Cardboard, Cardboard, Cardboard!

by Creativeman on July 19, 2009

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Intro: Cardboard, Cardboard, Cardboard!

There are limitless possibilities for using cardboard. This instructable shows many projects, short descriptions, included photos, mouth watering ideas, can't wait to get started prompts, where does the time go, I can't do it all, I LOVE cardboard , ad infinitum ways to envision it, design it, construct it, use it and how to enjoy the whole process! Build it, don't buy it! There are, of course many more ways to slice it (the cardboard) but I don't want to overdo it all at once.

Image Notes
1. All letters cut on bandsaw

step 1: Wall hangings

Image Notes
1. Paint on cardboard. Squares are 12", a frame is made slightly larger, made of 3/4'x3/4' pine.

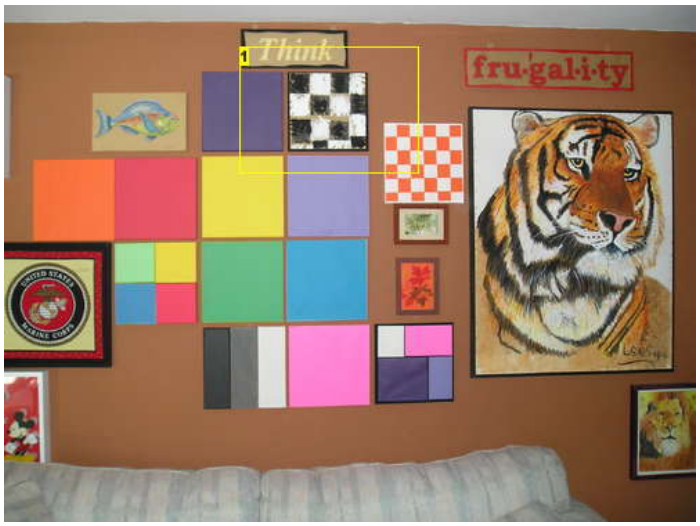


Image Notes
1. Checkerboard made of cardboard!

Image Notes
1. About 10x36

step 2: Fold-A-Lot: Clothes Folder

The fold-a-lot is a clothes folder to aid in making that chore easier, and produce nice, orderly stacks of clothes, towels, etc.

Image Notes
1. Note 3 sections.
2. Tape here
3. Tape here.
4. Stencils used to label...you don't need to do this.
5. Middle section is folded here as #3 is the final step in folding, and it is lifted up, not in like 1 and 2.

Image Notes
1. A typical stack of t-shirts ready for shelf.

Image Notes
1. One of three sections: 9in. wide.

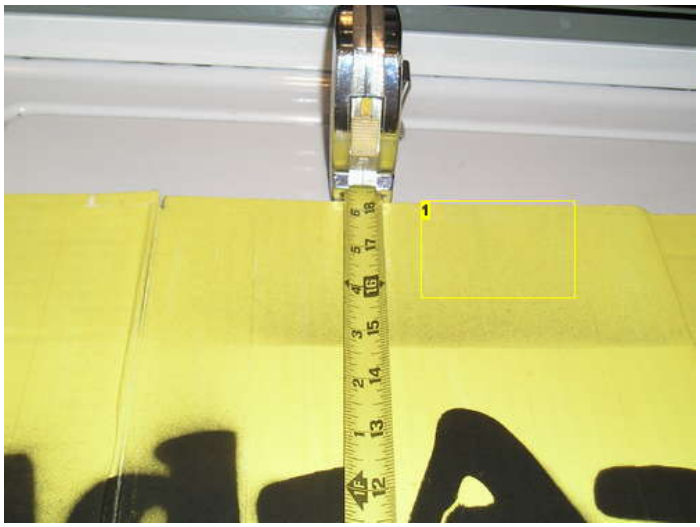


Image Notes
1. Length of sections: 18"

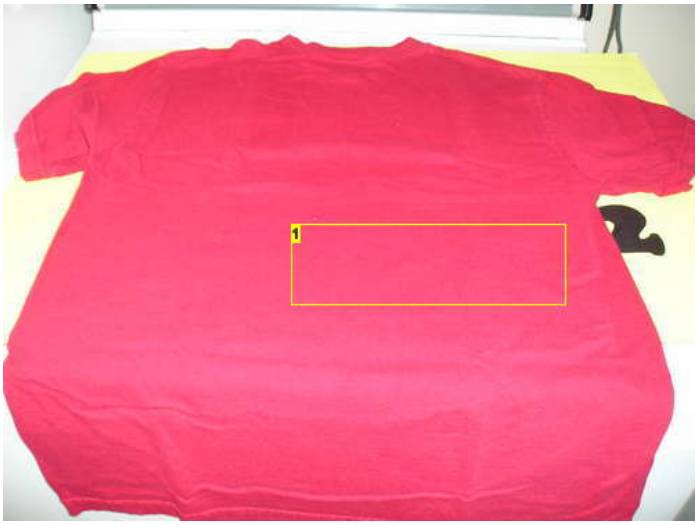


Image Notes
1. Place shirt

Image Notes
1. Fold so all of shirt is enclosed within borders.

