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Cardboard Keepsake Box

Learn how to make a simple box that holds a variety of objects using only found objects in a home.

NOTE: STORE CARDBOARD 1-3 DAYS BEFORE USE

About Maplewoodshop

Maplewoodshop is on a mission to help educators develop creativity, build confidence, and foster community in students through woodworking. As of March 2020, **over 55 camps and schools use the Maplewoodshop program** to train, equip, and support their staff to teach woodworking.

Why woodworking?

Woodworking is engaging. It sparks creativity and develops problem solving skills. Working with hand tools and wood gives students the opportunity to **practice patience, foster collaboration, and learn responsibility**. The end product is a keepsake that kids are proud to bring home and say, **"I made that!"**

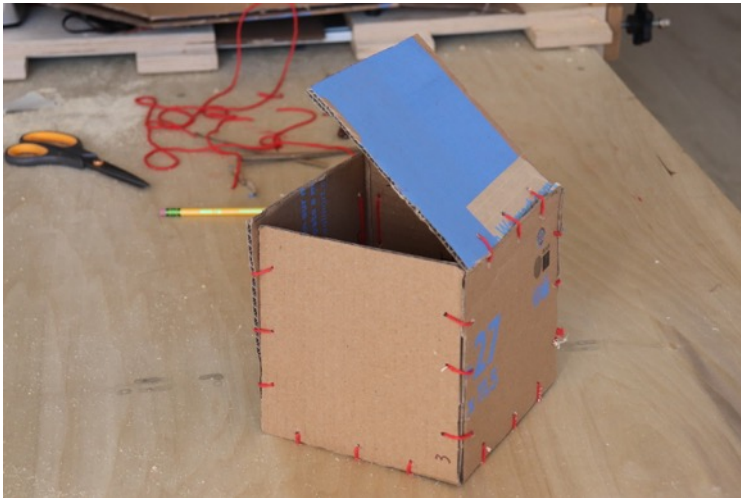
This project

This project uses only objects you have in your home. Please be safe with scissors and watch your children to avoid accidents. You can make the box larger or smaller. You can also make out of paper which is easier to cut.

Resources for Parents

<https://start.maplewoodshop.com/wfpab>

Project – Cardboard Keepsake Box



1 The finished project

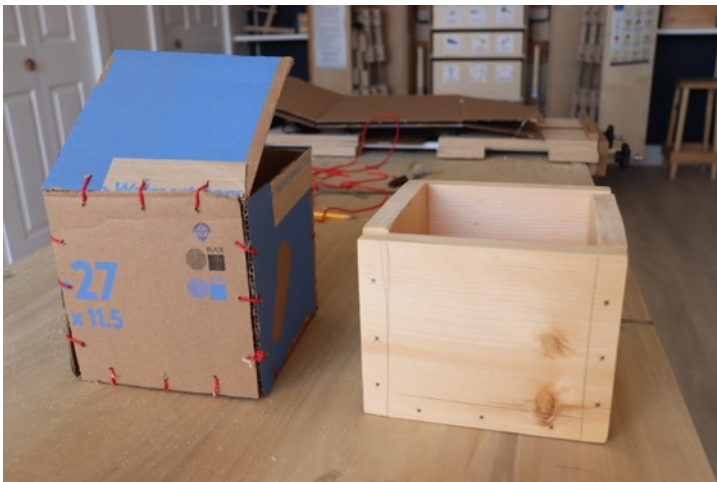
Materials/Tools

For each woodworker:

- Cardboard for six, 6½" square pieces
- Approximately 5 feet of string
- OR ~2 feet of tape (easier method)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Measuring Tape or ruler
- Paper clip (for threading string)

Optional:

- Combination Square
- Decorative supplies



2 The cardboard version next to a wood version you make in Maplewoodshop

Vocabulary

- Square
A four-sided polygon with four 90° angles and congruent sides.
- Layout
Measuring distances and marking where to cut.
- Order of operations
How to sequence steps so that one builds on the previous step
- Template
A template is an example you use to make multiple pieces the same size.

Project – Cardboard Keepsake Box

Step one

Find a cardboard box, scissors, and tape



Step Two

Cutting away from yourself, cut the box along the folded sides.



Step Three

You should have 4 large pieces at this point



Step Four

How wide is your cardboard?

This flap (the part of a box that folds) was about 6 ½ inches wide



Step Five

How long is that flap?

This flap is a little under 13”

We want square pieces so let’s make two pieces

A carpenter trick is to make a “V” shape where you want to cut. Make two or three “V”s.



Step Six

Connect the “V”s with a ruler or anything with a straight edge.

We used a Combination Square.



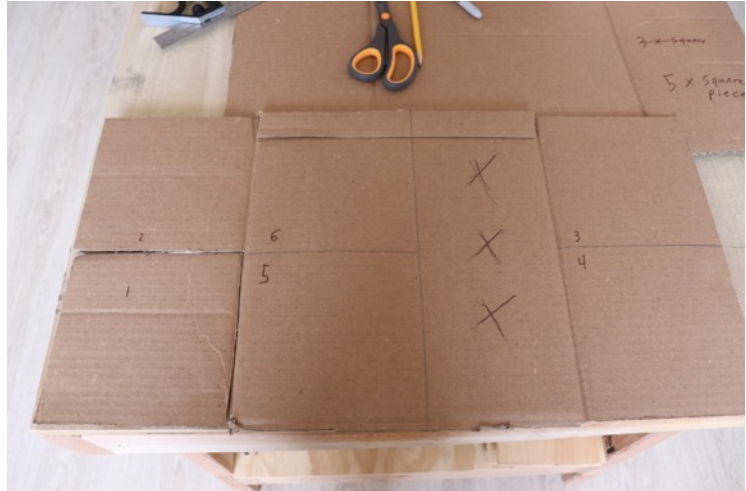
Step Seven

Using the rest of a large piece of cardboard, we can cut out the other 6 pieces

A carpenter trick is to use a “template”. A template is an example you use to make multiple pieces the same size.

Use one of your pieces as the template and trace around its edges to mark out the other pieces.

Write “X” to indicate waste material. Note the X’s are in the middle.

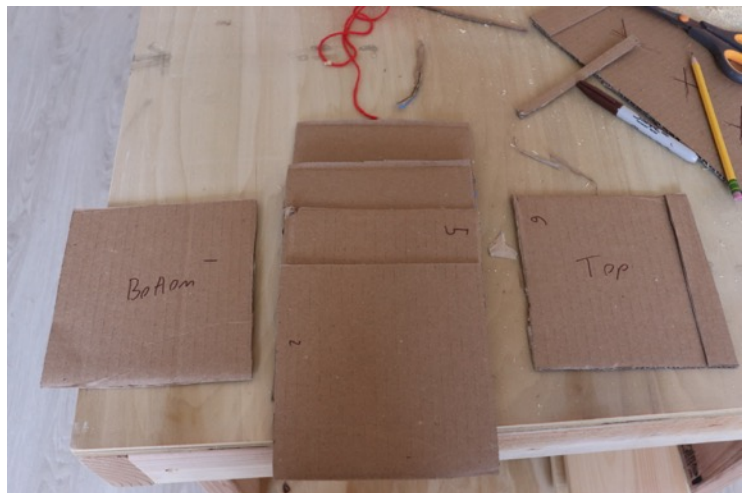


Step Eight

Now we have 6 pieces that are all the same size....or are they?



We can also label each piece based on where it will go. The top has an extra flap of cardboard that may be fun for a lid.



Project – Cardboard Keepsake Box

Step Nine

We can compare each piece and find the pieces that are longer.



Then, we can use our template (which should now be the smallest piece, not the one you cut first) to mark other pieces we need to trim.



Step Ten

Lay out your pieces in the order they will make a box.

Did you know that a box has this shape if you unfold it?



Step Eleven

Simple method – use tape

Advanced method – use string or yarn

Using a pencil, gently punch holes in the edges that will connect the box.

Bottom – four sides

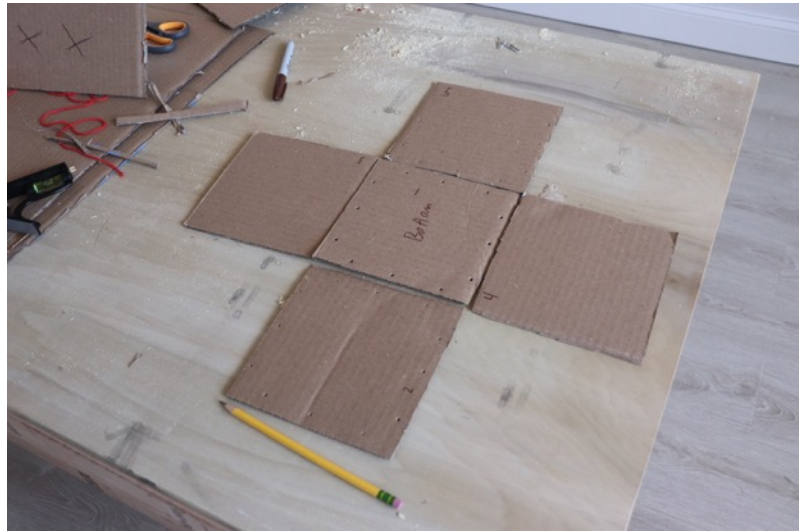
Sides – three sides

Top – one side

For each edge, estimate halfway across the length and make a hole. Then divide that half in half again.

You just made three holes that are roughly evenly spaced.

These holes will make it easier to thread the string.



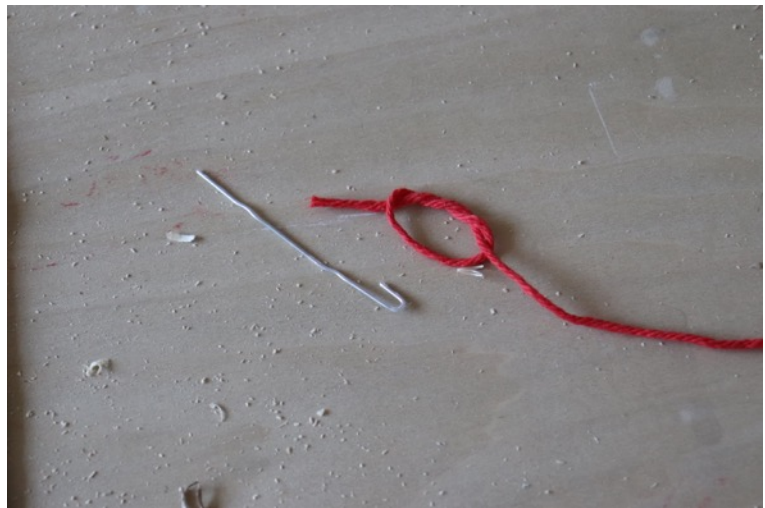
Step Twelve

Using a paperclip, make a little hook.

Using your string, make a loose knot.

Tie the knot around the hook and tighten it.

Now you can thread your way around the holes on the edges and join your box.



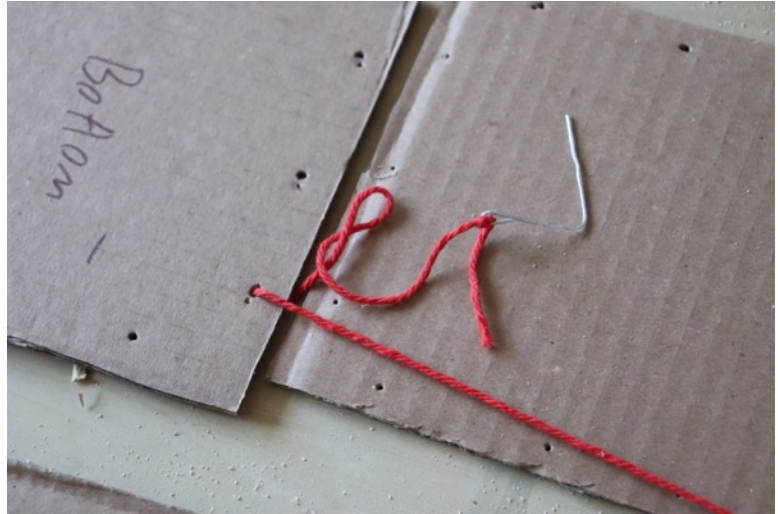
Step Thirteen

Gently pull the thread through each hole and connect the bottom to a side.

Then, connect that side to a second side,

Then connect the second side to the bottom.

Repeat with the third and fourth sides



Carpenter's trick

You may want to label which sides touch which other sides.

Remember how only three edges of the four sides have holes? By labeling, you can ensure that you put them together in the right direction.

IF you have problems, that's ok 😊

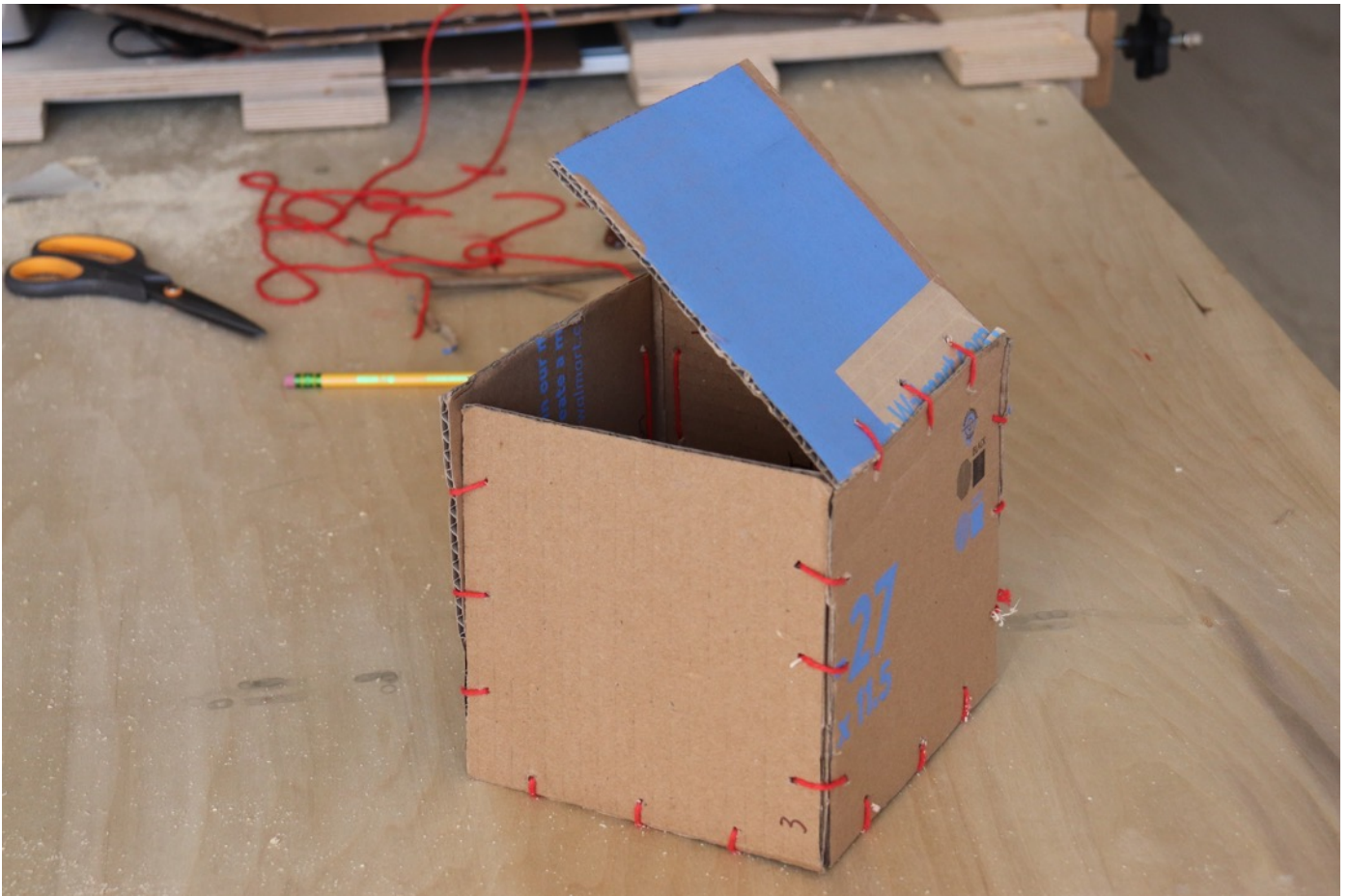
A rule at Maplewoodshop is "Something will go wrong, how you deal with it is what matters"

So, you may need to unweave a side and resume.

When you are done, you will have a wonderful box like on the next page.

Decorate and enjoy!





Congratulations!!!

Share your photos online mentioning your camp or school!

Please tag us too 😊

@MaplewoodshopNJ 

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Visit for step by step video instruction of a similar project using wood.

<https://start.maplewoodshop.com/1zsa27p>