

Miniature Valentine Candy Boxes with Candy

Written by Preble McDaniel

Tools and Supplies Needed:

Scissors or craft knife with sharp blade

Tweezers

Ruler

Glue

Wax paper or other non-stick paper

Sand-paper

Brown paint for chocolate other colors if desired

Beads of appropriate size to chocolates such as hole-less beads (also called no-hole, marbles, or caviar beads), seed beads, etc

Reese cup or other real-life chocolate in paper cup. Eat the chocolate – save the brown paper – wipe it clean.

Thin card – business cards are perfect for this

Toothpick or 1/16" dowel – round is preferred – you will sand it to shape this will be a tool used for making the paper cups

White paper or thin card depending on scale

Scraps of colored thin card (scrapbook scraps are great)

Instructions:

1. Print page of designs and patterns from thin card. Or you can print on plain white paper and then glue to thin card. Or cut the hearts out for a pattern and cut out of nice colored paper.
2. Cut out 4 hearts:
 - a. 1 plain red (or white using the red as a pattern)
 - b. 2 smaller white – These must be same size. These may need to be adjusted from the pattern depending on which design is chosen.
 - c. 1 larger – with design
3. Cut white paper strip
4. Glue 1 smaller heart to each bigger heart. One will be the base and the other the top with a design.
5. Glue the white paper strip around the smaller heart on the base (no design). Wait to cut off the extra part of the strip. Test fit the top inside this box while still wet so the paper can be adjusted. Trim excess strip. Wrap the strip around this first strip and make a second heart. Only glue at the connection. Can use a clip at the inverted point to help hold it in place. Apply glue to the top of edge in a couple of spots then place the top on. Once semi-dry, remove and add more glue on inside of lid if needed.
6. Candy: Pour a small puddle of brown paint on wax paper and then roll the beads in the paint. Separate and allow to dry. Tip: if desired use other paint colors – darker or lighter brown, off white, pink to make variations
7. Once dry, peel off wax paper. Trim excess paint although some edges are appropriate.
8. Make a cup tool by hole punching two or three parts of cards. Alternatively, could use fun foam instead. Glue them together. The hole punch size will be slightly smaller than the paper cups. This is variable because chocolates come in several sizes. These are some suggestions.
 - a. 1" scale – 1/8" round punch is a good size for the cup tool.
 - b. 1/2" scale – 1/16"
 - c. 1/4" scale – 1/32"
9. Glue the hole punched layers to a solid card. The height of the cup portion should be only deep enough for shaping, slight edge of paper sticking out is good.
10. Create a push tool for the cups. 1/16th dowel or toothpick. Sand one end of the toothpick flat so it fits loosely in the cup tool. A double ball stylus may also work. If the dowel or toothpick aren't the right size and do have a slightly smaller punch, punch from cardboard this slightly smaller one. Then use it in combo with the dowel.
11. Paper cups: Cut paper cups from the brown paper, tissue paper, or other paper. When punching if there are issues, can place between wax paper or plain paper. Or may need to use scissors to remove punch from the bigger paper. These are suggested sizes:
 - a. 1" scale – 1/4" round punch is a good size for the cup tool.
 - b. 1/2" scale – 1/8"
 - c. 1/4" scale – 1/16"
12. Push the paper circles into cup tool with dowel, flattened toothpick, or stylus to shape them. I added an outline of the position these bigger pieces should be to my cup tool.
13. Add candy to paper cups with dots of glue.
14. Insert paper cups into base heart box. Glue in place.
15. Admire this beautiful box of chocolates. If it isn't beautiful to you, that's ok, just put the lid on and keep it together. Or glue the lid to the side to just tease the chocolates inside. Or make up a story why the chocolates are missing.

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Cut out the hearts	Wrap and glue the strip paper around	Roll beads in paint – different sizes shown
Make more chocolates if you need more.	Trim any excess around the base	Make a cup tool using punch holes
Use a slightly smaller punch to help with cupping	This paper is white Glue the candy into the paper. I used the box to hold the candy as I worked.	