Image Notes
1. Flip 1

Image Notes
1. Flip 2

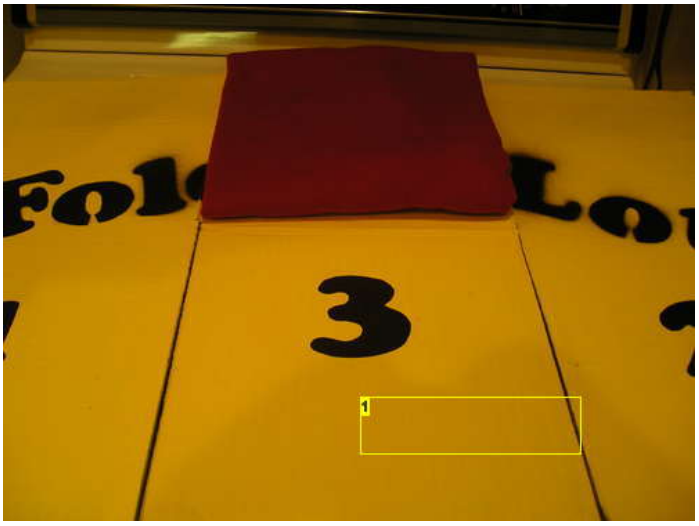


Image Notes
1. Flip 3 (Up)

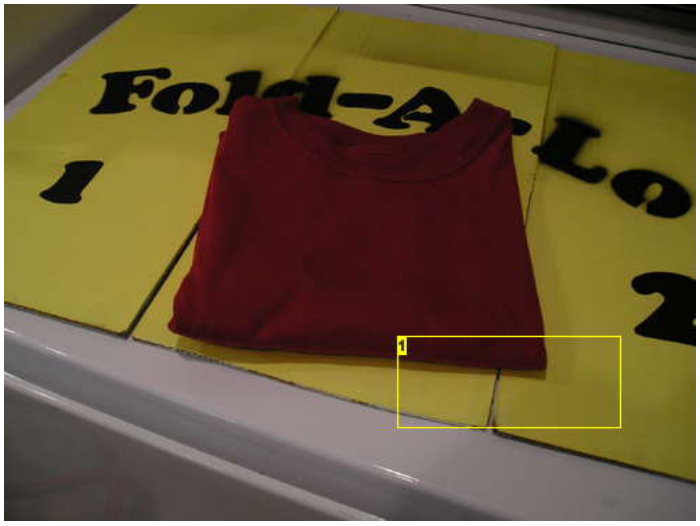


Image Notes
1. 1-2-3, done!

step 3: Boxes

All sizes for many uses can be made. See my instructable: Make Your Own Boxes.http://www.instructables.com/id/Make_Your_Own_Boxes/

Image Notes
1. Cloth covered box.

Image Notes
1. Boxes of many sizes, uses

step 4: Small Parts Containers

An easy way to keep track of small screws, nuts, bolts, tacks, etc.

step 5: Storage of Paint Cans

I use cardboard to make storage of paint cans easier. Since there is little access to old paint, I put it down on the floor, under other shelving units. If I ever need a touch up, I simply pull out box with paint in it, and go to work.

Image Notes
1. Shallow boxes.

Image Notes
1. Cut a hand hold for easy access

Image Notes
1. Box made to size to save space.

step 6: Waste Baskets

Image Notes
1. Shop trash bin. Just a cardboard box with liner, and I added a "Lip" just for the

