



Matchbox Advent Calendar

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There are so many ways to make advent calendars that will be fun for the whole family. The matchbox advent calendar can be configured any way you would like and can be filled with all kinds of goodies depending on what size matchbox you choose to use. I have made one using matchbox die cuts and also one using the mini matchboxes that can be found in your local grocery or discount store. The following instructions are for the die cut matchboxes.

Supplies:

Distressed Bet Rubber Stamp Set (TAC)

Graphite Black Brilliance Ink Pad (Tsukineko)

Blitzen Basic Grey Scrapbook Papers (Basic Grey)

Red Grosgrain Ribbon 1" width

Red Grosgrain Ribbon 3/8" width

Double Ribbon Hole Punch (McGill)

Matchbox Die Cuts (K & A Die Cuts): box measures 2" x 3 1/2" or Store bought Matchboxes

Scotch Double Stick Tape (3M)

Instructions:

1. If you are using the die cut Matchboxes, assemble 25 of them as directed. Assemble the Advent box by stacking them as in the photo, five high and five wide, and taping the ends that are touching another box. You can assemble your boxes any way you please but I will give the dimensions that I have used.
2. Once the boxes are stacked and adhered to your liking, cut a piece of striped scrapbook paper 12" x 3 1/2". With this box configuration, the 12" length is long enough to put the two ends on the underside of the stack. Adhere this strip to the boxes. Measure the length of another piece the same width between the two ends on the bottom of the piece (7 1/4" x 3 1/2") and tape or glue in place.
3. Cut a piece of green cardstock to fit on the back side of the advent calendar (10 3/8" x 5 3/8"). I ran a bead of glue along all the edges of the back side of the matchbox covers (best to have the drawers out at this time) and laid box on top of the backside of the green cardstock. Place something heavy (like a magazine) on the top of this (front) to make sure that all the ends adhere to the cardstock and let dry.
4. Cut pieces of decorative cardstock large enough to cover the front of the drawers (1" x 2"). Use different coordinating papers to add a little whimsy. Once all these pieces are cut, stamp the numbers 1 through 25 on each piece (see photo). Adhere these to the fronts of the drawers. Using the double ribbon punch, punch the holes in the center of the drawer fronts. Run a piece of red 3/8" ribbon through these holes and adhere the ends to the inside of the drawer to make a ribbon loop that will be the handle of the drawer.



5. Cut a length of 1" grosgrain ribbon to wrap around the outside of the entire piece and adhere centered on the piece. Make a bow to your liking and adhere to the very top center of the box.
6. Next step is to fill it with goodies to open every day until Christmas.