COLLECTORS NO. 40035

Hooded Cradle
Circa 1750

Cradles were constructed in a wide variety of designs and sizes. They were usually made in the home by the father or grandfather of the newborn child, or made locally by the town craftsmen.

The two most common designs were the rocking cradle similar to the one we have reproduced in miniature and the swinging, or suspended, cradle.

Some versions had spindle sides and ends, while most were of either solid or paneled construction.

Decorations on the cradles were as varied as the designs of the cradles themselves and ranged from the plain, to painted, to richly carved.

Compared to our modern concept of decorating a child's room, the designs on a child's cradle in the 18th century tended to be very heavy and severe, designed to impress the adult with the skill of the craftsman rather than to delight the eye of the child as he became aware of his surroundings.

The Puritan outlook on life was often, quite literally, a condition that existed from the cradle to the grave. This severity of design, however, is one of the qualities that make these cradles a much sought after item among antique collectors today. Their contrast with today's frills, bows, and bright colors is so marked that it is very appealing to those appreciative of the craftsmanship of ye' olden.
Step 1
A. Glue back (69) into rabbets of sides (72) and (73).
B. Glue front (71) into rabbets of sides (72) and (73).
C. Glue arch (70) to sides (72) and (73). Ensure front and top edges of arch are flush with sides.

Step 2
A. Center and glue top (67) (right side) to back (69) and arch (70). Ensure beveled edge is flush with top edge of back (69) and arch (70).
B. Center and glue top (68) (left side) to back (69) and arch (70). Ensure top is flush as in step A.
C. Glue top (66) (center) to back (69) and arch (70). Ensure back edge is flush and top is centered over (67) and (68).

Step 3
A. Glue rockers (75) to base (74).
B. Center and glue Cradle Assembly to Base Assembly.

NOTE: Refer to Final Finishing.