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Making a Phase Box

Phase boxes are ideal for storing volumes, or a collection of single sheet material. They are made of a rigid thick card which provides protection for the contents, and are particularly useful for housing items in poor condition or with damaged/loose parts to protect and prevent pieces becoming lost.
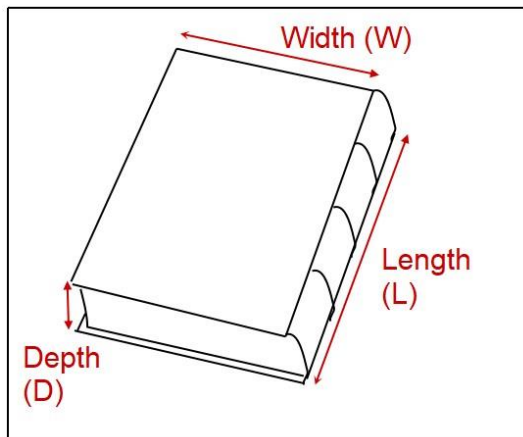
Materials:

- Card
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Knife/scalpel
- Tool to score with

- Surface to cut on
- Glue
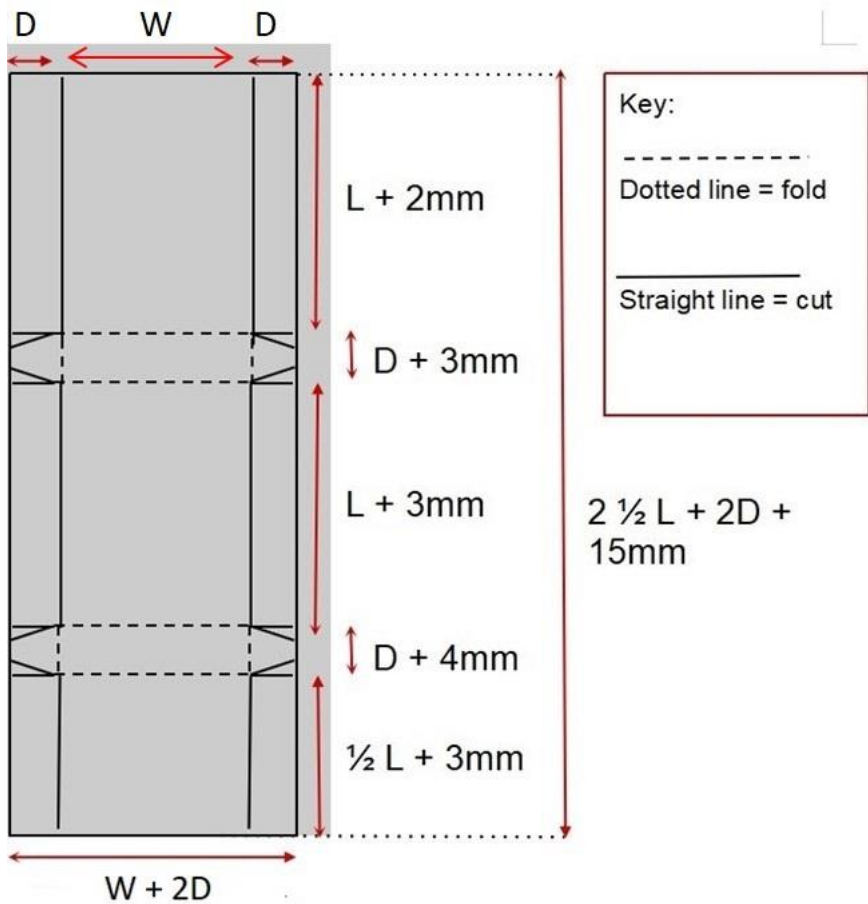- Weights
- A clean flat board

