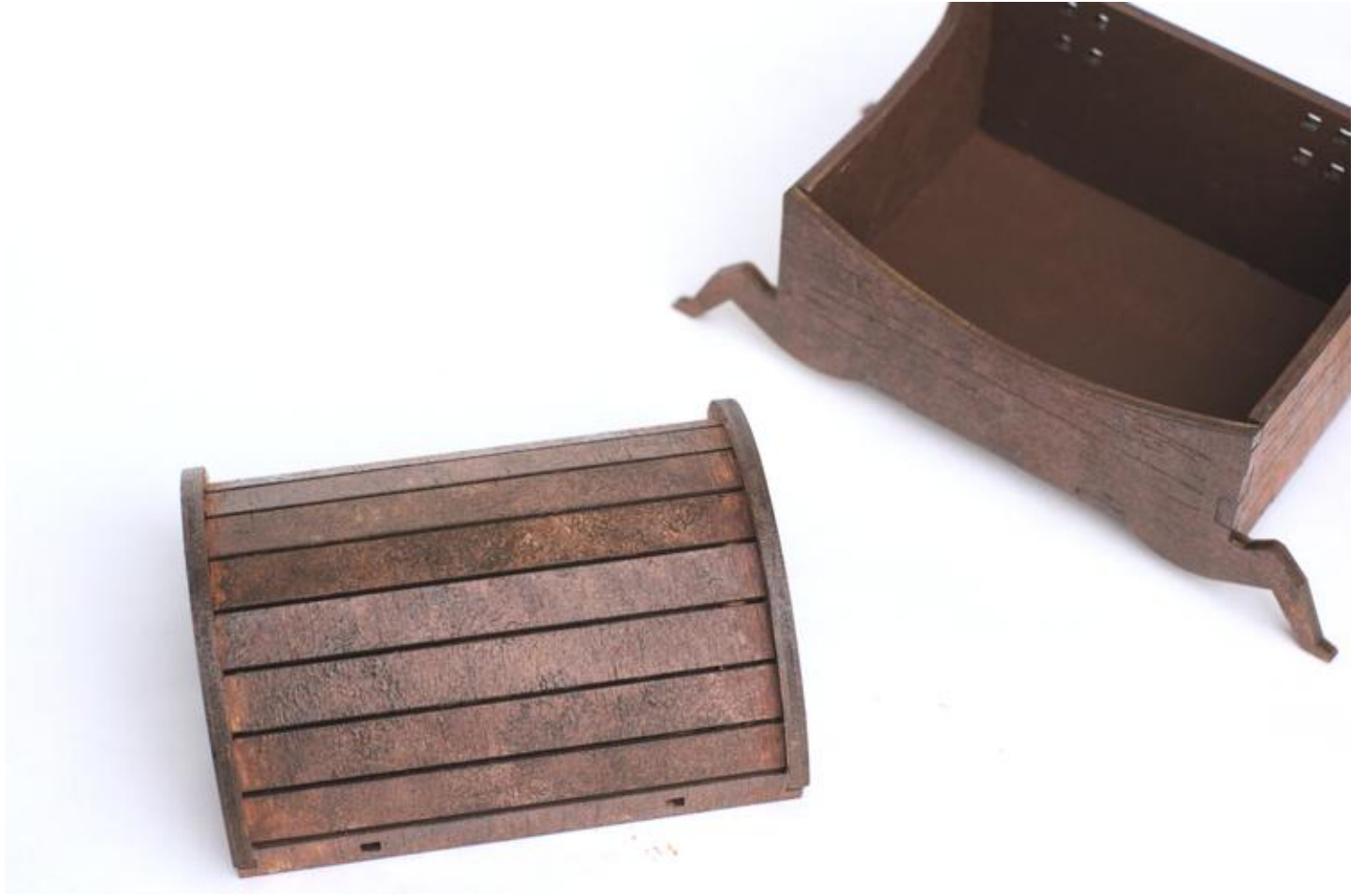
Painting and Texturing the Inner Layer

For painting, I worked with regular acrylic paints. I started with a mid-brown base coat and completely covered the inside and outside of both chest parts.



After the paint dried I added some texture. I used a regular kitchen sponge that I roughly cut to a rounded shape using a scissor. First, I mixed a lighter brown and applied it with the sponge. Once this coat was also dry I did the same again but this time I used a dark brown.





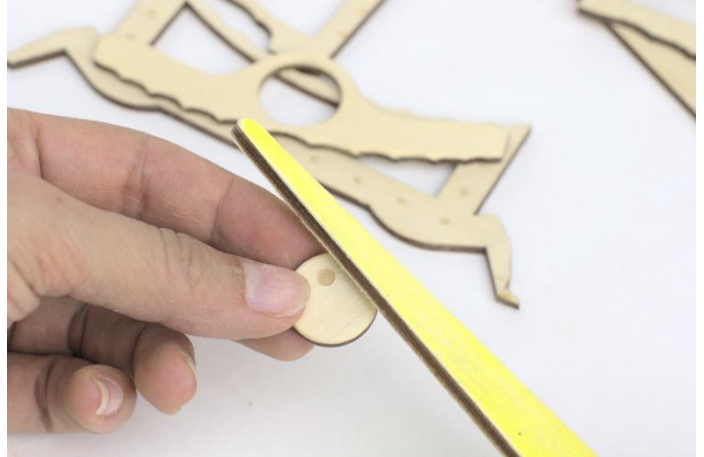
This technique creates a nice irregular texture but it also covers most of the engraved wood texture. To bring back the “wood grain”, I traced the engravings using a fine brush and an even darker brown than before.



