

## Jeff Seaton

Ojai, California

Over the past 30 years of creating one-of-a-kind boxes, I have found consistent inspiration in the form and texture of wood. If I find a flaw, a knot, or even a natural edge, I design a box to make the best of it. Some are hot; some are not. For the past several years, I have been exploring book matching and color selection in my laminate-lid series, always picking the most highly figured woods or unusual species that are new to me.

I started box making in 1973 and made a name for myself with creative band saw boxes, yet recognition is not what moves me to work. Having said that, I must admit that my ego does like being the only one who does what I do. There are hundreds, if not thousands of box makers who fabricate multiple-piece constructed boxes on the table saw, and only a few who make a living by carving each box from a single piece of wood on the band saw.

What moves me to work is the business of making a life by producing and selling multiples. My style and speed have allowed me the life of a working craftsman. Also, boxes are much easier to transport, show, and ship to galleries than, say, six-foot dining tables. This is what I do: I make things and sell them. I love working for myself and hope to enjoy the freedom of bossing myself around for the remainder of my life.

