Quick and Easy Luggage

By Cindy Crane, Fairburn, GA

SUPPLIES
- Blocks of wood cut to size (or foam core if you prefer)
- Hat Straw, fabric, ribbon or suede paper to cover luggage
- Thin strips of leather or suede for handles
- Other trim to cover edges (thin cording works well)
- Hinges and clasps (I use gold stickers)
- Small gold beads for "feet" if you desire
- Scissors
- Glue (Choose the glue that best suits the material used to cover your base)

Base sizes

Suitcase: 1-1/4 x /4 x 3/8

Cosmetics Case: 1 x 3/4 x 5/16

These are the sizes I use. You can make your luggage any size you want.

Assembly

1. Sand all edges of your wood base, slightly rounding your edges.

2. Begin gluing your material to all surfaces. Make sure you begin gluing to the back or bottom of the piece so it will not show later. Make sure your seams meet each other and do not overlap. This will make sure that your luggage will not fall over!

3. When using ribbon, paper or fabric, you can leave it slightly oversize and then carefully trim after it is glued. This will give you a neater finish at the edges. When using the hat straw, begin at the bottom and work the strips edge to edge upward. You may not end up with an exact fit when you get to the top. Trim this when the glue is secure.

4. To make the top lid of the cosmetics case, Take a strip of hat straw and glue it over the last piece of hat straw at the top. When using the other materials, I fold the fabric or ribbon into a small strip and then glue over the covered piece near the top to form the "lid". This additional thickness is what makes the case look as though it has an actual lid.

5. Now it is time to add the handles and hinges. Cut a small piece of leather or suede to the desired length and glue into place making sure that there is a small space for the hand to fit in. Add trim to all edges. Now add the hinges in the back and add the clasp. Don't forget to add "brass" to the ends of the handles for a more realistic look.

6. You may want to add "feet" to your luggage. This step is optional.

7. For additional realism, make a small luggage tag and you are done!

I hope you enjoy making this project.