

How to Make Valentine Boxes



What comes to mind when you think of Valentine's Day? I don't know about you, but Matt and I both agree that hearts and chocolates are a mainstay of the holiday. So, why not combine these two holiday traditions and create a gift for your special someone. Everyone would love a

fabric covered heart box filled with their favorite chocolates! Or, add whatever special something your loved one craves.

Hand made projects like this one really show your loved one that you care to take time out of your busy schedule to craft something especially for them. If you are purchasing chocolates, make sure you buy the type that are individually wrapped. Oh, and get a few extra, you'll need them half way through this project!! If you'd like to make this sweet little box, you'll need the following materials:

Materials List:

- Paper Mache box (any shape)
- Craft knife
- Fine grit sandpaper
- White paper for templates
- Scissors
- Heavy weight cardboard (8 ½" by 11")
- Two coordinating print fabrics – ¼ yard each
- Solid colored fabric – 6" square
- Acrylic paint (same color as print fabric)
- White craft glue
- Small foam brush
- 1 yard ¾" wide grosgrain ribbon

Instructions:

1 To begin this project, you'll need to create several templates. The first is a heart shaped. The template should be sized so that it covers approximately three-fourths of the box lid.



2 Use a pencil to trace it onto the box lid. Using a craft knife, cut around the template to create a heart shaped hole. You may need to use a fine grit sandpaper to sand the edges smooth.

3 You will also need to trace a template of the bottom of the box. Using plain paper, create a template of the box's base. Cut one piece of cardboard and four pieces of fabric, (one from the main fabric, and three others from the coordinating print) using this template as a pattern. Set these pieces aside for later use.

4 Finally, you'll need to create a template for the top of the box. Using plain paper, trace around the lid of the box. Add ½" all the way around your tracing line. Using this as a pattern, cut one piece from your main fabric and set aside.

5 To begin the actual project, use a coordinating colored paint to paint the interior and exterior of the box lid, paying special attention to the cut edges. Set the lid aside to dry.

6 Measure both the circumference and height of your box. Cut two rectangular pieces, one from your main fabric and a second from your coordinating print. These pieces should measure 1" longer than the circumference and 1 ½" wider than the height of your box. Set the coordinating print piece aside for the lining.

7 Use the foam brush to apply a thin layer of glue onto the outside of the box. Position the rectangle of your main fabric so that your seam will fall in the center of one side of the box. Smooth the fabric into place around the entire circumference of your box making sure that you have $\frac{3}{4}$ " overhang on both the top and bottom edges.

8 Apply a small bead of glue to the inside upper interior lip of the box. Fold the excess fabric over the rim and smooth in place. Repeat this process on the bottom edge, clipping the fabric where necessary.

9 Use the foam brush to apply a thin layer of glue to the bottom of the box. Select the base piece cut from the main fabric. Smooth into place and let dry.

10 The lid of the box should be dry by this point. Apply a thin coat of glue to the top of the lid. Smooth on the corresponding piece cut from the main fabric. There should be $\frac{1}{2}$ " of overhang all the way around the lid. Set the lid aside to dry.

Right about now is a great time for a chocolate break. You'll have to wait for the glue on both the top and bottom to dry, so you may as well treat yourself!



11 Okay, break time over! Use the foam brush to apply glue to the interior sides of your box. Trim $1\frac{1}{4}$ " off one long side of your lining fabric and then smooth it in place. The lining should set about $\frac{1}{4}$ " down from the edge of the box. Depending on the shape of your box, you may need to clip the lower edge of the lining fabric to allow it to lay flat on the bottom of the box.

12 Apply a thin layer of glue to the interior bottom of the box and smooth a piece of your coordinating print in place. This piece should cover any raw edges of the lining fabric.

13 To complete the lid of the box, use a sharp scissors to trim the fabric, leaving a ½” border around the edge of the heart. Clip the curved edges. Run a bead of glue on the underside of the lid and pull the overhanging fabric to the back of the lid.

14 Next, clip the overhang around the rim of the lid. Using the foam brush, apply a thin layer of glue around the rim. Smooth the overhanging fabric into place. Apply a bit more glue and place the grosgrain ribbon so that it covers the entire rim of the box lid.



15 To create the inset, apply glue to one side of the cardboard piece you cut from the base template. Smooth a piece of the coordinated print fabric on the cardboard. Once dry, repeat with the other side of this piece. Once both sides of the inset are completely dry, apply glue to the interior corners of the box lid. Press the inset in place.



The box is darling as is, but I decided to further embellish my heart box with a bit of embroidery. I created the heart shaped embroidery on embroidery fabric and then stitched the wool felt heart in the center. I then wrapped the embroidery around a heart shaped piece of cardboard and glued it in place on the back of the cardboard. Next, just glue the added embroidery piece to the inset. You might enjoy doing the same!

Finally, fill the box with some wrapped chocolates and you'll have the perfect Valentine's Day gift. Unless, of course, you decide to keep it for yourself!

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