



## Christmas Boxes with magnetic catches



This is a small project for Christmas boxes each containing 8-9 silver (pre-1920 so Sterling) threepenny pieces, potentially for putting into Christmas puddings in the traditional manner! Note that precautions are necessary to avoid choking hazards (for example by wrapping in greaseproof paper envelopes) and of course microwave heating! The coins cost 1-2£ each on eBay (more for Victorian ones).

An interesting point is the **magnetic catches** – made with 3\*3 (each box) 3mm diameter by 3mm long cylindrical magnets, available in 100 quantities for close to a penny each (first4magnets). These are pushed into 3mm drilled holes and fixed with wood glue, though they are a firm push fit anyway. Rotate and lift to remove the lid – the catch force is substantial but not irritatingly large and the fixing quite secure. Obviously it is important to get the magnets the right way round – quite simple as they are supplied in self-held rods – so can be pushed in from a ‘rod’ of similar ones all the same way round. The lid is the same – but make sure and use the other end of the ‘rod’ (which should repel the magnets already in the base – think about it!). Overall box diameter is 44mm.

The boxes are sycamore with pyrographic decoration. The hole and lid were drilled with Forstner bits to get exact sizing to enable these to be held as push-fits on wooden jigs during manufacture and finishing. The hole rim was initially made a tight push fit to hold the inverted lid during manufacture – subsequent basic sanding to finish then loosens it sufficiently for final use.