Steel Plate Box

I like the idea of making firing boxes in the studio as needed but I am not a fan of tool wrap (a.k.a stainless steel foil). I have been experimenting with an alternative and I’m excited enough about it to put together this informal description. The starting point is a steel sheet I bought at Lowes for $8.50. It measures 24” x 30” which means the size box shown here costs less than a dollar. It took me about ten minutes to make. This box heats differently than thicker containers, so drop the usual firing temperatures by at least 35 degrees F.

![Paper template, Sharpie, scissors.](image1)

Cutting is pretty easy; I didn’t feel the need to wear gloves.

![The box blank. Aviation shears make the job even easier.](image2)

Bend the box over a table edge or similar shape. No tools needed.

![The box looks like this. It’s OK to use but it will warp. To strengthen the box, use the corner cuts to make braces.](image3)

Cut a V in the center of each cutout. These can be rough; no measuring needed.

![Bend each brace as shown. Again, I just used my hands and the table edge.](image4)

With pliers, fold over the top half inch of each brace. The bend should be above the V (see dotted line in previous picture).

![The finished box with a floating lid.](image5)

Here are three lid options, all of which provide a handle.

![This box has been fired several times. It ain’t pretty but it works!](image6)