Tutorial for all Display Boxes
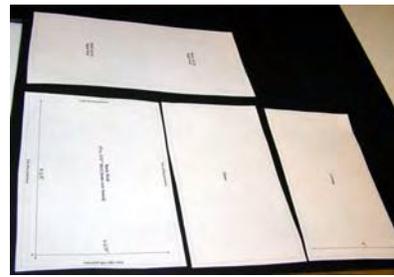## 5"wide x 7"high x 4"deep
Fits Wall Frame 5"x7"

Sample boxes

Your box may have different colors and artwork, but the assembly is identical for all display boxes.

Required Tools:

- X-acto knife with #11 blades;
- A true cutting mat; not cardboard!!
- Metal ruler (best kind has a cork strip on back);
- Scissors;
- Sheet of white or black foam core board that is 3/16" thick;
- Printout of wallpaper;
- Printout of box patterns for cutting foam board;
- Acid-free glue stick <u>or</u> optional white glue with a paper cup, water and a good-sized flat paint brush for applying glue to wallpaper (works best);
- Small craft hot-glue gun for assembling box;
- 5"x7" frame with glass front and normal lip on frame in which the glass fits. Do not use a frame that has unusual inserts. Your box must fit snugly into the frame. Simple and light works the best;
- Clear gel tacky glue;
- Clear contact cement to glue the frame glass to the frame (must bond glass);
- Reusable adhesive putty, also known as poster putty. DAP brand is shown here;
- Optional: cheap dentist pick found at dollar store;
- Optional: coordinated gift wrap to cover outside of box, if none is offered in this kit.

PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS COMPLETELY BEFORE BEGINNING ACTUAL WORK!

Reading the tutorial from your computer screen gives you the ability to zoom in on photos. Photos of wallpaper may differ from your box.

1. Cut loosely around the box pattern pieces—do not cut right against the black cut line yet. Find the best layout for the pieces on your core board as shown in the photo here.

2. Use very small pieces of reusable adhesive putty to tack down the patterns to the foam core-board. Make sure they are as flat as possible against the core-board, this is why it is important the putty be tiny pieces. Start to heat up the glue gun. See Step 7 for alternative glue.

3. Cut using a metal ruler and blade tool. Note the positioning of the ruler in the photo. Never cut into a piece, always position so cut is made outside of a piece. Make sure you have a fresh #11 blade in knife.

4. This shows the cutting position a little better—outside the pattern. When slicing, attempt to make the blade cut perpendicular to the surface. You want a cut that is not slanted through the core board, but a straight flush cut.

5. Peel back the patterns and remove from core-board. Recycle the putty adhesive for the next box.

6. Place back panel of box flat on work surface. Assure the length of the longer box walls stand on the box back without overhang (see next). Trim if necessary.

Take the glue gun (make sure glue is very hot) and squeeze a line of glue the width of foam core--ON THE LONG BOX WALL; JUST ONE LONG SIDE. WORK QUICKLY!

7. Quickly affix the wall as shown. Then the second long wall. Again, walls must be positioned **on top of the back wall.**
Note: This can be done with glue instead of a glue gun. However, it is tedious to hold up the two first walls. You can prop the walls against heavy objects.

8. Validate the size of the short walls. Trim if needed. If you do prefer to use glue and not hot glue, use the clear gel tacky glue because it allows more time to position the box walls than the hot glue. However, it requires a little more time and skill.
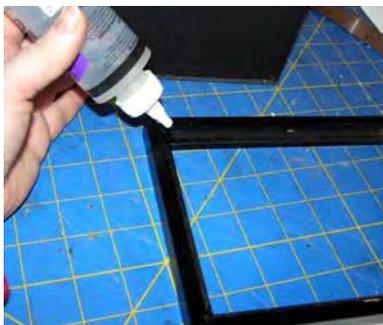
9. If you are using the clear gel tacky glue, tie tightly with string or thin ribbon until glue dries. You might want to get someone to help.

10. Before continuing, cover the outside with coordinating, attractive gift wrap paper. See down the tutorial for how to paint glue. If the paper is thin you may prefer to use glue stick, but it will pop off the paper with time. For your information using paper you printed at home will fade with time.

11. Take the frame and remove the glass and backing.
Check the fit of the frame onto the opening of the box.

12. Place a small dot of glue to each corner of the frame on the lip where the glass sits, and carefully drop in the glass. A contact cement that is specifically made to adhere glass works best. Note: you can see the type of frame lip needed here in the photo. Fancy inserts or decorations on a purchased frame do not work for this type of project.

Your kit may come with exterior paper design. If not, use something that will age well. Consider fabric or wallpaper.

Helpful hints for folding stiff paper and others are found in the on-line tutorial library under "Need to Know"

If you are using thin paper, test glue to witness whether rippling occurs. Glue stick may be a better choice for you.

13. Cut out the box wallpaper panels.

14. The first panels to install in the display box are the ceiling and floor. Fold the tabs and make sure the panels fit perfectly in the box. Trim or re-fold panels if necessary. USE THE EDGE OF THE METAL RULER TO MAKE PERFECT CREASES. Make sure the panel's edge at the box opening is not hanging over and is perfectly flush. If not, trim it. It is next to impossible to trim the front edge once the panel has been glued into place.

15. It is important to keep glue off of the show-side of the wallpaper, and off your working table surface as well. I use scrap paper to work on and replace with each new panel I apply glue.

If you are using a glue stick, use plenty!

If you are mixing craft glue with a little water, work quickly and make sure the slurry is not too thick. You want the ability to reposition if necessary, and a thick quick-grab glue will make that impossible. I have found a cheap dentist's pick from the Dollar Store is a great tool for repositioning paper by picking the edge away from the box. Use a flat-edged paint brush to paint glue mixture to back of paper.

Note: be sure to use plenty of glue at the front edge of the panel. There is nothing more aggravating than the paper separating from the box.

16. Next, install the two panels possessing one tab. Notice how I use the metal ruler to make a good perfect crease for the tabs. I also use the ruler and blade tool to trim the edge that is the lip at the opening of the box.

See how I use the metal ruler and blade tool to trim the edge. Remember to refresh your blade at the first sign of dullness. Do not ruin your project with a ragged seam.

17. When you fit panels with a continuous design or border, be consistent on trimming. For example, if your wallpaper panels are too tall, make sure all your trims are made from the bottom on all three wall panels. This assures the border will align perfectly with the next panel. That could be the top as well depending on the paper design.

18. Remember to fit and trim the final panel (the back) before adhering with glue. The place to start when you do put down the panel is right at the border. That dental pick is helpful when positioning this final panel.

19. Most of the time the frame will fit snugly on the box and no other fastener is necessary. However, if by chance the fit is not snug or the box and frame are large and heavy, then another option may be in order. Over the years, I have advocated several methods, but the best is to pick a light and simple frame that does not require extra security.

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