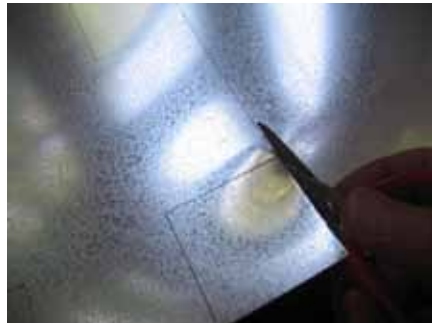


Steel Plate Box

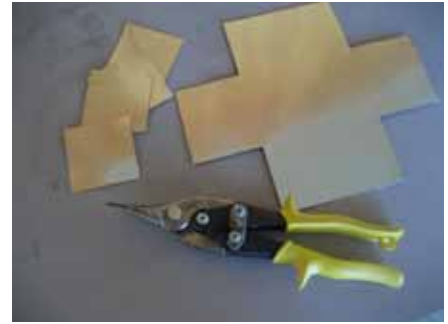
I like the idea of making firing boxes in the studio as needed but I am not a fan of tool wrap (a.k.a stainless steel foil). I have been experimenting with an alternative and I'm excited enough about it to put together this informal description. The starting point is a steel sheet I bought at Lowes for \$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.



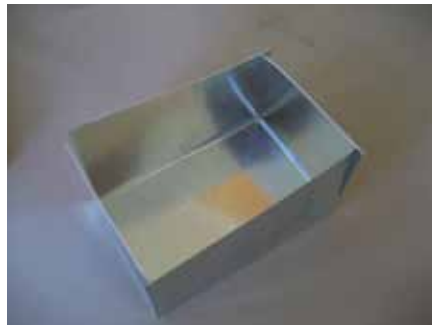
Cutting is pretty easy; I didn't feel the need to wear gloves.



The box blank. Aviation shears make the job even easier.



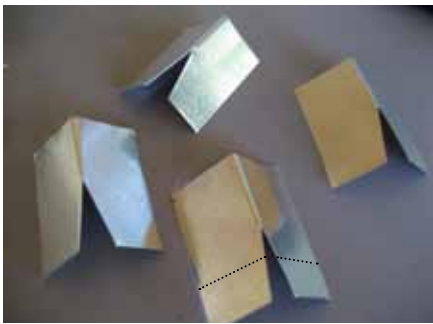
Bend the box over a table edge or similar shape. No tools needed.



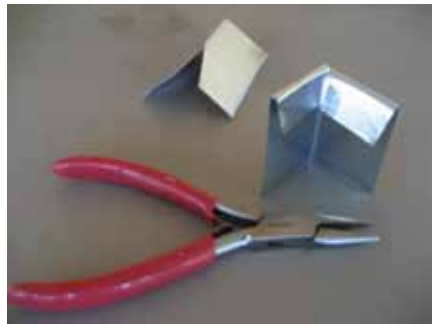
The box looks like this. It's OK to use but it will warp. To strengthen the box, use the corner cuts to make braces.



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.



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



Set the braces into place and crimp with pliers.



The finished box with a floating lid.



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!