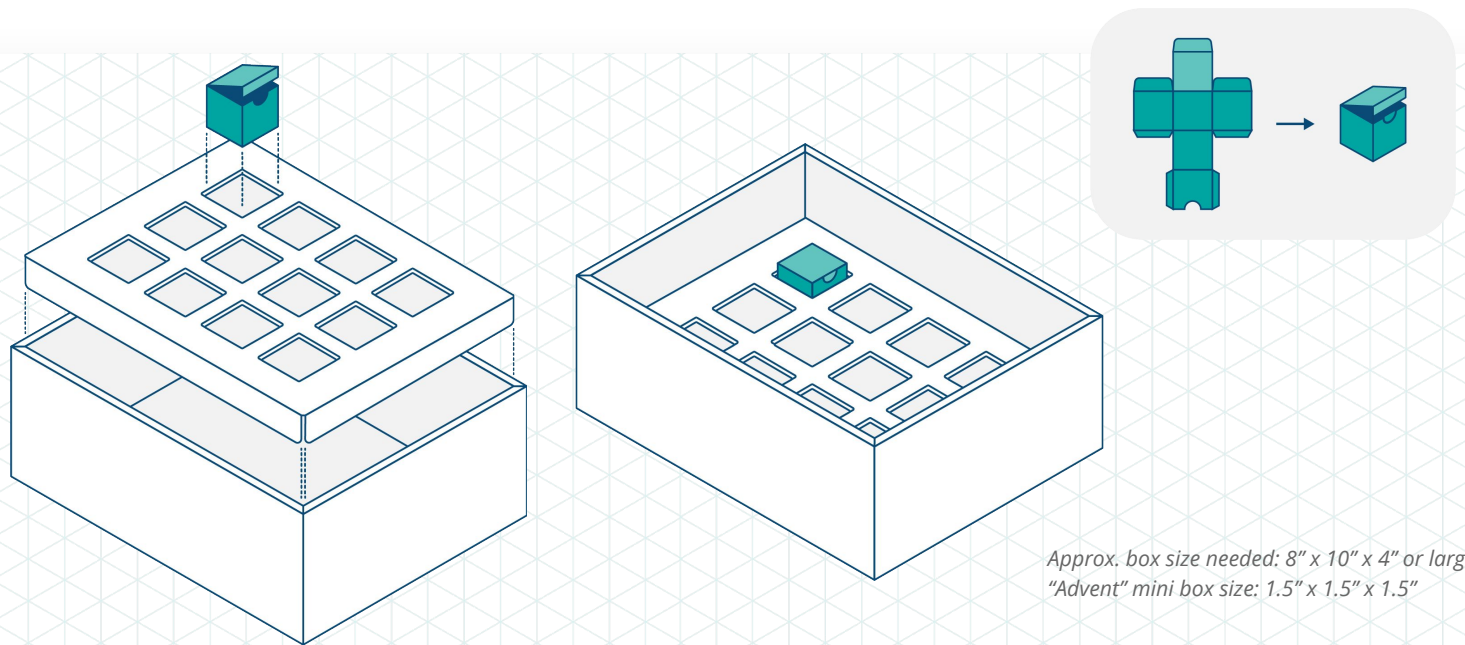


DIY Holiday Advent Calendar

Line the inside of a box with colorful paper and create slots for tiny, bespoke paper boxes—filled with an array of treats of your choice! Whether it's for celebrating the 12 Days of Christmas or counting down to the holiday season, this cute upcycled craft makes for the perfect seasonal gift.



Supplies Needed

✓	The holiday spirit		Spray adhesive
	Paper box template print-out (next page)		Patterned paper <i>(scrapbook paper works)</i>
	Cardboard shipping box <i>(approximately 8" W x 10" H x 4" D)</i>		Decorating materials of your choice <i>(stickers, confetti, etc.)</i>
	Spare, flat piece of cardboard <i>(larger in width and height than your box)</i>		Scissors / exacto knife / box cutter <i>Adult supervision required</i>
	Paint		Pencil
	Wrapping paper		

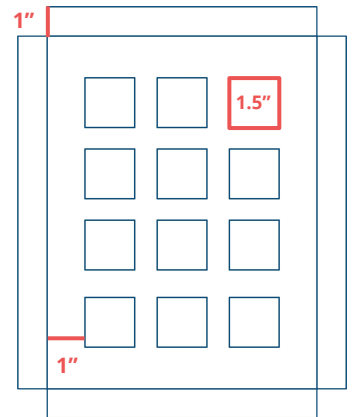
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Box Prep

1. To prepare the box, trim off the box flaps with an exacto knife or sharp pair of scissors (adult supervision required). For a slightly cleaner look, you can also trim down the flaps (so they match the internal height of the inside of the box), fold them down and secure with adhesive inside the box.
2. Paint the inside and outside of the box with a color of your choice. Or, use a thin wrapping paper of your choice and spray adhesive to wrap the box, trimming off excess paper and smoothing air bubbles as you go. Let all paint and adhesive dry fully before proceeding to the next step.

Creating the Insert

3. First, measure out the width, height and depth of the *inside* of your box. Be exact, and write the measurements down to have on hand.
4. Next, create the insert. With a separate piece of cardboard or paperboard, measure out a rectangle with the measurements you recorded earlier. On all sides, mark out an additional 1" wide rectangle to create support flaps.
5. Next, measure out the square holes for the advent boxes. For a 8" x 10" box, mark a 1" margin from the center rectangle, and from there mark out a 3x4 grid of 1.5" boxes. We recommend leaving 0.5" of space between each box.
6. Cut out the insert and the 1.5" squares with your exacto knife or box cutter (adult supervision required). If desired, paint the insert and the inside / outside of the box with the color(s) of your choice. You can also use paper and spray adhesive to carefully cover the insert in wrapping paper to further customize the box.
7. Once the insert and the box has been decorated and all paint / adhesive has dried, take the insert and score along the underside of the seam of the fold flaps with an exacto knife, folding the flaps down at a 90 degree angle to create the insert. They should essentially turn your cardboard insert into a table or platform.
8. Slide the insert inside of the box.
9. Follow instructions on page 3 to create 12 paper advent boxes. Insert the advent boxes and fill with goodies!



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Printable Paper Box Template

Print out (or trace), cut and fold these templates using a colorful paper of your choice to create the tiny treat boxes in this project! Use a glue stick or other adhesive on the flaps to construct the box. You can then decorate the boxes to make them look festive.