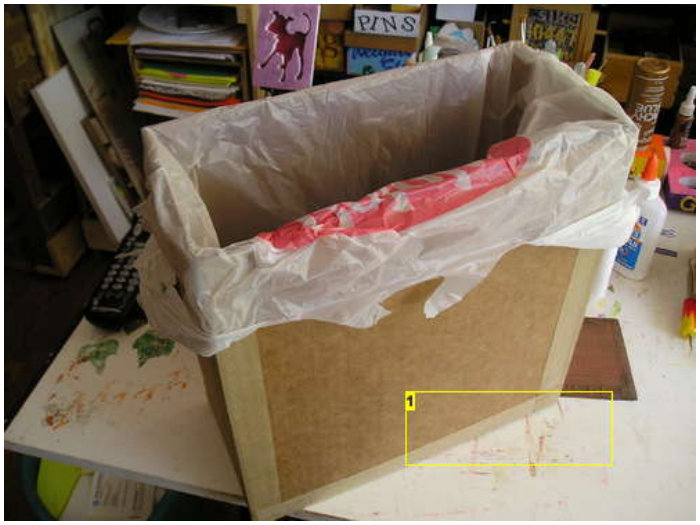


Image Notes
1. Made for plastic bags

heck of it.
2. The artist's touch

Image Notes
1. Made to fit kraft bags

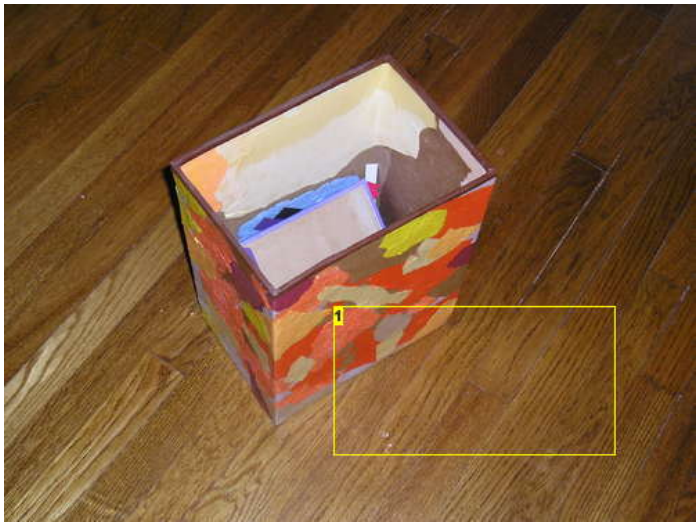


Image Notes
1. Covered with "paper mached" copy paper, scrunched up, then glued on.

step 7: Project Boxes

In order to semi-organize my work space and keep some semblance of order, I make project boxes that can be used to place works in progress. That way I can have several going at one time, yet know exactly where they are.

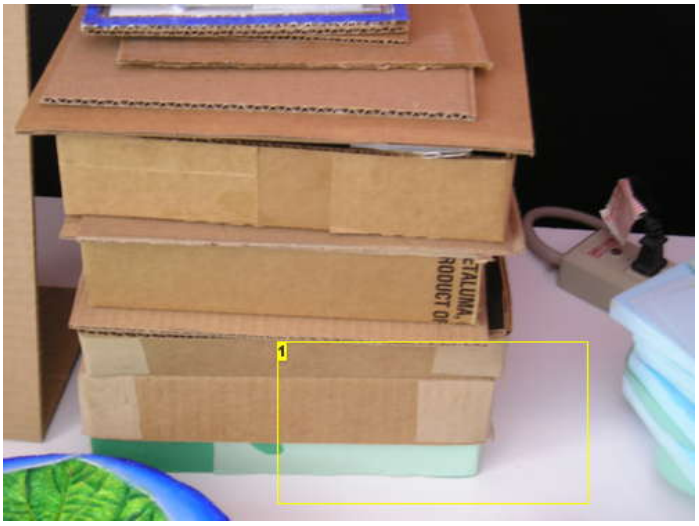


Image Notes
1. Boxes are about 13 x 16".

step 8: Specially Designed Containers For Paper Flowers

I make paper flowers, and to store and or transport them, I needed to come up with a container that would enclose and protect the arrangements while in transit. Hence a specially cut and formed box.

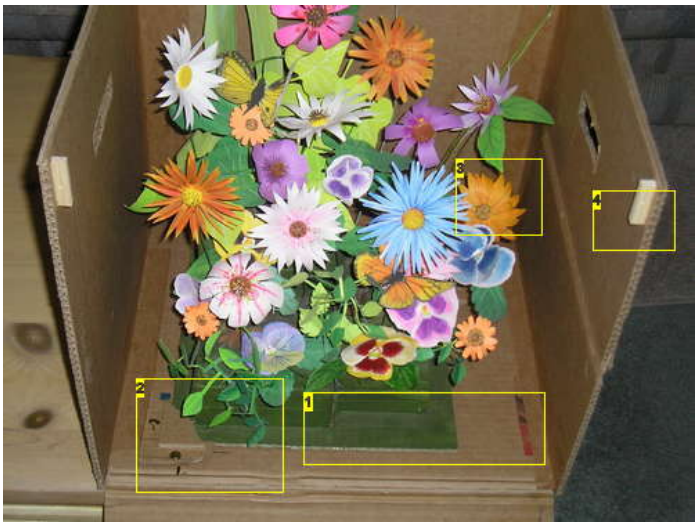


Image Notes
1. Base is secured with clamps on two sides.
2. "Clamp" here.
3. Clamp back here.
4. Flap hooks here when folded up

Image Notes
1. back clamp for base of arrangement.

