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Basic Gift Box

by Sue Bleiweiss

I love making these boxes. They go together pretty quickly and they're a nice size for filling with candy, tea bags, decorative soaps or other small items. Fill up the box, wrap it in cellophane tied with a pretty ribbon and they make a wonderful gift.

These instructions are for making a basic 4" square box from a layered collaged surface, but if you prefer you could use fabric for the outside of your box instead. I like to begin by creating a large surface (usually fat quarter sized) so that I have extra surface left over for making ATC's and postcards with.

I begin by cutting a piece of wool felt 18" x 22" and fusing a layer of Mistyfuse to one side. Always use a piece of parchment paper as a press cloth when ironing over Mistyfuse so you don't transfer any of the fusible to the soleplate of your iron! Then I added a layer of torn pieces from an old book of maps over the surface.



I like to tear the pieces rather than use whole pages because I like the way the torn, overlapped edges look. Cover the whole piece with parchment paper and press with a hot iron. Add another layer of Mistyfuse and fuse with the iron.

Supplies

Timtex
Mistyfuse
Parchment paper
Fabric (for lining)
Assorted fibers, papers and ephemera

For the next layer in my collage I added some torn letters, old stamps and postcards. Then I covered the whole piece with parchment paper and pressed it again with a hot iron. Another layer of Mistyfuse was added over the top and fused down with the iron.



For the last layer I added a piece of sheer nylon scarf. I covered the surface with parchment paper and pressed it very well to make sure that the Mistyfuse was completely fused down.

The entire surface was then fused to a piece of Timtex. I like to use Timtex for the stabilizer when I make a box because it makes a nice firm box with sturdy sides. To fuse the surface to the Timtex, I put a layer of Mistyfuse on one side of the Timtex and then ironed it to the wrong side of the collaged surface from the backside of the Timtex. I used a lot of steam to help

get the heat through the layers. Once the collage surface is fused to the Timtex, fuse a piece of fabric (I like to use cotton) for the lining of the box to the other side of the Timtex.

Now that your surface is complete you can prepare the pieces for the box. For the base of the box you will need five pieces cut 4" square. For the top you will need one piece 4¼" square and four pieces 4¼" x 1". Satin stitch around the edges of all these pieces.



I like to do this stitching twice, once from the front and once from the inside. The top of the box is assembled in the same way.



Now all that's left to do is flip up the edges of both the sides of the box base and the lid and whipstitch them closed by hand!

To assemble the box bottom, abut the edges of each side piece against the one you have chosen for the bottom and run a line of zig zag stitching down along the edge catching both edges of each piece.