Preparation of the Outer Layer

I started by shaping some of the parts for the outer layer with sandpaper and different files. My main goal here was to make the part look a bit more organic. For example, I rounded the edges of the eye, the eye socket and the lips. I also filed the teeth and the horns (on the sides) slightly pointed.

At first glance, the changes are not big but I think they help give character to the final monster chest.



The top and lower half of the box are connected with hinges. There are two hinges and each hinge is made of four parts. To assemble a hinge you first need one of the parts with the rectangular cutout. Then put the little 3 x 9 mm pin into the hole. Next, place the part with the circular cutout over the pin. Pay attention that the orientation is the same as in the image below. Finally, place the second part with the rectangular cutout on top.

Make sure that the middle piece can rotate without much friction. If it can't rotate freely you will have to take the hinge apart and sand down the middle piece slightly. Additionally, you can also apply some candle wax to make the movement even smoother.

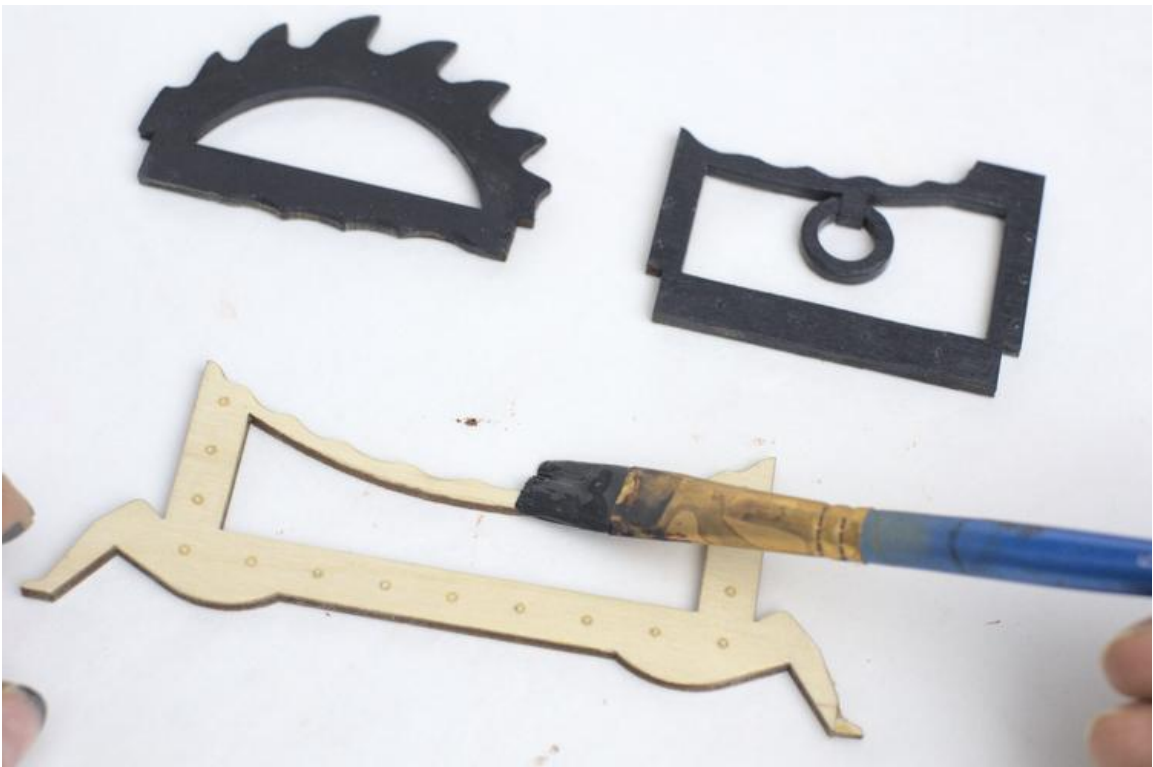


Lastly, connect the hinges with the two other back pieces as shown below. (Unfortunately, I forgot to take a picture of the assembled parts before painting, but I think it is still possible to see how everything fits together.)



Painting the Outer Layer

All of the parts of the outer layer, except for the eye, were painted with a dark gray.



When the paint dried, I glued the outer parts onto the parts of the inner layer as shown below.





Above you can see what my monster chest looked like at this stage.

I used the same technique with the sponge again to add texture to the outer layer. Only this time I used metallic silver and dark gray as colors. With the silver paint, I focused on the edges because typically metal objects will be shinier on the edges where there is more wear.



I have to say, without an eye and teeth, the chest looked pretty creepy. Almost like the skeleton of a monster treasure chest...

In the last step, the chest is finally brought to life by gluing in the eye and teeth. I used the unpainted wood here only the pupil of the eye was painted black.



