

How to Make a Treasure Chest

A treasure chest is a great thing to have. You can hide your favourite keepsakes in it - from a lovely shell found at the beach to photos and letters sent by a very special person...

What do you need?



1 shoe box



Newspaper



Cardboard, for example, an old cereal box)



Pretty wrapping paper



Things to decorate your box with, for example, buttons, shells, shiny paper, designs cut out from wrapping paper or magazines, glitter, stickers, flower petals, etc.



A pencil



Scissors



Glue and sticky tape

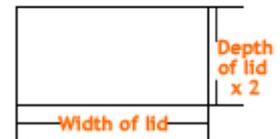
You might need a grown up to help with the cutting and sticking.

How to make the lid

1. Take the lid off the shoe box.

2. Measure the lid: you need the width of the lid and the depth of the lid (see illustration 1). Double the depth. For example, if your lid is 12 inches wide and 4 inches deep, the final size of the cardboard rectangle will be 12 inches x 8 inches.

Illustration 1:



3. Cut out a rectangle from the card board that fits the measurements you have just taken.

4. Fix the cardboard rectangle to one side (from the inside of the lid) and bend it over in an arch across the lid. Fix it with tape on the other side.

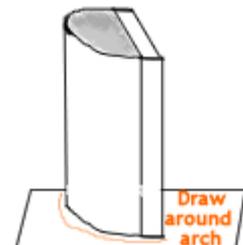
Illustration 2:



5. Use some more strips of sticky tape to secure the cardboard rectangle on the lid (see illustration 2).

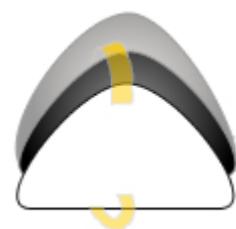
6. Next, scrunch up some pages from a news paper and stuff the area between the lid and the cardboard. Put in enough newspaper so the lid is firm when you press on the top.

7. To make the sides, stand the lid on it's sides and draw around the arched shape with a pencil. Do the same on the other side and cut out both shapes (see illustration 3).



8. Attach the cardboard half circles to the lid by putting sticky tape first at the top and bottom of the cardboard and then attaching it to the lid (see illustration 4). Put tape all the way round until the half circles are firmly attached.

Illustration 4:

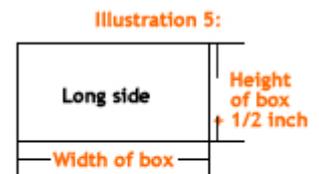


Your lid is finished and the next step will be to decorate it with wrapping paper. Before you do this, think of a "theme" for your box. I used an underwater theme for my box, but you could use anything you like; for example, a flower box using flowery paper and dried and pressed flowers. Or, make a racing car box, by using shiny wrapping paper, adding cut out wheels and windows to finish the box. The possibilities are endless.

How to decorate your treasure chest

Wrapping the box

1. Measure the two sides of your box. There are two short sides and two long sides. Add 1/2 an inch to the top and the sides of the short sides. Add 1/2 an inch to the top of the long sides (see illustration 5).



2. Cut the long and short sides from your chosen wrapping paper.

3. Put glue on the first short side of the box.



4. Position the first short side you cut from wrapping paper, so the top and sides are sticking out and the bottom is aligned with the bottom of the box (see illustration 6).

5. When the wrapping paper is in position, put glue on the bits that are still sticking out and glue them down, folding the corners.

Illustration 6:



6. Do the same on the other short side.

7. Put glue on the first long side and position the wrapping paper so the sides and bottom line up with the box and the top sticks out (see illustration 7).

8. Glue the bit of wrapping paper to the top inside of the box.

9. Do the same of the other long side.

You can now strengthen the corners of the box by putting some sticky tape over them.

To Wrap the lid

1. Use the measurements from the beginning (see [How to make the lid](#)). Add 1 inch to the measurements, using the same example as earlier, if your box is 12 inches by 4 inches, your final measurements should be 12 x 9 inches.
2. Cut out a rectangle from wrapping paper using those measurements.
3. Put the lid on its side like you did before and draw around the arches on both sides.
4. Add 1/2 allowance all the way round and cut out.
5. Make little cuts all along the arch of the cut out rectangle but **not** at the bottom edge, following the original line you have drawn (see illustration 8).
6. Put glue on the first side and position your cut out half circle so it is centred on the side of the lid.
7. Put glue on the inside of the lid along the short side. Stick the wrapping paper edge to the inside of the box.
8. Put glue along the top edge and stick down the little flaps of paper.
9. Do the same for the other side.
10. Put glue on the top of the lid and stick down the large piece of wrapping paper, leaving 1/2 inch overhang on either side.
11. Put glue on the inside of the box and stick down the overhanging pieces of wrapping paper.
12. Strengthen the edges using sticky tape.

Illustration 8:



To decorate the (almost) finished box

Now the real fun begins:



Stick on all the bits and pieces you have set aside for the box



Use a glitter pen to write your name (or that of your best friend) on the box



Fill the box with all your treasure.



Other things you might want to try:



Get a Chinese or Japanese newspaper and cover the box with this instead of using wrapping paper.



Use plain paper to wrap your chest and paint it.



Use strips of different coloured paper and stick it on your chest until it is all covered up.



Cover your box in fabric or fake fur instead of paper.

