

Ladybug Gift Box



Warning: Choking Hazard – the small parts used in this pattern and the sharp tools are not for children under 10 years of age. Those children above 10 years of age need to be supervised when using this pattern.

Supply List



Most of the items you will need for this pattern can be found at most any craft store in your area. Hobby Lobby and JoAnn Fabrics ETC stores are some of my favorite places for craft items.

Press-on felt makes this project real simple. Presto Felt can be found at JoAnn Fabrics ETC stores. It comes in sheets that measure 9-inch by 12-inch in both red and black. You will need one of each.

For this pattern we will use a Mini 8 ¾-inch round cardboard box. I found this size at Hobby Lobby. All measurements in this pattern will be based on this size box.

Wiggle eyes come in packages of 24 and the size I used are 7 mm. They are cute until you have to pick them up and place them on a small dot of glue. You will need 1 package.

Supply List Continued:

Sobo Premium Craft & Fabric glue is ideal for fabric and cardboard; all-purpose wood glue is ideal for gluing together the pieces of Balsa wood.

You will need sanding paper to finish the rough edges as you go. Pick up a small piece of 400 grit sanding pad for wet or dry sanding (Ever Sand) or a package of very fine steel wool.

Pick up 1 package of black pipe cleaners to be used for the bug's antlers.

You will need one piece of 1/8-inch thick Balsa wood, or comparable piece of heavy cardboard (no less than 1/8 – inch thick.)

Three colors of water based all-purpose paint; Emperor's Gold Dazzling Metallic, Wrought Iron black, (Yard & Garden), and Tuscan Red (Patio Paint.) I found all three colors at Hobby Lobby. Choose the shade of your choice when purchasing your paints but I strongly recommend the Emperor's Gold Dazzling Metallic Paint and the Tuscan Red Paint. The shades are beautiful.

Tool List:

Exacta knife for cutting the Balsa wood (take a **few seconds to see our disclaimer located on the front page.**)

- Cloth measuring tape

- Small scissors
- Six-inch ruler
- Lead pencil and a chalk marking tool
- Cutting board
- Sponge brush

Directions:

Place a cutting board on the work surface and cover with a large piece of wax paper to protect from scratches, paint and glue. This makes clean-up real easy. To keep the sponge brush fresh, after each use, clean with warm water since the paints are all- purpose, water-based.



Step 1: Apply a thin coat of black paint to the **inside** of the lid and the interior sidewalls and bottom of the cardboard box. Allow paint to dry to touch.

When dry, turn the lid over and apply a base coat of black on the **outside** of the lid. Then turn the base over and paint the exterior bottom only of the box black. Allow paint to dry to touch.

Step 2: Apply the second coat of black paint to the same areas as you did in step 1 above, i.e. , the inside and outside of the lid and the inside sidewalls and interior bottom of the base of the box. Allow paint to dry to touch.

Step 3:

Apply gold paint to the outside walls of the bottom of the box. Allow paint to dry to touch. Repeat this step until a minimum of 3 coats of gold paint has been applied to the exterior sidewalls.

Step 4: Using a flexible cloth measuring tape, measure the outside diameter of the base of the box and subtract $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch. For our box this figure will be about $8 \frac{3}{8}$ inches.



Step 5: Using a 6-inch ruler measure the inside walls of the base of the box. This measurement should be around $1 \frac{3}{8}$ -inches. Cut one piece of black felt that measures $8 \frac{3}{8}$ - inches long by $1 \frac{3}{8}$ inches wide.

Tip: You can test these figures by cutting a $8 \frac{3}{8}$ X $1 \frac{3}{8}$ template from construction paper and then place the template against the inside walls of the base to make sure the ends no more than meet at the seam.



Sidewalls - Pull about an inch of the protective piece of paper from the felt and align the edge of the felt to the sidewall following along the bottom of the box and the top of the opening.

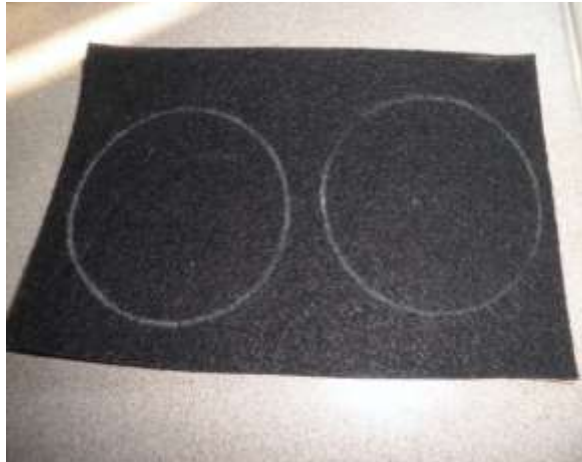


Be careful not to extend past the top of the opening or the lid may not go on properly. Once you are satisfied that the felt is going on straight, continue to press the felt to the sidewall by gradually

pulling the protective sheeting away from the adhesive side of the felt and securing the felt to the sidewalls. Trim at the joining seam, if necessary. Once you are satisfied that the felt is going on straight, continue to press the felt to the sidewall by gradually pulling the protective sheeting away from the adhesive side of the felt and securing it to the sidewall. Trim the width if necessary but this should not be the case.

Tip: you can roll the felt up to form a jelly roll and gradually unroll as you pull the protective coating away while pressing the felt to the sidewall; much like hanging wall paper.

After applying the felt to the sidewalls of the box you are ready to apply the round piece of felt to the exterior bottom of the box and one on the interior bottom of the box.



Outside Bottom - Cut two circles using black felt to cover the outside bottom of the box and one to cover the inside bottom of the box. Draw a circle by sitting the bottom of the box on the black felt and using the chalk marking tool to form a cutting line.

You should not be able to see the chalk line after cutting. **Gradually** pull the protective cover away from the glue side of the felt and secure the felt to the bottom of the box.

Inside Bottom - The inside circle will be slightly large because we used the outside dimension to mark the circle. Place the cut circle upside down (looking at the protective covering) inside the box and run your thumb nail or a blunt edge (table knife) around the bottom; remove the circle from the box and trim the circle to fit using the crease formed by using a blunt edge.

Tip: You can draw the circle by using a protractor to get an exact fit. But I found the irregularity of the box to be just as much trouble as trimming the felt. So I used a blunt instrument to crease and then trimmed away the excess.

Step 6:

Inside Lid - There is one more circle to cut to be placed inside the top of the lid using the **red felt**. Follow the same procedure as outlined in the *Inside Bottom* directions in step 5.

Inside Lid - There is one more circle to cut to be placed inside the top

Step 7:

Using the pattern pieces supplied (see back page) cut from the Balsa wood the body of the Lady Bug (#A) and the overlay of the wings (#B).

Trace around the pattern directly onto the eighth inch Balsa wood. Using the exacta knife, cut around the design using an up and down motion to go around the curves...do not let a child do this step as they could seriously get injured.

Sand the edges using your wet/dry sanding pad being careful not to over sand...under sanding is bad too!



After cutting the Balsa wood, make sure the edges are sanded and have relatively smooth edges. Try not to distort the pieces by over sanding.

Paint both sides and edges of the body (#A) black; paint both sides and the edges of the wings (#B) red. Allow to dry to the touch.

Using a black fine point permanent marker draw the separation line on the wings (#B). See pattern diagram (#B). Either cut out 9 or 10 small black felt circles for

the spots on the wings and press onto the wings or you can paint them on if you have a steady hand.

Glue the two eyes on the top side of the Balsa wood (#A) by first applying a small dot of glue to the head. This is not easy to do as the eyes open and shut and therefore have an up and down motion...much like your own eyes.

Cut two 3 ½ inches pieces of pipe cleaner to form the antlers. Apply a little glue to one end of the two pieces of pipe cleaner and staple to the Balsa wood. One or two staples at the most is all that is needed. See diagram #A.

Using your foam brush paint a layer of wood glue on the back side of the wings (#B) and carefully place the wings on the top side of the body (#A). Align the “V” shape opening at the bottom of the two pieces. Apply a heavy weight and allow the two pieces to dry. This could take several hours.



Once all parts are dry and can be handled, paint the top side of the lid with wood glue and place the Body/Wing assembly to the lid.

Apply a heavy weight and allow to dry...Or you can purchase a pre-made Lady Bug assembly at Hobby Lobby and just glue it to the top of the box.

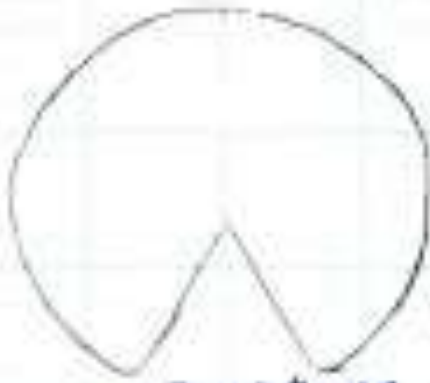
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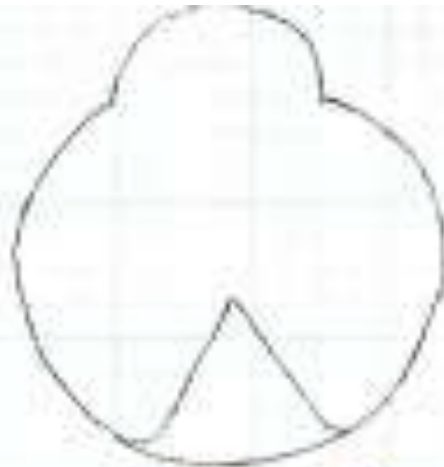
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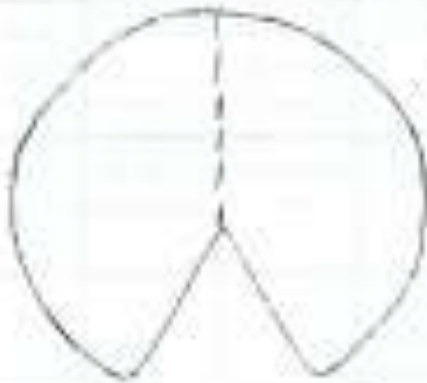
Ladybug Gift Box Templates



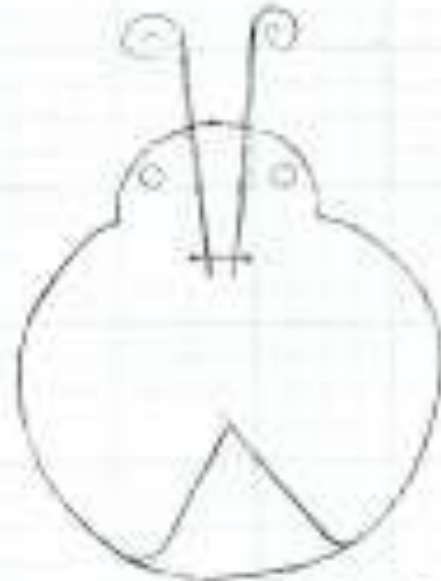
Template #B



Template #A



overlay (wings)
#B



Bottom (Body)
#A