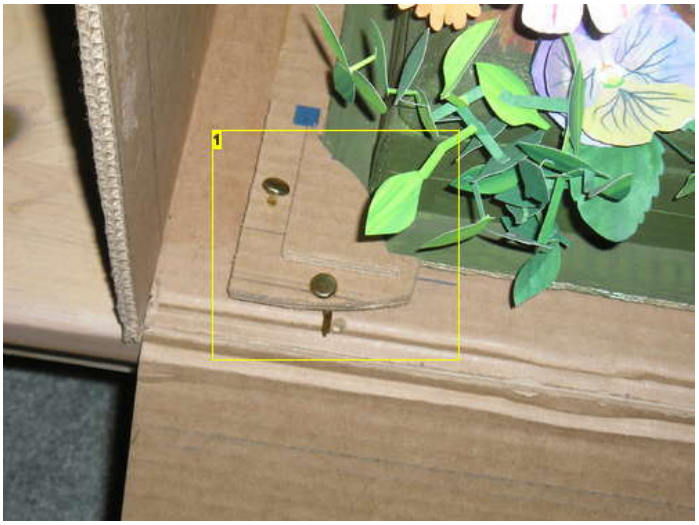


Image Notes
1. Clamp is removeable so that the flowers can be slid in and out.

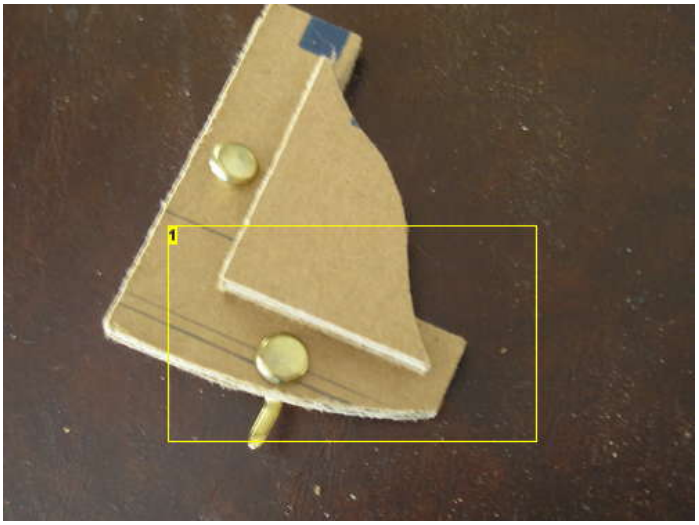


Image Notes
1. Clamp details, paper fasteners used to secure it to box.

step 9: Shelving Unit(s)

Small units, but size could be expanded to larger sizes if needed.

Image Notes
1. Cardboard laminated (2 layers), then edged with kraft paper.

Image Notes
1. Shelf and upright: both pieces cut half way through (the width of the cardboard), interlocked together to form joint. Paint as wanted with acrylic paint.

step 10: Tool Drawers For Work Bench

Drawers made of cardboard, to fit precisely under the workbench. This way, the whole space is utilized, and access is made easy by simply pulling out "drawer".

Image Notes
1. All boxes are 24 inches long, different widths.

step 11: Picture Frames

This frame was made by cutting cardboard to the width needed, then scoring with a bone folder or piece of wood. A raised area in the middle of the frame adds to the effect of a wood frame. Note 45 degree angle at corner. See next slide for picture of whole frame.

step 12: Lettering via Bandsaw

All letters made with bandsaw cutting.

Image Notes

1. Frame of cardboard too.

step 13: Signs

See the instructable: Make Signs out of Cardboard!

