

# Fabric-covered Keepsake Boxes

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*These elegant little boxes make beautiful gifts and are fun to make. Just gather your favorite fabrics and color-coordinate your embellishments. Try to have more trims and beads on hand than you think you'll use to give yourself some choices. And remember, more is not always better. These basic directions work for any shape box, but oval is one of the easier shapes to work with.*



## **For each box you will need:**

**oval paper-maché box**

**small pieces of elegant, medium-weight fabrics**

**such as silk or satin brocade**

**contrasting fabric for lining**

**cording to match**

**5/8" satin ribbon to match (or the same width  
as the rim of the box lid)**

**flat-edged gem beads or other beads**

**sticky-back felt for bottom of box**

**white fabric glue**

**hot glue gun and glue**

**scissors, paper, pencil, tape measure**

**small dish of water and paper towel**



## **Basic directions:**

***To make the paper pattern,***

1) trace the box lid onto paper, sketch an additional 1/2" all around, and label it "box top".

2) With the lid on the box, draw a line around the box itself with pencil as a guide for gluing the fabric. Measure the height of the box from this line to the bottom, then measure the circumference. Add 1/2" to both the height and the circumference and make a pattern to these dimensions. Label it "box covering".

3) Measure the inside height and circumference of the box, add 1/2" to the width and height (enough to fold over the top of the box and meet the pencil line) and label this piece "box lining".

4) On another sheet of paper, trace around the bottom of the box and label it "box bottom".



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***To cut the pieces,*** use the box top pattern, and cut one piece of covering fabric. Use the box covering pattern and cut one piece of covering. Use the box lining and cut one piece of lining fabric. Use the box bottom piece to cut two lining pieces (one for the inside of the lid and one for the inside bottom); cut one piece of batting; and cut a piece of sticky-back felt for the bottom of the box.

***To cover the box:*** Press all the fabric pieces. Beginning with the lining, apply some glue in a zig-zag to the box, wet your finger, and spread the glue evenly over the inner surface. Put the lining in place and smooth out; bring the excess up over the outer rim and down to the pencil line. Glue as needed. Keep your fingers clean with a damp paper towel. Glue the lining to the bottom and to the inside of the lid in the same manner. Blot off any excess glue and smooth out all the pieces. On the outside of the box, spread the glue, align the top edge of the covering fabric to the pencil line, apply to the outer surface of the box and wrap the excess 1/2" under the bottom of the box. Clip curves, and secure the raw edges. Then apply the sticky-back felt piece to the bottom of the box.

Glue the quilt batting to the top of the lid. Then spread glue around the top of the outer rim of the lid, and apply the covering fabric over the batting and press firmly to the edge of the lid. Keep fabric smooth and even. Glue a strip of ribbon around the outer rim, covering the raw edge of the covering fabric. Put the cover on the box. With a glue gun, glue cording or trim to the box just under the lid and around the bottom of the box, and also around the bottom on the inside of the box for an extra-nice look, hiding all raw edges. Glue beads as your heart desires to the top of the box, and to the sides if you want to really dress it up. Add a bow, tassel of beads, or any fun and beautiful pieces, too.