# Create a Meta Box with a Date Picker in WordPress

With WordPress, meta boxes with date pickers are commonly used with custom post types, for example, to store the date of an event, the release date of a product, the birth date of a person, and more.

You can create the meta box by writing the code either in a custom plugin or directly in ***functions.php*** of the specific theme. (Maybe custom plugin will be better).

## Define the metabox

The first step to create the meta box is with ***add\_meta\_box()*** function. The function should be placed inside a custom function (e.g., ***add\_date\_meta\_box()***) or hook.

//Adding meta box in WP

function add\_date\_meta\_box(){

    add\_meta\_box(

        'date\_meta\_box',        //Unique ID

        'Date',                 //Box title

        'date\_meta\_box\_html',    //Content callback, must be of type callable

        'portfolio',            //Post Type

    );

}

add\_action('add\_meta\_boxes','add\_date\_meta\_box');

## Create the metabox HTML

The meta box has to be shown in the dashboard of wp-admin, right? So, to show we need a HTML. The ***date\_meta\_box\_html()*** callback function referenced in the meta box definition above echoes the HTML of the meta box fields. Specifically, it generates as input field with its label.

You will create the date picker by defining ***an input element of type date*** (e.g. ***<input type= “date”>***). With this particular field, the browser generates a UI that lets the user select the date.

function date\_meta\_box\_html($post){

    $custom\_date = get\_post\_meta($post->ID,'\_custom\_date\_meta\_key',true);

    ?>

        <label for="custom\_date">Date</label>

        <input type="date" name="custom\_date" value="<?php echo esc\_attr($custom\_date);?>">

    <?php

}

***(Your meta box now includes a new field with a date picker)***

Note that the date entered by the user is retrieved with ***get\_post\_meta***. This meta data will the saved in the save script explained in the next section

## Save the post meta

To save the date entered by the user, you must create a callback function attached to the ***save\_post*** hook. In this function, simply check the existence of the ***custom\_date*** key in the ***$\_POST*** global variable. If this key exists, save its value in a post meta.

//Save the post meta

function save\_date\_meta\_box($post\_id){

    if(array\_key\_exists('custom\_date',$\_POST)){

        update\_post\_meta(

            $post\_id,

            '\_custom\_date\_meta\_key',

            $\_POST['custom\_date']

        );

    }

}

add\_action('save\_post','save\_date\_meta\_box');

WordPress can now save the meta box value. And, your meta box with the date picker is now fully functional.