

Make It Easy



Victorian Post Box

VICTORIAN POST BOX

Things you'll need:

1 x Hexagonal Shaped Cocktail Stick Container

6cm x 6cm x .5cm wood

6cm x 6cm x .25cm wood

6cm length of thin sq dowel

Das Modelling clay or similar

Modelling Paint :

Humbrol Gloss Red No: 19

Humbrol Matt Black No: 33

Bobbin of Fine Brass Wire

15cm length of strung beading

1x sml flat button, bead to sit on the button & 1 x small bead cap + a bead to sit in the bead cap

Tools:

Craft Knife

Sculpting Tool

Work board

Small Paintbrush

Craft Glue

Victorian Post Box Instructions

Step 1

Using the modelling clay form a base (*fig 1*) for the post box and leave to dry. (To get the diameters correct cut an oversized square of clay and press the container slightly into it to leave an impression, you'll then be able to form the base around this.) Don't worry if you can't get it smooth because you'll be able to sand it when it's dry. Once dry give it a couple of coats of gloss black paint and leave to one side.

Tip: Mark what will be the front of the box on the underside of the base, container and top pieces with pencil



Fig 1

Step 2

A: Take the thinner piece of wood and using the container as a guide mark out and cut an hexagonal of wood .5cm bigger than the diameter of the container.

B: From the thicker wood cut another hexagonal piece .25cm larger diameter than the container. Glue A on top of B

Step 3

On the top of (A) start to mould the top of the box by forming a dome shape with modelling clay.

This can take a bit of practice and I found it best to build the clay up in layers as opposed to starting with one big chunk. It's whatever works best for you. It doesn't need to be perfect as it can easily be sanded to iron out any major bumps once dry. At this stage don't try to do the whole top, just aim for the dome shape and define the sections by creating a raised profile as shown in *fig 2*.



Fig 2

Whilst the clay is still dry, push the strung beads into the clay to form the outer edge. Leave to dry

Tip: If the clay is drying to quickly whilst you work dip your sculpting tool in water before use or spray the clay with a fine misting of water

Step 4

Once the clay dome is dry working one section at a time start to apply a thin layer of clay to each section of the dome to form the patterning.

Use the sculpting tool to carefully work and cut the clay to form the scalloped edge and define the separate sections. *Fig 3*



Fig 3

Leave to dry before sanding to tidy up the edges and define the lines.

Step 5

The container. Rub a fine amount of modelling clay around the join where the top of the container sits to hide the join. Allow to dry and then lightly sand the whole container

Cut 2 x 6 mitred strips of trimming to fit around the container and glue in place. Position the first one approx 3/4cm from the top of the container and the second one 1cm below that. As shown on finished box.

At the same time cut 4 x 1cm strips of dowel and glue to form a square about 2cm from the bottom of the container

Step 6

Take a very small amount of clay, place it between the top edge and the first trim and form a coat of arms.

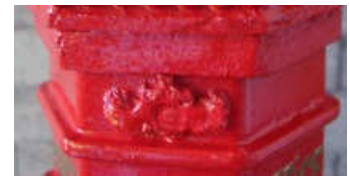
(I tried really hard to try and recreate the Victorian Coat of Arms but the space is so small it proved impossible for me so mine is more a shape that may pass as something more significant from a distance). Leave to dry.

Once all the trims are in place glue the top to the container, making sure all the pieces marked with a X are facing to the front.

Once glued together give the whole thing a couple of coats of red paint and leave to dry.

Step 7

The finial. Use the button as a base and glue the bead (open end facing up) to the top of the button and then glue the bead clamp to the top of that. It may be easier to hold in place if you push a short piece of wire through the centre to anchor all the bits together. Once they're dried carefully apply a couple of coats of red paint. Finally take a silver bead and sit it into the bead clamp to complete the finial. Once the whole thing is dry glue it to the top of the post box.



Finishing Touches

Use a black marker pen to create the box opening

Cut 2 x tiny strips of brass wire and glue to the side of the box for the hinges

Mark the key hole on the right side of the box with a black marker pen

Form the letters POST OFFICE from the brass wire and glue in place



Form the Royal emblem (shown left) with the brass wire and glue to the front of the box