Image Notes
1. New, improved!
2. Cardboard letters, painted black. Make signs of cardboard instructable.

step 14: Masks

Image Notes
1. See Instructable: Make a mask with cardboard.

step 15: Paper Bag Storage

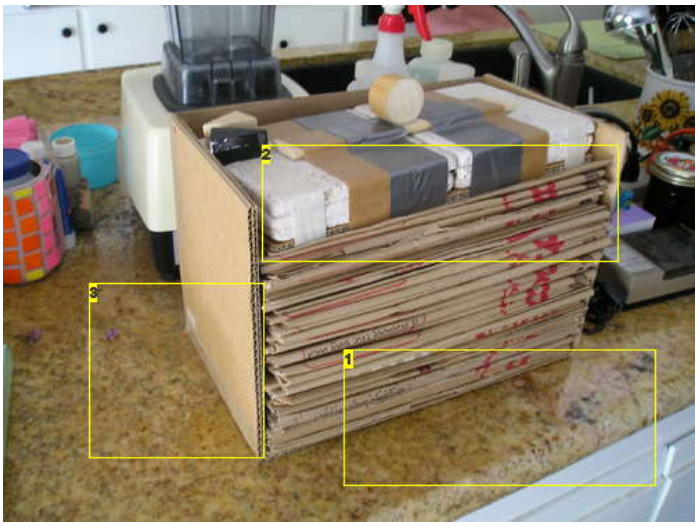
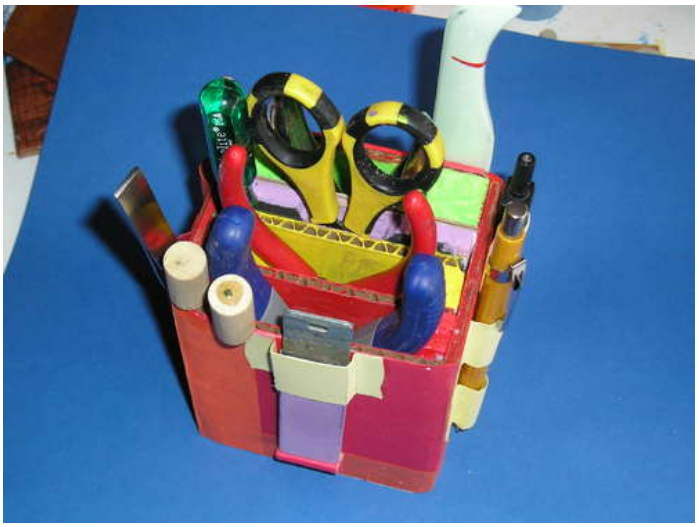


Image Notes
1. Bags from store....can be recycled, or used in craft projects.
2. A wight made by taping 6x6in tiles together as shown. Compresses pile and compacts them.
3. Cardboard storage unit, cut to fit bags

step 16: Tool Organizer



step 17: Refrigerator Organizers

Same concept as used in work bench: boxes go all the way to the back, just pull out and get what you want.

step 18: Kitchen Cupboard Organizers

Same as refrigerator boxes.

step 19: Closet Organizers

Cut boxes so that they slide into any shelf you have. Instant organizer!

step 20: House Numbers

These have actually been in use for several years. Just cardboard! They are under an overhang so never get wet when it rains.

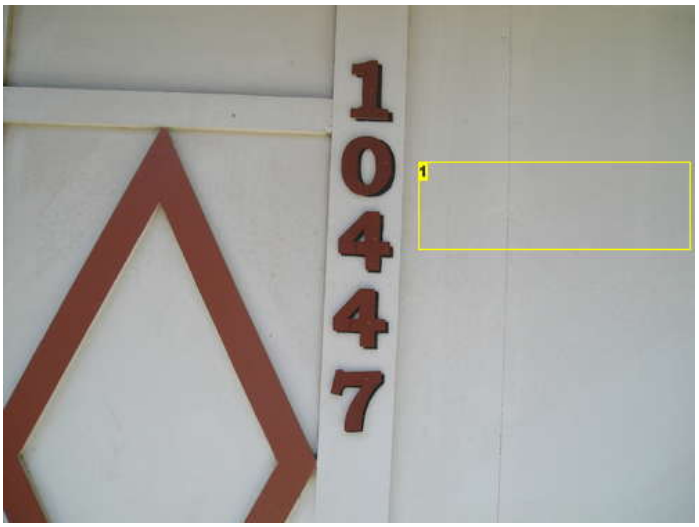


Image Notes
1. Note shadow of black cardboard

step 21: Bill Holders

I have an in box and an outbox....helps to organize. Make boxes the exact size needed, i.e., slightly larger than a standard business envelope.

step 22: Art Projects

A wealth of free canvas! Some art can even be mounted and framed.

step 23: Small Chest of Drawers

For this project, I used a large box for the frame...found two small boxes that fit pretty well, then made dividers for the bottom "drawers", made boxes to fit, and covered it all with bright paper.

Image Notes
1. Box 1
2. Box 2
3. 3 drawers

step 24: Craft Paint Containers

I make special boxes for all my paint. Each box holds 30 bottles of the 2oz. size.

step 25: Hole In The Wall Repair

Cardboard is good as a filler, and can be plastered over to fill in hole. Easier than trying to cut a piece of wood to fit.

