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› Rockler Steam Bending Wood Kit Instruction Manual

Rockler B0BSVLP2B2

Rockler Steam Bending Wood Kit Instruction Manual

INTRODUCTION

The Rockler Steam Bending Wood Kit provides the essential components for bending wood to create custom curved pieces for various woodworking projects. This kit includes a 1.3-gallon steam generator, a plan for constructing a steam box, and necessary hardware such as hinges and a latch. By following these instructions, you can effectively prepare wood for shaping, allowing it to retain its new form once dry.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Always prioritize safety when operating the steam bending kit. Steam is extremely hot and can cause severe burns.

- Ensure the steam generator is placed on a stable, heat-resistant surface.
- Keep the 12-foot cool-touch hose clear of obstructions and kinks.
- Do not touch the steam or any hot surfaces of the generator or steam box during operation.
- The steam generator is equipped with thermal protection and an automatic suck-back valve for safety. Do not attempt to bypass these features.
- Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment, including heat-resistant gloves and eye protection, when handling steamed wood or operating the equipment.
- Keep children and pets away from the work area.
- Use only clean water in the steam generator. Do not add any chemicals or additives.
- Unplug the steam generator and allow it to cool completely before cleaning or storing.

PACKAGE CONTENTS

Your Rockler Steam Bending Wood Kit includes the following items:

- (1) Steam Generator
- (1) 12-inch Hose
- (1) Brass Fitting

- (2) Hinges
- (1) Latch
- (1) Printed Plan for Steam Box Construction

PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Brand	Rockler
Reservoir Capacity	1.3 gallons
Heating Time	Approximately 23 minutes to reach 212°F (100°C)
Continuous Steaming Duration	Up to 2 hours per fill (refillable during operation)
Hose Length	12 feet (cool-touch)
Weight	Approximately 5.30 lbs (2.4 kg)
Safety Features	Thermal protection, automatic suck-back valve

SETUP INSTRUCTIONS

- Construct the Steam Box:** Refer to the included printed plan to build your custom steam box. Ensure it includes a dowel rack for even steam distribution and securely attach the provided hinges and latch for the door. The steam box should be sealed to prevent steam leakage, except for the inlet and a small vent.
- Position the Steam Generator:** Place the steam generator on a stable, level surface near your steam box. Ensure there is adequate ventilation and that the generator is not near any flammable materials.
- Fill the Water Reservoir:** Open the cap on the steam generator and carefully fill the reservoir with clean, distilled water. Do not overfill. The capacity is 1.3 gallons.
- Connect the Hose:** Attach the 12-foot cool-touch hose to the steam generator's outlet and secure it with the brass fitting. Connect the other end of the hose to the inlet on your steam box. Ensure all connections are tight to prevent steam leaks.
- Power On:** Plug the steam generator into a grounded electrical outlet.



Image: The Rockler Steam Bending Wood Kit fully set up, showing the steam generator connected to a custom-built wooden steam box. Various bent wood projects are visible in the background, demonstrating potential uses.

Your browser does not support the video tag.

Video: Demonstration of filling a steam generator with water and connecting it to an enclosure. This illustrates the initial steps for preparing the steam generator for use.

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Video: A general guide on how to use a 4-liter steam generator, including filling the water tank and operating the controls. This provides a visual reference for operating the steam generator component of the kit.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Prepare the Wood:** Select appropriate wood species and dimensions for bending. Soaking the wood in water for a period before steaming can improve flexibility, especially for thicker pieces.
2. **Heat the Generator:** Turn on the steam generator. It will heat to 212°F (100°C) in approximately 23 minutes. Allow the steam box to fill with steam and reach a consistent temperature before inserting wood.

3. **Load the Steam Box:** Carefully place the wood pieces onto the dowel rack inside the steam box. Close the door securely using the latch.
4. **Steam the Wood:** Steam the wood for approximately one hour per inch of thickness. For example, a 1-inch thick board would steam for one hour. The generator provides up to 2 hours of continuous steam per fill; you can refill the reservoir during operation for longer steaming times.
5. **Remove and Bend:** Wearing heat-resistant gloves, quickly and carefully remove the steamed wood from the box. Immediately place it into your bending form or jig. Work quickly as the wood will begin to cool and stiffen.
6. **Secure and Dry:** Secure the wood firmly in the bending form using clamps or straps. Allow the wood to dry completely in the form, which can take several days to a week depending on wood species, thickness, and environmental conditions.



Image: An example of a finished woodworking project, a speaker with elegantly curved wooden components, showcasing the results achievable with wood bending.



Image: A wooden tablet stand featuring a distinctive curved shape, demonstrating the versatility of wood bending for functional and aesthetic designs.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your steam bending kit.

- **Steam Generator Cleaning:** After each use, allow the steam generator to cool completely. Drain any remaining water from the reservoir. Periodically, clean the inside of the reservoir to prevent mineral buildup. Use a mild descaling solution if necessary, following the solution's instructions, then rinse thoroughly with clean water.
- **Hose Inspection:** Regularly inspect the steam hose for any signs of wear, cracks, or damage. Replace the hose if any damage is observed to prevent steam leaks.
- **Steam Box Care:** Clean the interior of your steam box as needed to remove any wood residue or moisture. Ensure the box is dry before storage to prevent mold or mildew.
- **Storage:** Store the steam generator and components in a dry, cool place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.

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Video: Instructions on how to replace the heating tube in a steam generator. This video is useful for advanced maintenance or repair of the steam generator component.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your Rockler Steam Bending Wood Kit, refer to the following common problems and solutions:

- **No Steam Production:**

- Check if the power cord is securely plugged into a working outlet.
- Ensure the water reservoir is filled to the appropriate level.
- Verify that the steam generator is turned on and the timer/heating settings are correctly configured.
- Inspect the hose for kinks or blockages.

- **Insufficient Steam for Bending:**

- Confirm the steam box is adequately sealed to prevent steam escape.
- Ensure the steam generator has reached its full operating temperature.
- Increase steaming time for thicker or denser wood species.

- **Wood Cracks or Breaks During Bending:**

- The wood may not have been steamed long enough. Increase steaming time.
- The wood may have cooled too much before bending. Work more quickly after removing from the steam box.
- Consider pre-soaking the wood for a longer period before steaming.
- Some wood species are more difficult to bend than others. Research the bending properties of your chosen wood.

WARRANTY AND CUSTOMER SUPPORT

For specific warranty information regarding your Rockler Steam Bending Wood Kit, please refer to the documentation provided at the time of purchase or visit the official Rockler website. If you require technical assistance, replacement parts, or have questions not covered in this manual, please contact Rockler customer service directly.

ASK A QUESTION ABOUT THIS MANUAL

Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page's manual context to help answer it.

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Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

Submit question