Simple Tray

A screwed tray with slot handles, from one rough-sawn board. Five parts.

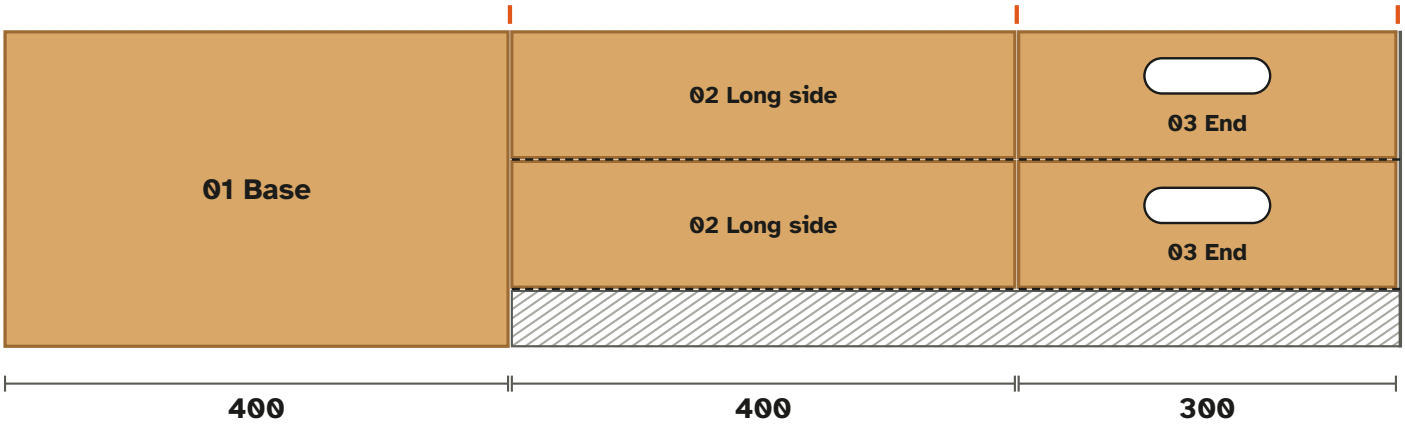


STOCK	1 board, 1110 × 250 × 25 mm, untreated, rough-sawn (half a 3 m board)
OVERALL	450 L × 300 W × 100 H mm
INSIDE	400 × 250 mm, 75 mm deep
PARTS	5 parts · 86% of the board used
CUTS	3 crosscuts, 2 rips, 2 handle slots
FIXINGS	18 screws 4 × 50 mm, 3 mm pilot holes, countersunk
FINISH	Sand smooth. Any finish is optional

2 · Beginner 2–3 hours About £10 per tray 12 tools

Cutting layout (to scale)

Kerf 3 mm · orange = crosscuts · dashed = rips



Cut list

NO	PART	SIZE (MM)	QTY	NOTES
01	Base	400 × 250 × 25	1	Sits inside all four sides, flush underneath
02	Long side	400 × 100 × 25	2	Fits between the ends; 3 screws into the base
03	End	300 × 100 × 25	2	Slot 100 × 28, 65 mm up; 2 screws to base, 2 to each side

Tools: Tape measure · Pencil and try square · Hand saw · Table saw or circular saw (staff) · Clamps (2) · Drill-driver with 3 mm bit and countersink · 28 mm flat bit or hole saw · Jigsaw (staff) · Sanding block and 120 grit paper · Safety glasses · Dust mask · Work gloves

Ask a helper for: the two rips (power saw, staff), the 28 mm holes and the jigsaw cuts, and the pilot holes.

Build it in six steps

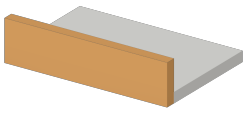
Grey = already fixed · wood = this step. Bottoms level, corners flush. Pilot holes first.

1



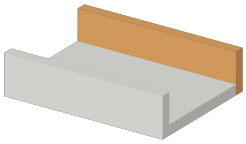
Handles: two 28 mm holes 72 mm apart in each end (02), 65 mm up. Jigsaw out between. Sand.

2



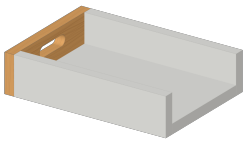
Front long side (02) to the base (01): bottoms and ends level. 3 screws.

3



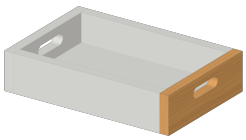
Back long side (02) the same way. 3 screws.

4



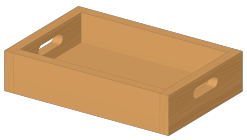
First end (03): 2 screws into the base, 2 into each side.

5



Second end (03) the same way. 6 screws.

6



Sand the corners and edges. Screw heads flat. 18 screws in all.

Pilot holes: drill 3 mm and countersink so the heads sit flat. Keep screws about 20 mm in from board ends. The cover photo shows how the corners meet.

Materials for one tray

ITEM	PER BUILD	TYPICAL PRICE	SOURCE
Rough-sawn board, 1.1 m of 25 × 250 mm	1/2 board	£17.46 (3 m length)	Gadero (tuin.co.uk)
Wood screws, 50 mm	18 screws	£7.50 (pack of 200)	Estimate
Sandpaper, 120 grit	1 sheet	£5.99 (pack of 10)	Screwfix

About £10.00 per tray

Rough guide, not a quote. UK prices checked October 2026, inc. VAT. Screw price estimated. Wide rough boards: timber merchant.