

SHADOW BOX FRAMES INSTRUCTIONS

Shadow box frames; Many require odd shapes, and the depth necessary may be anything from a fraction of an inch to several inches. The many types of a Shadow box frame.

- 1. Shallow frames**
- 2. True shadow box frames.**
- 3. Display boxes**

1. Shallow frames, Off the Shelf frame. Objects such as coins, metals, ribbons etc. usually do not require more than 3/8 to 1/2 inch of depth, and many normal frames will accommodate.

2. True shadow box frame. These frames are 4 inches or more in depth depending on the design. High quality woods, are used and difficult to obtain, and generally quite expensive. The inner sides and back usually need to be decorated with a covering material, often mat board or similar materials.

3. Display boxes normally manufactured for specific purposes, They normally come pre-lined with mat or paper materials.

SOUVENIR BOX

Gathering and displaying a few treasured things from a trip to France and a vacation in Italy recall the exciting days spent traveling.

Tools and Materials

wooden box with sliding lid
glass cut to lid size
utility knife
balsa wood
small paintbrushes
wood glue
fluid acrylic paint
craft glue, museum wax, or pins

How-To

To exhibit keepsakes that are best displayed standing up rather than mounted, begin with a wooden box that has a sliding lid. Replace the lid with glass (cut to size by a framer).

- 1.** To make a shelf, use a utility knife to cut balsa wood the length you'd like shelf to be and slightly less deep than the box (so it won't touch the glass). Brush edges that will touch box with wood glue, and position in box. Let dry.
- 2.** Paint exterior and border of box. Let dry according to instructions. Paint inside of box a lighter color. Let dry.
- 3.** Stand box on its end; glue, wax, or pin mementos inside. Slide in glass lid.

SPECIMEN BOX

Specimen boxes can evoke natural settings. A selection of sea-worn clamshells or pressed leaves makes a simple, beautiful display. Sea glass, driftwood, a vintage postcard, and a map can re-create a journey to coastal Maine.

Tools and Materials

sturdy gift box with lid
glass cut to fit inside box lid
utility knife
fine sandpaper
scissors
map or decorative paper
spray adhesive
bone folder
contact cement
sheet of colored paper
craft glue or museum wax
jewelry boxes (optional)
paper label (optional)

How-To

For mounting items, you can purchase true specimen boxes with glass tops and batting linings at nature stores, or make your own from a standard lidded box.

- 1.** To create a frame for a glass insert, draw a rectangle in the center of the box lid (ours has a 1 1/2-inch border). Carefully cut out the rectangle with a utility knife; smooth any rough edges with sandpaper.
- 2.** To cover the box lid, cut a map or piece of decorative paper to the size of its width and length plus its depth and an additional 1/2 inch. Coat top and sides of lid with spray adhesive. Place paper wrong side up, and center lid upside down on top; then cut out rectangular window with the utility knife. At each of the four outer corners of the paper, mark and cut out a square that's even with the lid's edge on one side and that will leave a flap extending past the lid's edge on the other side, as shown. Fold long sides up and over box edge, smoothing with bone folder; press around corners. Fold short sides up and over; smooth with bone folder. Cement glass pane in box lid; weight down with book. Let dry according to instructions.
- 3.** Line the box bottom with colored paper; secure with spray adhesive. Affix items in position with glue or wax. You can also line and mount small jewelry boxes and label.

COLLECTION BOX

A picture frame filled with seashells shows off their nuances of color and shape. Mount

one kind of shell—or as many types as you can find at your vacation spot this year. If you don't get to the beach, you can purchase shells instead.

Tools and Materials

deep-sided picture frame

ruler

balsa wood

utility knife

double-sided tape

decorative paper

spray adhesive

shells

pencil

craft glue or museum wax

paper label (optional)

brown-paper tape

mounting hardware and picture wire (optional)

How-To

Be sure your picture frame is deep enough to accommodate the contents.

1. Remove the cardboard or pressboard backing of the frame. Discard clips, if any. With a utility knife, cut four pieces of balsa wood to fit inside the frame (resting on its inside ridge, 1/8 inch shallower than its sides) to create a new inset for the backing; two pieces of balsa wood should be the length of the frame's interior and two slightly shorter than the width. Using double-sided tape, attach the four pieces inside the frame, starting with the longer pieces.

2. Cut a piece of decorative paper the size of the frame's backing. Affix the paper to the backing with spray adhesive. Arrange your shells on this surface; use small pencil dots to indicate their placement. Secure shells to paper with glue or wax. Let dry. If you like, use glue to affix a label, identifying the shells and indicating where and when you found them. Insert the backing into the frame, resting on the balsa wood. Tape backing to frame with brown-paper tape. Add mounting hardware to the wooden frame and picture wire for hanging, if desired.

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