Type 1a
Standard mechanism. Rectangular box, dovetailed side slides off.

Type 1b
Two dovetailed sides have to be removed in the correct order to open the box.

Type 2a
Dovetailed side slides upwards. Not easy to find if you are unfamiliar with the mechanism.

Type 2b
T-shaped dovetailed side slides upwards. This makes it hard to find where to push to open the box.

Type 2c
Before sliding dovetailed side upwards, bottom panel(s) have to be moved to unlock side panel.

Type 3
Top of box slides off lengthwise.

Type 4
Lid is held in place by magnets and comes off vertically. Usually has an outer and an inner lid with same mechanism.

Type 5
Side of box hinges to open. Hinges are hidden by finger joints.

Type 6a
Complete box hinges along short axis. The bottom panel has to be unlocked first (like type 2c)

Type 6b
Complete box hinges along long axis. The bottom panel has to be unlocked first (like type 2c)

Type 7
The lid of this box is threaded and unscrews. Internal parts of the box can be rotated, so the ventilation openings can be closed off.

Type 8
Lid of the box is slightly tapered and held in place by friction. The edge around the lid prevents you from getting a grip on the lid.

Trick-opening cricket boxes from China
photos by Frans de Vreugd
In 1998 a group of puzzle collectors visited China. On this trip we found some beautiful wooden boxes for keeping live crickets. These boxes were so well made that it was hard to find out how they open. For this reason we consider them trick-opening boxes. When Peter Hajek visited China on multiple occasions a decade later he found many new varieties of these boxes. In his article in CFF 55 he introduced a classification for these trick-opening cricket boxes. After this article, Wil Strijbos found several new (sub-)types. In this overview you will see the extended classification.

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