SHABBY ART BOUTIQUE
by Woodberry Designs

Vintage Advent Calendar

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Advent box measures 37cm wide x 40 cm high

Add a touch of Victorian elegance to your Christmas decorating this year with this vintage themed advent calendar. It is sure to delight young and old alike.

Using gorgeous pictures from old Victorian Christmas postcards I have made 26 vintage graphics for you to choose from for use on the front of your advent boxes. Add your choice of pretty embellishments to finish the look.

Materials

Kaisercraft 25 drawer treasure chest – see note

Mod Podge,

Foam brush for gluing,

All purpose clear glue,

Scissors or cutting tools (guillotine, craft knife),

Sanding tool – nail file or fine sandpaper,

Embellishments of your choice: I used DecoArt Snowtex, DecoArt Craft Twinkles, glitter, stick on peals and jewels.

Note: I have the Kaisercraft boxes available in my Boutique or you can purchase Kaisercraft products from major craft outlets and scrapbooking stores worldwide.

Preparations

The Kaisercraft treasure chest comes to you flat packed. All pieces in this kit are going to be painted white. It is up to you whether you assemble your unit and boxes before or after painting. Make sure you paint the front of the boxes as well. I used DecoArt Americana Warm White for this project.

Assemble boxes ready for decorating. I used an all purpose clear glue to glue the boxes together and placed a coffee mug on top for a few minutes while the glue dried. This was an effective way of holding them together and allowed me to continue on with the assembly process.

Instruction

The graphics have been provided for you at the end of this E-pattern. Simply print them off onto plain computer paper with your printer set to your normal printing mode. Ordinarily I would set my printer to photo for printing graphics however the normal setting seems to suit the vintage style perfectly.

Cut the graphic panels out. There is one extra provided . . . just in case you don't like a particular graphic or have a mishap.

To adhere the graphic panels to the front of the boxes, apply a thin layer of Mod Podge to the box front using a foam brush. Be careful not to make this layer too thick or you will be left with bubbles and lumps under your paper. I use a squeegee or old credit card to push out any excess glue using a sweeping motion from the centre outwards. Wipe off any glue that seeps out with a piece of rag or paper towel.

Set boxes aside to dry completely.

Notice in the picture above, I have cut slits into the thumb-hole area to make removing the excess paper easier. I use a coarse nail file to remove any excess

paper from the side areas and the thumb hole, but you could also use fine sand paper.

When you have covered all the boxes, assemble them in the wood unit in the order that appeals to you. Mine is only a guide, but remember when choosing the order that some boxes have a single number while others have two.

When you are satisfied with your layout, it's time to decorate the boxes.

The chipboard numbers are provided with the kit. Paint the sides and front of the numbers white. When dry, apply a thin layer of Mod Podge to the front of

each number and sprinkle with glitter. Tap off any excess glitter and allow to dry completely.

Glue your number in place on the fronts of the boxes using the All Purpose clear glue.

Now comes the fun part. . . decorating the boxes. I used Snowtex on the designs that had snow on them. On this one it is at the base where she stands and on the snow ball she is holding. I find the best technique for applying Snowtex is to put it on in small amounts with one small round brush and dab into

place with another slightly moist brush.

Anywhere there was holly I added a little dot of red craft twinkles and all the angels got a dusting of Mod Podge and glitter on their wings.

To fill in any other gaps I added 3 stick on scrapbooking pearls or jewels.
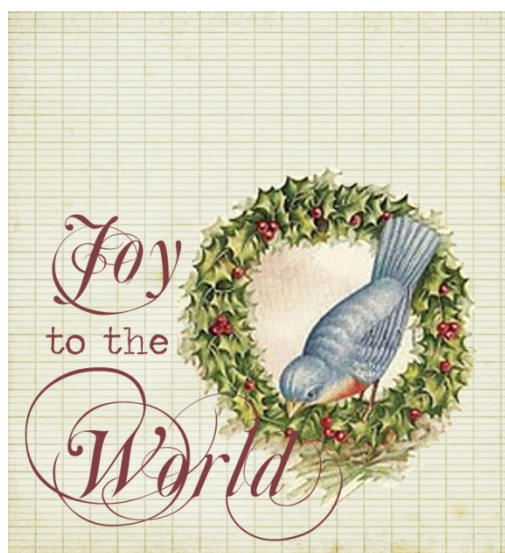
How you decorate the boxes is completely up to you. Some people like a lot of bling, while others prefer a more simple style.

This is a project that is easy enough for the kids to help out with too, so would make a great family Christmas project.

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