Image Notes

1. Cardboard can be used to make a base for repair plaster.

step 26: A Box For Clamps

A dedicated box for some clamps.

step 27: Faux Rocks

See instructable on faux rocks.

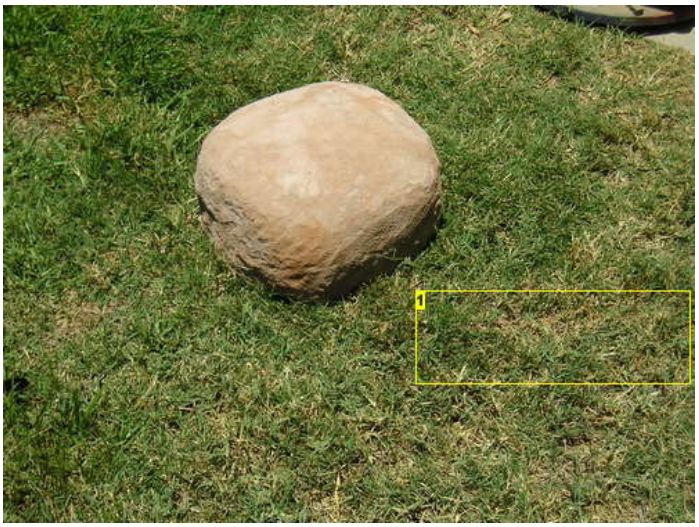


Image Notes
1. A small rock, but a good start. This was fun and I want to make a larger version now!

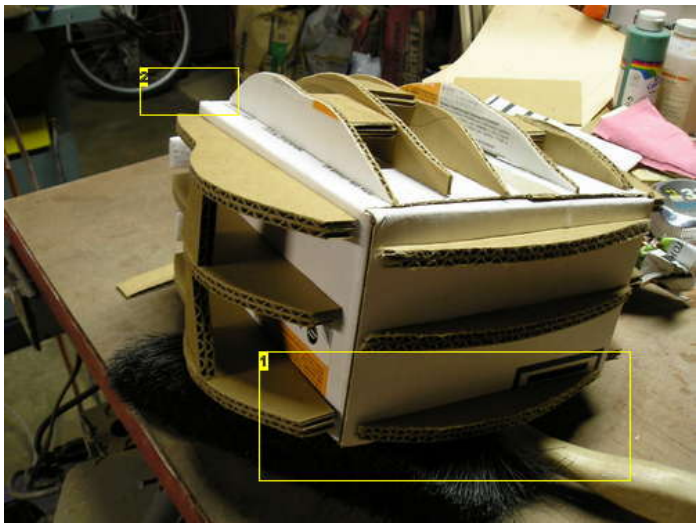


Image Notes
1. Several extensions of cardboard added and glued to box
2. Box corner, the size of this box is about 9 by 11 inches

step 28: A Special Box Just For Floral Wires

If you work with floral wire, you know what a hassle it is to store. Running out of wall space? Make a box just for the wires.

Image Notes
1. Box made a little longer than standard wires. Wires are 18", so box is 20".)

step 29: A Brush Garage

I wanted a way to store my brushes that was convienient and easy to use.

Image Notes
1. Top opens
2. Front folds down

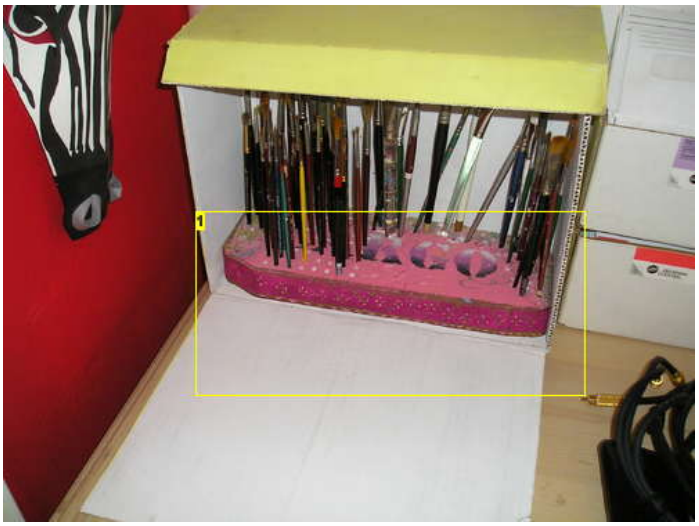


Image Notes
1. Brushes stored in upright position, stuck in a piece of styrofoam with drilled holes. Keeps brushes dry, cool, dustfree, and easily accessible.

step 30: A Dedicated Bottle Carrying Case

Keeps two glass bottles from moving and breaking.

Image Notes
1. Space for two bottles. Take to store and use to protect/transport home.

step 31: A Slide For Under Table Storage

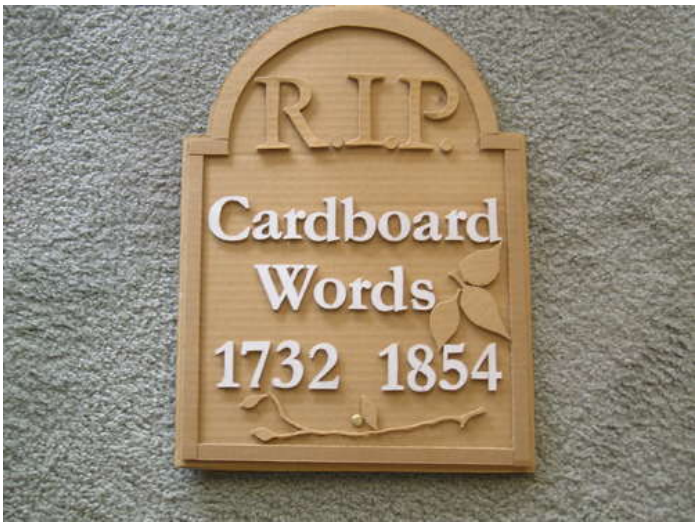
Used to pull important paper file out. Saves the hardwood finish.

Image Notes
1. File box
2. hand hold cut to grap cardboard.

step 32: Tombstones

Make these for Halloween.

Image Notes
1. All cardboard. (The names can be changed to protect the not so innocent).



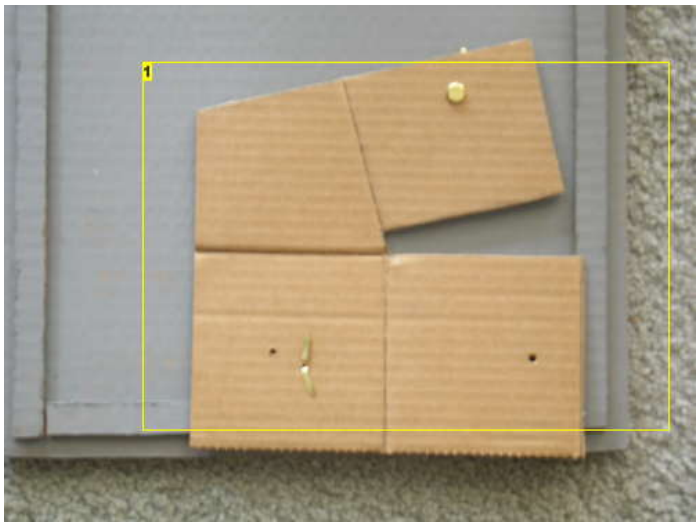


Image Notes
1. Stand for tombstone. When folded and fastened together allows the tombstone to stand upright.

Image Notes
1. Welcome to the graveyard. Cardboard to be painted in greys, blacks, greens, etc., to appear as real stone.

step 33: Paper storage Unit

I use different papers in all kinds of crafts. Found out early on it would be necessary to have a separate shelf for each color, as much as possible.

Image Notes
1. Dividers helps keep things in order.

Image Notes
1. Paper and catchall storage.

step 34: Make Furniture

See my instructable: Make furniture with cardboard.

Image Notes
1. Two tone effect achieved by spray painting the darker tone.

step 35: Make Wallets With Cardboard

See my instructable: Make a Billfold with cardboard.

step 36: A Footstool or Ottoman, Made from a Box, covered with Cloth

This handy storage chest doubles as a foot stool. I added an interior frame of pine, so that one can sit on it. It's quite strong.

Image Notes
1. This wood frame fits...
2. Inside of this frame. Frame pieces extend down to the bottom of the box to add strength.

step 37: Camera and MP3 Storage.

When not in use, items can be stored in their own boxes. I keep the manuals with the box as well, then can find them easily when I need them.

Image Notes
1. I know what's inside of you!

step 38: Miscellaneous Storage Units

I know, lots of boxes, huh. But they all come in handy when it's time to find something.

Image Notes
1. Specially made box.

Image Notes
1. All labeled.

step 39: A Recent Instructable

See How To Make A Purse of Denim.

Image Notes
1. Painted Cardboard!