Step 1 - Measure your book

Measure the Height, Width and Depth of the volume you are making the enclosure for. Do this in millimetres.
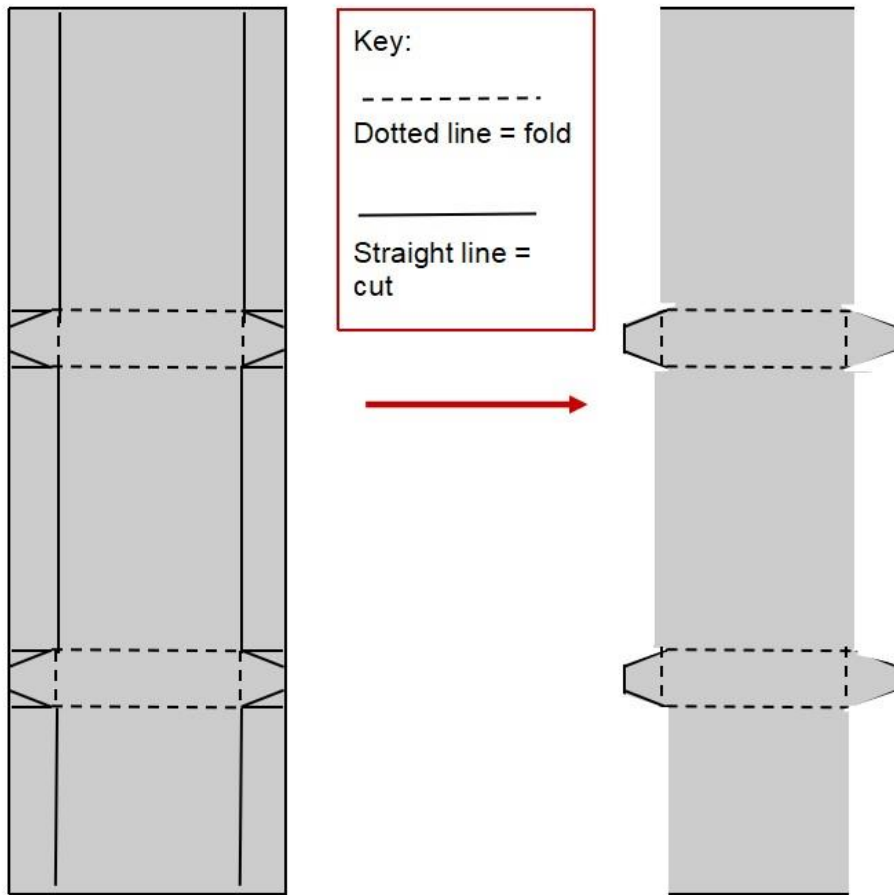

A phase box is made of two pieces glued together: a vertical piece and a horizontal piece.
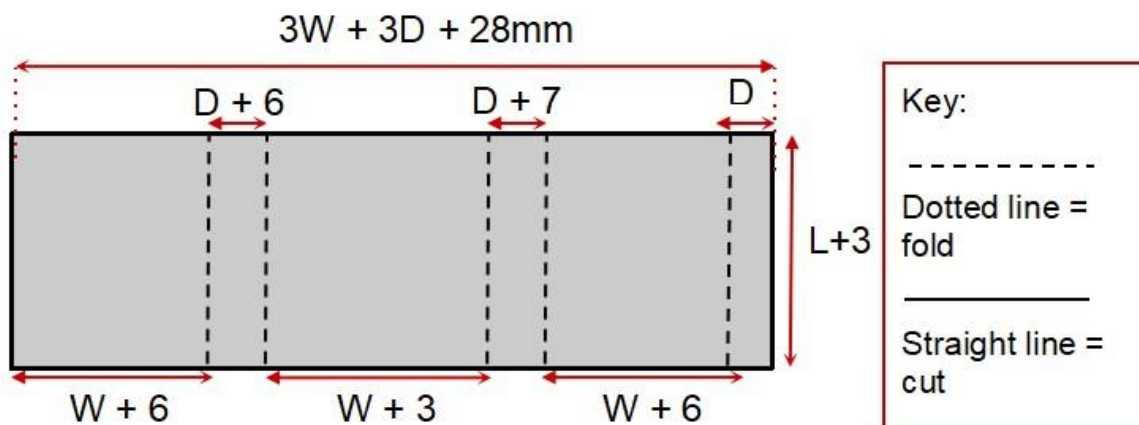
Step 2 - Mark your vertical piece using your measurements

D **W** **D**

L + 2mm

D + 3mm

L + 3mm

2 ½ L + 2D + 15mm

D + 4mm

½ L + 3mm

W + 2D

Key:

- - - - - - - - - -
Dotted line = fold

—————
Straight line = cut

Step 3 - Cut out your vertical piece

Key:

- - - - - - -
Dotted line = fold

_____
Straight line = cut

Step 4 - Mark and cut out your horizontal piece

3W + 3D + 28mm

D + 6   D + 7   D

L+3

W + 6   W + 3   W + 6

Key:

- - - - - - -
Dotted line = fold

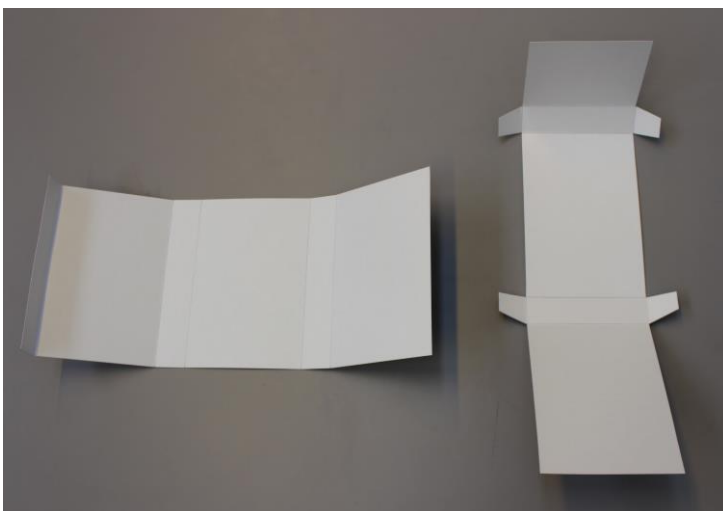_____
Straight line = cut

Step 4 - Scoring and folding

Using your scoring tool and a ruler score along the folds (shown in the diagram with a dotted line).

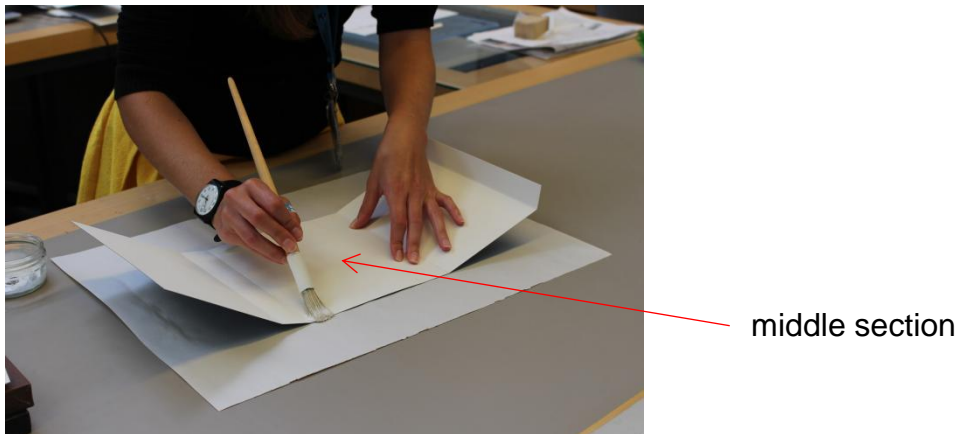Use the ruler to keep a straight line as you crease the fold.
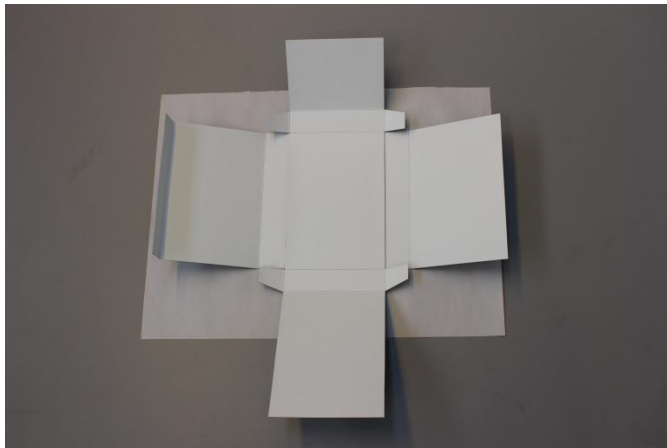

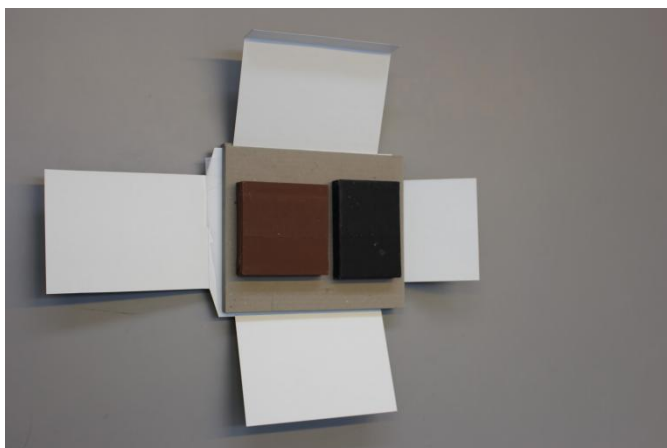You will now have two pieces like this:

Step 5 - Gluing the box together

Apply glue to the middle section of the horizontal piece as shown:

middle section

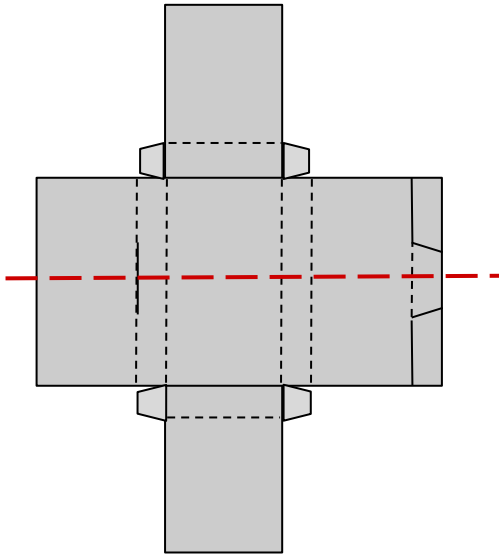Place the vertical piece on top of the horizontal piece as shown:

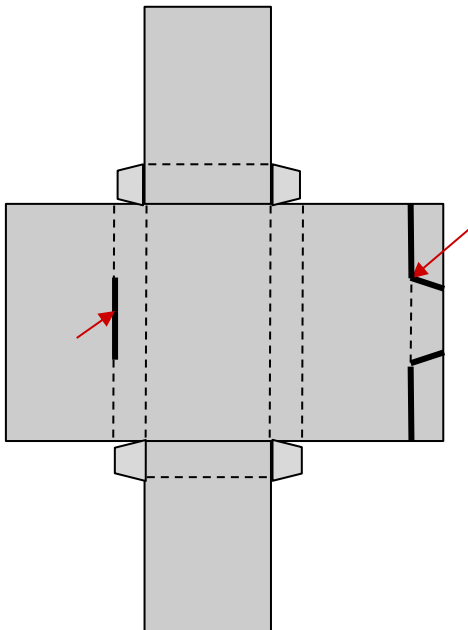Press with a board and weights for at least 20 minutes:
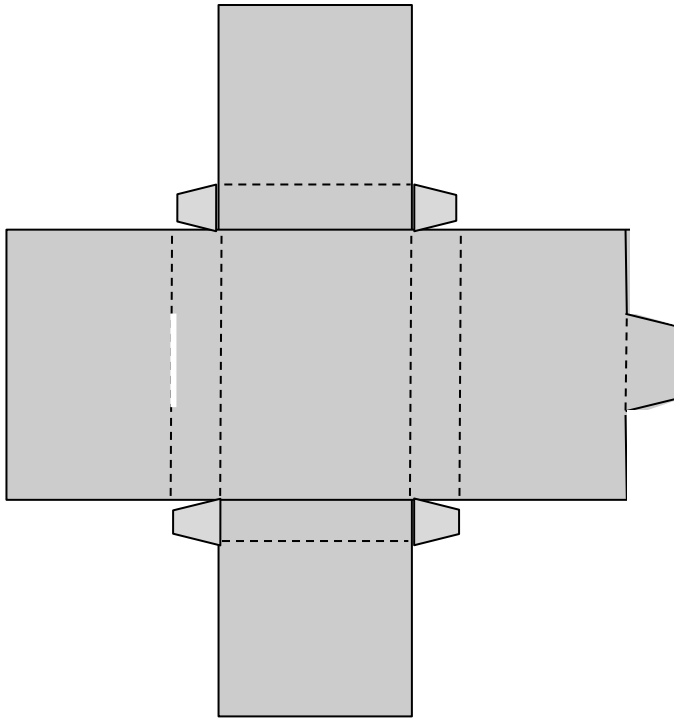

Step 6 - Cutting tab and slot

Mark halfway across the centre of the unfolded box

Measure and mark on the tab and slot - the length is up to you:

Cut the slot and cut out the tab. The slot should be 2mm wider than the width of the tab.

Step 7 - Place your book in the box

Place your book in the phase box. The numbers on the flaps show the order of closing around the volume: