

Treasure Boxes - supplies used

These are the supplies that I used, but be as inventive as possible - you definitely don't need to purchase lots of expensive beads or threads for this project!

Fabrics - well this can be a bit of a minefield if you don't know a lot about fabrics. It is easier to tell you what NOT to use!

AVOID - denim (too tough) , leather or vinyl, very heavy upholstery fabric and velvet (unless you have a lot of experience) and ANYTHING with a stretch!

You want your fabrics to be dense enough that you can't see through them, but also light enough that you can stitch into them without having to force your needle hard or it will be a tough project and not a lot of fun!

RECOMMEND - medium or lightweight upholstery fabric for the outside. I used a curtain fabric (heavy enough to take stitch and bead work but light enough to get a needle through without hurting your fingers!) Ideally then use something a little lighter weight for your lining -for example a dressmaking cotton or satin is great for inside. You can also use multiple fabrics for a really funky style box, but they should ideally be of similar weight and thickness.

Scissors - a good sharp pair that is dedicated to fabric ideally!
*also some simple paper scissors for cutting a card template as demonstrated.

Scrap of card or paper to make a template.

Needles - just a couple of simple sewing needles is adequate.

Nothing too fine for embroidery silks, but if you are adding small

beads to embellish then make sure that you have one that is fine enough to fit through the beads too!

Sewing threads Any type and ANY colour. They do not need to match, as your stitches will be covered up and if the thread contrasts with your beads then it's fine - all part of the mix!

Selection of decorative threads and yarns.

I used embroidery silks, yarns, and fabric ribbon. You can also tear fabric strips and use them. Ribbon scraps and lace trims salvaged from old projects or items are great.

Be open to discovering found treasure! Ask friends and relatives who knit or sew, they are almost guaranteed to have scraps and leftovers that need rehoming. If all that fails, check charity shops for crafty bundles of embellishments.

Interfacing - the sew-in kind, NOT iron-on!

I recommend medium or heavy weight, however, use what you have - you will see in this project that I use a lightweight interfacing but I double it up for weight. A good example of improvising!

*note - you CAN use card, but it will not hold up as well or as long as interfacing, but it's a great (and free) alternative if you are experimenting and don't want to purchase.

You don't need much. Some stores have a minimum amount that they will cut from a roll. (here it is 30cm which is about a foot) . That will be plenty.

Wadding - I recommend polyester wadding, either 4oz or 6oz weight. *note - I used 2oz (left from another project) and doubled it up - again, improvising can be a bonus. You can also use cushion filler to stuff it as an alternative, but I prefer the flatter surface of wadding. Again, you don't need a lot, about a foot (30cm) off a roll is enough, but some stores require a minimum of a yard or metre when cutting from a roll. It's ok - I'm quite sure you may want to make more!

Embellishments - the sky is the limit here! I have an abundance of beads in my studio, from many years of collecting and make in

various forms , but you can easily salvage from old jewellery, thrift shop bundles and your granny's button box!

Often the best embellishments have items with history. Ask around, people often have odd or broken items which have a little story or memory attached to them. Using something meaningful like this makes a wonderful treasure box as a gift for someone.

Pins - I have added this last, as you CAN do without and really only need a few, but pinning your pieces into place to keep the straight - especially with hand sewing or if you are a beginner - is VERY useful and will save a great deal of fiddling!

Lastly, patience. Enjoy every stitch. I ask that you TRY not to rush to the end result. Pause. Consider. Journey.

Allow yourself time to enjoy the process. I was really quite surprised at how fast the video lessons appear to flash by. Hand sewing is a beautiful, steady, calming occupation. Embrace it. Every stitch is a little part of you and should be appreciated and enjoyed with love. I hope that you feel this in your journey here.