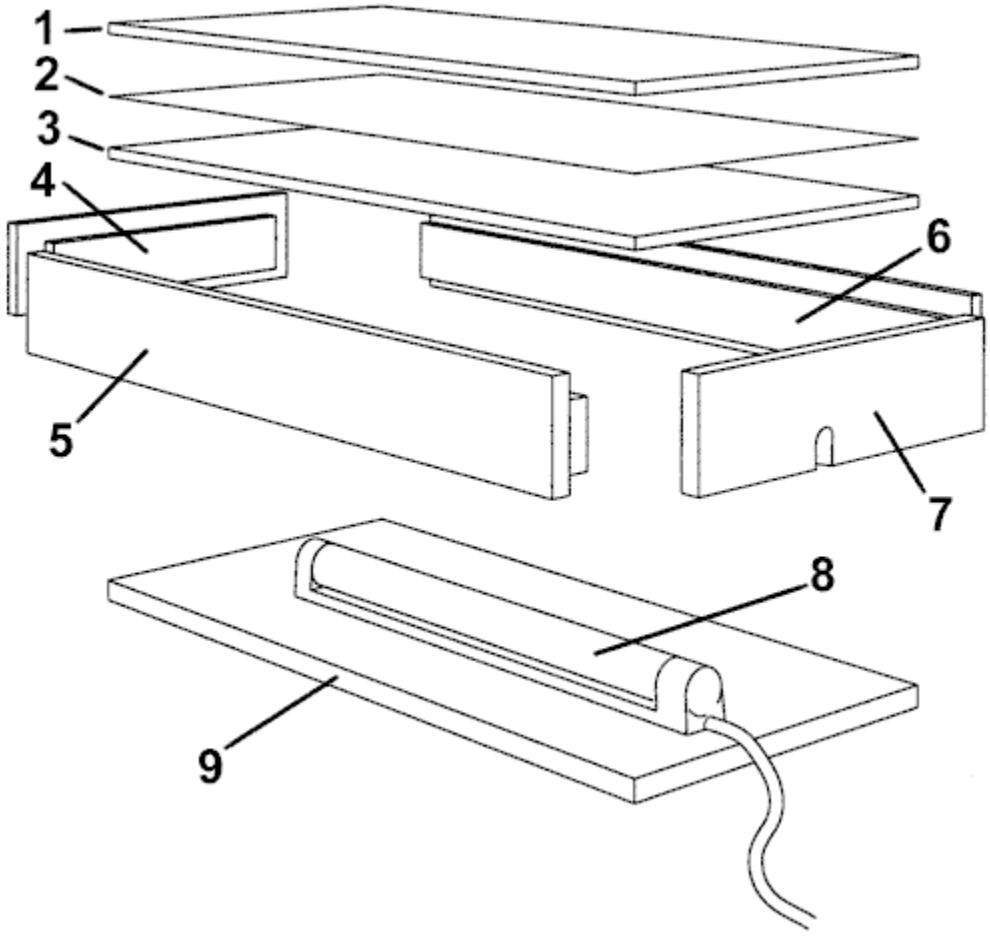
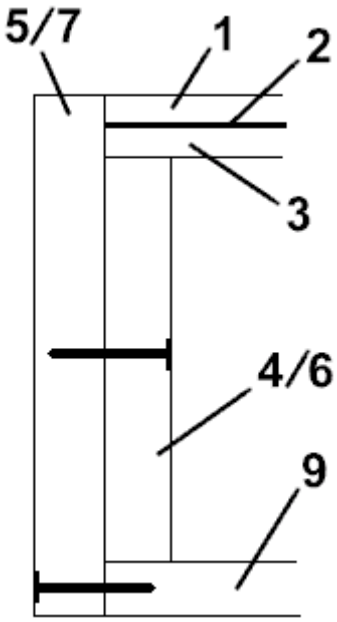
Light Box

This handy light box can be used to backlight brass photo-etched frets aiding in the highly accurate positioning of cutting tools (scalpel or X-acto knife) for trimming and cutting. It's also a great help for trimming decals. With the light off, the plate glass serves as an excellent, flat and cleanable work surface.



1. **¼" thick plate glass (2 pieces) 14" x 8"**
2. **Mylar art film (frosted, semi-transparent) 14" x 8"**
3. **Same as item 1**
4. **End spacer blocks (2 pieces) 6" long x fluorescent fixture + ½" high x ½" thick (pine or fir is OK)**
5. **Side box frames (2 pieces) 14" x spacer block + 1" high x ½" thick**
6. **Side spacer blocks (2 pieces) 14" long x same as item 4 high x ½" thick**
7. **End box frames (2 pieces) 9" long x same as item 5 high x ½" thick**
8. **Low-profile fluorescent fixture (12-1/2" long, maximum)**
9. **Light box base board 14" X 8" X ½" thick (plywood or particle-board)**



At left is a side (cut away) view of the box showing how the spacer blocks, frames and base are positioned. The frosted (semi-transparent) Mylar is sandwiched between the two pieces of plate glass to diffuse the light. Nails or wood screws can be used to assemble the light box. If you have access to a table saw or power saw of some kind, the entire frame and spacers can be cut from one 6-foot long x 6" wide (5-1/2") x ½" thick board. The base can be made from any ½" thick wood material as long as it is flat. Don't forget to cut a slot in one end spacer and one end frame fro the fluorescent fixtures power cord.

Hint: you can also cut a notch in the top-center of one end frame for your fingers, to allow easier removal of the glass for cleaning.