SS77USSG Steam Generator

Ideal for bending wood

Bring your new ideas to life and create new furniture designs and woodworking projects with bended wood. The SS77USSG Steam Generator works great for many wood bending projects.

This compact electric steamer runs on a standard 1500 watt, 120v current, which is much safer than many other low-cost homemade steam generators with open burners. The Steam Generator has a small 8" x 12" base which allows for easy use in your home or shop.

The 1.3 gallon tank takes only 23 minutes to steam up and will provide 137 minutes of steaming time which generates plenty of steam for a small to medium size homemade steam box.

The Steam Generator provides many safety features including a 12' cool to touch hose, thermal protectors as well as an automatic suck back valve.

Technical Specs:

- 1500 watt element – 120 volt
- 137 minutes steam time
- Exterior water level indicator
- 23 minutes steam up time
- 12 ft. Super Cool running hose
- 6.5 ft. power cord
- 1.3 gallon tank
- Steam box adaptor fitting

Safety Features:

- Thermal Protectors x 2
- Cool to touch hose
- Automatic suck back and pressure relief valves

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Earlex®

Steam Generator

How to Build a Steam Box - Safety Instructions

Bending wood with steam can be dangerous and should only be performed by experienced woodworking enthusiasts. Thick, heat resistant gloves are recommended as the steam can easily burn unprotected skin on contact. Also keep your face clear from any areas where steam may escape and burn you.

Steam bending is a very effective method to wood bending. Most hardwoods will bend better than softwoods.

Steam boxes can be built using plywood or hardwood; just make sure that it can stand up to moisture and heat. Your steam box should be tight, but not too tight. The steam should be able to surround your wood piece and flow through the steam box. The steam box could build up pressure and possibly explode if the steam does not adequately flow through the steam box and pressure relief holes.

The best way is to build a relatively tight box and drill steam holes in the base so that the steam and condensation can escape. You should have a steady stream of steam escaping through all vents. You will need to make sure that your wood pieces are supported in your steam box and that the steam surrounds your wood on all sides. Dowel rods work the best as metal rods can heat up and burn your wood as well as yourself.

For using a wooded steam box, you can use common 1 x 6 material or 3/4" plywood. A 5" x 5" interior dimension with a 3'-5' length will be able to use with your Steam Generator. You should have a door opening with hinges and a latch. A rubber weather stripping can be used to seal a leaky door.

The brass threaded fitting that is supplied with your Steam Generator is designed to fit a XX" hole. Drill this hole in your steam box and separate the fitting, placing one end through the box with the thread that will connect to the hose sticking out of the box. Screw the other part of the fitting onto the fitting that is inside the steam box and tighten up to ensure a good seal. There should be no movement of the connector once tightened up.

Ideally the steam box should be on a slight incline for condensation to drain to one end and exit the steam box.

Fill your steam generator with clean water, do not add any additives. DO NOT FILL ABOVE MAX LEVEL LINE on Steam generator base. The steam up time will be controlled by how much water you fill the steam generator with and the temperature of the water. The Steam generator is designed to provide two hours of steam, if you only require one hour of steam then half fill the steam generator.

Place your wood pieces into the steam box and connect the hose to the steam box and steam generator. Plug the steam generator into a grounded outlet, preferably one with a GFCI. The steam generator will automatically start to heat up.

When initially starting we recommend that you insert a meat thermometer through a small hole to read the temperature. You want to reach 212 degrees F, or as close as possible. Once you have reached this temperature it is time to start timing how long your wood needs to be steamed.

A general rule to follow is that you should steam the wood for 1 hour per every inch thickness of the wood. So for ½ thick pieces you should allow 30 minutes.

You will need a mold or jig to hold the wood in place until it dries out after you remove from the steam box.

*This is a general outline on building a steam box and how to use it in conjunction with the Earlex steam generator *

There are many websites and you tube video available to use for more detailed instructions and how to actually bend wood and different types of jigs that are used .