Related Instructables

Painted Cardboard Wall Art by laurisha2004

Make Your Own Boxes by Creativeman

How to Design Your Own Cardboard Furniture by Scriptone

Makeshift letterpress with a cuttlebug - Part One by UnlessSomeoneLik

Beanie Baby house by bohemianharmony

Make Furniture With Cardboard! by Creativeman

Cardboard temple/shrine at home. by BrindaMS

Nomad Furniture: design, case studies, and philosophy by Wade Tarzia

Comments

25 comments **Add Comment**

=SMART= says: Sep 3, 2009. 12:28 PM **REPLY**
wow !
That's a lot of ideas !
I really like the letters and signs !

Creativeman says: Sep 3, 2009. 8:34 PM **REPLY**
Thank you! Cman

Mella2013 says: Aug 13, 2009. 5:57 PM **REPLY**
Those flowers are beautiful!

Creativeman says: Aug 13, 2009. 6:51 PM **REPLY**
Thank you, Mella. Cman

gmjhowe says: Aug 7, 2009. 3:07 PM **REPLY**
Great work! I suggest adding links for all the projects that have separate I'bles.

Creativeman says: Aug 7, 2009. 3:45 PM **REPLY**
Thanks gmj: You know I have tried using the link box, and it doesn't work. I went to community forum and looked up some directions, but on my computer, it won't put the link in orange, which, I assume, means that it is a "link". I just get the black type and no active linkage...??????any suggestions? Cman

gmjhowe says: Aug 8, 2009. 3:55 AM **REPLY**
As Chrysn said. You can do the links like this,

```
Here is a link to Instructables
```

Ensure the space between the link, and the description.

Ninzerbean says: Aug 11, 2009. 12:42 PM **REPLY**
Lemonie taught me to do this and it works like this: you put a square bracket before the address, a space after the address, the word you want the hyperlink to say, and another square bracket. It won't be orange on your computer and you won't even see it until it's in the 'ible. It's not about your computer at all, it's a language that this site reads once you send it the code. Try again Cman.

Creativeman says: Aug 8, 2009. 8:35 AM **REPLY**
Doesn't work! Cman

wenpherd says: Aug 10, 2009. 6:06 PM **REPLY**
step 6 is more
informitive

gmjhowe says: Aug 8, 2009. 10:11 AM **REPLY**
How strange. If your familiar with the forums, i suggest posting a bug report! If not I will pass on the problem, it could be related to the web browser your using.

ChrysN says: Aug 7, 2009. 7:06 PM **REPLY**
Those are really cool projects! Great Job!

I think to add links you but the square brackets around the address.
http://www.instructables.com/id/Make-Furniture-With-Cardboard/ or you can do it like this too; Make furniture with cardboard by typing the name of the instructable after the backslash in the address with a space in between.

Creativeman says: Aug 8, 2009. 8:36 AM **REPLY**
Thanks ChrysN: I can't make that work???? oh well. Cman

wenpherd says: Aug 10, 2009. 6:01 PM **REPLY**
you write very good instructables, and are very Creative.

DebH57 says: Aug 10, 2009. 10:12 AM **REPLY**
You have done some amazing things with cardboard CMan!

Creativeman says: Aug 10, 2009. 1:50 PM **REPLY**
Thank you. Cman

skunkbait says: Aug 8, 2009. 10:39 PM **REPLY**
Good job. And I thought cardboard stuff would be boring! I'm not really into decorative stuff, but a lot of your ideas are quite USEFUL (and I am into useful stuff!). I've used the card board as a base for fixing walls trick, but now I'm going to try a few of the others. Thanks for posting this ible!

arylic says: Aug 8, 2009. 4:27 PM **REPLY**
Wow, really cool instructables. It may have taken a lot of time to make all those letters and cardboard boxes. Anyways we all know who can be in the winner.

Great work again.

Creativeman says: Aug 8, 2009. 5:59 PM **REPLY**
Thanks arylic. Cman

arylic says: Aug 8, 2009. 6:43 PM **REPLY**
No, problm mate. Great work you put in there. You've got my vote !

dobbylvr says: Aug 8, 2009. 12:06 PM **REPLY**
This is amazing! I LOVE IT!!!!!!!!!!

Creativeman says: Aug 8, 2009. 5:59 PM **REPLY**
Thank You. Cman

laurisha2004 says: Aug 8, 2009. 8:54 AM **REPLY**
Creativeman I have decided that you are my new hero. Thanks for the ideas.

Creativeman says: Aug 8, 2009. 9:54 AM **REPLY**
Well thank you laurisha: I see you are into cardboard as well. Good job! Cman

JohnMac says: Aug 7, 2009. 3:45 PM **REPLY**
This is quite an amazing list.