

THE MINITIME MACHINE PRESENTS

HOW TO

A SERIES OF
PROJECTS FOR
the beginning
miniature maker



OCTOBER 2012: MATCHBOX RETABLO

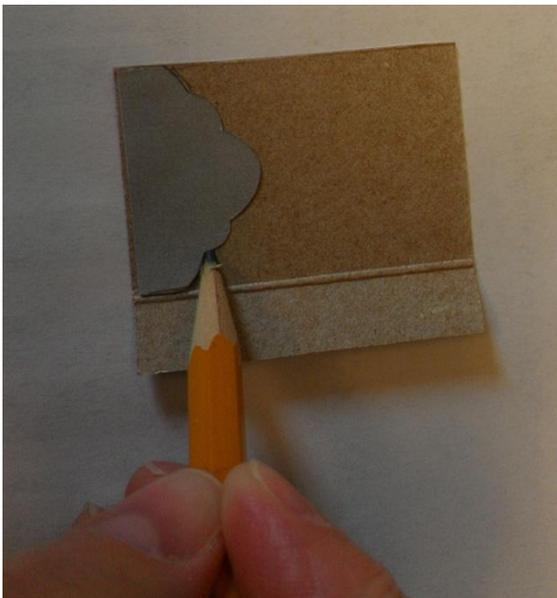
Materials and Supplies:

- small matchbox
- scallop template
- miniature angel/holy mother template or mini photograph of a loved one cut to 1 1/8" wide x 1 3/4" tall
- masking tape
- gold craft paint and brushes
- gold Dresden trim (available on-line)
- six miniature gold brads
- fine grit sandpaper
- awl
- ruler, pencil, and scissors
- Tacky glue

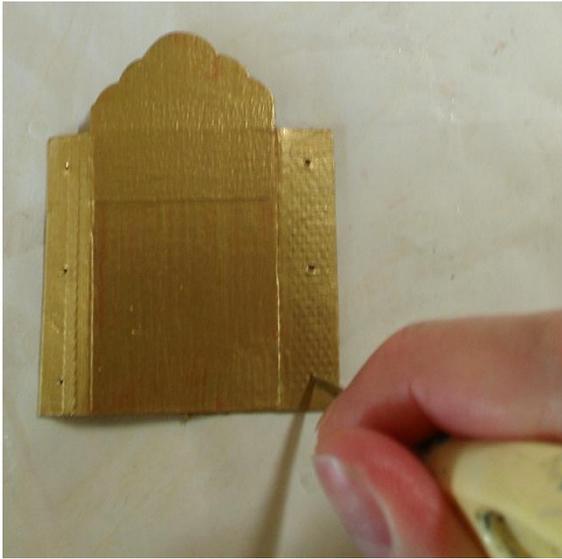
Instructions:



Remove the sleeve from your matchbox and open it at the seam. Trim off one front and side panel as shown in illustrations.



Print out scallop template, icon images, and cut out the scallop and icon image of your choice. Set icon image to the side for later. Trace the scallop template on the extra matchbox front panel then cut it out. Align the cardboard scallop with the top of the matchbox sleeve and tape over the seam on both sides using masking tape. This will be the door of your retablo. Gently sand the printed surface of the “door” so that it will accept paint. Paint both sides of the door and the matchbox itself gold.



Once the paint has dried, measure and mark three holes on the side flaps of your retablo door. The first hole should be $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the lower edge, the second hole at the center, and the third $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the top edge. Use your awl to punch the holes. See illustration. Next, position the door on the matchbox and hold the flaps over the side of the box. Gently poke the awl through the hole to *mark* the position of the holes on the side of the matchbox. Repeat with remaining flap on the opposite side of the box. After marking the holes remove the door and gently punch the holes through on the sides of the matchbox.

Select a variety of Dresden trims to decorate the retablo door. Glue trim in place with Tacky glue. While trimming the door be sure to cover the edge of the masking tape so it is not visible and remember to decorate the interior of the door. (We used $\frac{3}{16}$ " scallop petite border, $\frac{1}{2}$ " Dresden scallop trim, star, cross, and medallion pieces on our example.)

After all trims are applied to the door, measure and lightly mark the vertical center of the door. Use a scissor to cut down the middle to form two door panels. Next attach the doors to the retablo box using mini gold brads. After attaching the door to the retablo, you may want to touch up the raw edges of the door panels with gold paint to hide the cardboard.

Note: For the next step you may want to use an image of a loved one rather than one of the icon images provided. If so, size your image to $1 \frac{1}{8}$ " wide x $1 \frac{1}{2}$ " tall, print your image, and cut it out.

Center your icon image (or image of loved one) to the back panel of the matchbox and glue in place. Trim the interior of the box with more Dresden trim. Be sure to cover the brad prongs with trim to hide them.

Scallop and Icon Template

