

Making Things with Paper - Paper Curtains

by Lisa Neault

In rising to Robin Betterly's Creativity 101 challenge, she challenged us to use a bleach bottle, items that we had on hand, and one paper lunch bag.

My paper contribution is this: Cut the upper half of the paper bag-measure your window for your room box scene, vignette, or dome. This could even work on an overhang or counterpane for a miniature bed. I made my miniature curtains by measuring the height from the top of the cutout window on the bleach bottle, and down to the floor, since in my 'tower' scene I wanted it to appear as though the curtains were old and worn.

MATERIALS

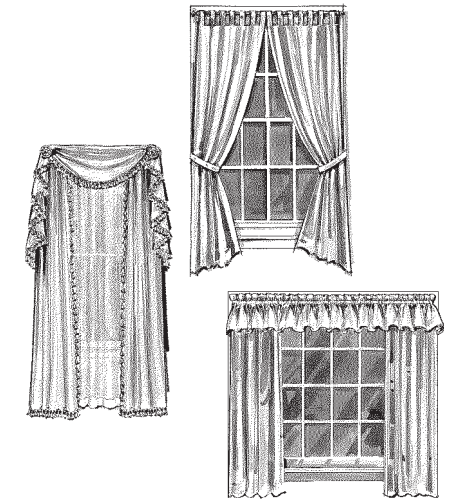
- One regular paper lunch bag
- Stiffen Stuff, (you can use hair spray, or spray stiffener if you prefer)
- Folk Art Country Bluing' Antique stain
- Gold paint-I used delta cream coat
- Water-a dirty wash is what I used, the dirtier the better
- Paintbrush
- Wax paper
- Tacky glue

Lightly spray or sprinkle your cut out paper bag curtains with water. Smoosh them up, or wad them up in your hand, make sure the paper is

damp. This will hold your wrinkles or folds in the paper... Spread out on wax paper, and this is the fun part for those of you who hate to measure-EYEBALL IT! Yes, eyeball it and using your fingers, arrange folds while the paper is still damp and 'fit' your curtain on each side of the window. When both curtains are 'scrunched' into shape, you are ready to add the Stiffy Stuff.

I always shake the bottle-when I tried this I didn't know if it would work on a paper bag, but I figured since it worked with doilies, it would work with paper lunch bag curtains as well. I liberally painted the folds, creases, and nooks and crannies of the curtains. If you live in a humid climate as I do-beware, work fast this stuff dries quick! Let dry.

Now you're ready to begin the decorating part. Anything goes on your curtain, paint your own floral pattern, and make it look like any solid or patterned fabric you wish. Since I wanted my curtains to look a little old, I used the antique stain and gold paint, to simulate drapes that had seen better days in the castle. First I put some stain on my brush, and liberally added water whenever needed. I did the front two sides of both curtains, and then I let



them dry. After dry, I added the gold paint to simulate a gold pattern on the drape, which had dulled with age and weather. I let that dry, and after those front sides were finished, I painted the back.

What you will have are two curtains or drapes ready to add to your scene. I put tacky glue on the backs, and they were ready to press into shape. It is really amazing how easy these are to scrunch into shape around a window.

I hope you have enjoyed my paper contribution-and happy curtain making!