

Battle of the Boxes

There are fewer humidors on today's market, and that's good news for consumers • by Michael Moretti Photographs by Bill Milne

DANIEL MARSHALL "THE NUMBER 1 HUMIDOR"

AMERICAN HERO
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the humidity was too low, we
refilled the humidification system. Our intention was to keep the
humidity between 65 percent and 70 percent, the desired range for
storing premium cigars. All humidors were kept in the same room,
under the same temperatures, for the length of the test.

After six weeks of testing, we brought each humidior before a
panel of judges for discussion and rating, factoring in humidification
performance over the test period, the construction of each piece, cost
and appearance. The humidors were evaluated and scored using an
alphabetical scale. Each humidior was judged on its own merit.



Daniel Marshall Limited Edition 20th Anniversary Treasure Chest

Veneer: Vavona burl; **Interior:** Spanish cedar; **Capacity:** 150 cigars;
Humidification: Daniel Marshall System (one unit); **Details:** 24-karat
gold fixtures, lock and key, magnetic cutter holder, magnetic refill calendar,
digital hygrometer; comes with Daniel Marshall stainless steel guillotine cut-
ter and 20 Daniel Marshall private-label cigars; **Cost:** \$895; **Contact:**
(800) 923-2889; **Score:** A

A celebrated veteran of the humidior business, California craftsman
Daniel Marshall finds himself again at the top of the ratings with this
large, stylish humidior. It is a great buy, given the accoutrements, size of
the box and quality of its construction. The smoky, striking hazel
vener has a shimmering undertone. The humidior includes some nice
extras: a magnet to hold a cigar cutter, a second magnetic system that
serves as a calendar to remind you when it's time to refill the humidifi-
cation device, as well as a cedar grate over the top of the humidifier,
which dresses up the inside lid, giving it uniformity and balance. There
is plenty of room for smokes, and the arched lid safeguards against
scratches that might come from a flat top (should someone decide your
humidior should double as a coaster or, say, a base for a doll collection).

The humidior functioned very well; it didn't need a refill, never fell
below 65 percent humidity and never rose above 70. It was still going
strong at the review's end.



Davidoff No. 7

Veneer: Rosewood; **Interior:** Okume; **Capacity:** 75 cigars;
Humidification: Davidoff System (one unit); **Details:** Magnet for cut-
ter storage, refill calendar, dividers; **Cost:** \$820; **Contact:** (203)
323-5811; **Score:** A-

Davidoffs are benchmark humidors, though this particular box is a bit
unconventional, looking almost like a Cubist sculpture or some sort of
fancified chopping block. This one has a simplicity of design, with a
lower price than the usual Davidoff. It certainly performed like a
Davidoff: it was one of the easiest boxes to use. Unlike typical humi-
dors, this Davidoff has little lacquer coating; running your hands over
the top allows you to feel the grain of the rosewood, which has rich,
natural orange, yellow and rose colors. Perhaps most impressive is the
complexity of the grain and the skill demonstrated by its maker in
matching the lines between lid and box. When closing the top, the
seam between the lid and the box is practically invisible. The Okume
interior, which is polished and solid, does not produce the fragrant
aroma of Spanish cedar. The humidity stayed fairly even throughout
the test and the device did not need to be refilled.



Dunhill Thuya Humidor

Veneer: Thuya burl; **Interior:** Mahogany; **Capacity:** 50 cigars;
Humidification: Dunhill Humidity Control System (one unit); **Details:**
Nickel-plated fixtures, dividers, lock and key; **Cost:** \$1,010; **Contact:**
(800) 860-8362; **Score:** A-

A marriage of quality components such as Thuya burl and nickel-
plated hardware, the understated Dunhill says class without having to