Matchbox Advent Calendar with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Match Book Advent Calendar
- Hey everybody, it's Courtney from Creative Bug coming at you live like we always do on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I hope everyone had a really nice Thanksgiving holiday or great meal with friends and loved ones. And December is almost here, it's on Thursday, so I thought a really fun craft to show you today would be an advent calendar. Remember, because we're live, you can write in, ask us questions, or give suggestion if you have ideas for advent calendars that you wanna share with everyone else who's following along. Feel free to do so. I love advent calendars. I love the concept of them, the countdown to Christmas just builds all the anticipation. I think they can be really beautiful. There's a German tradition of them, and I think I read in the history of advent calendars that they became really popular in the United States because one of the presidents was... I think it was maybe FDR, gave an advent calendar to his grandkids, and the photograph was in the newspaper, so they became really popular in the United States because of that. So you can do paper ones. Of course, you can find the ones at the grocery store with chocolate, but I thought it would be fun to make one together that you could hide little treasures in. And these are actually going to be, this advent calendar's going to be based out of matchboxes. So this is the big style matchbox. It's the 300-count. You can get these at your local hardware store and sometimes your grocery store. And you're gonna need 12 of these for 24-day countdown. Now if you wanna do a countdown for some other kind of celebration, a birthday that happens in December, this would be a really fun thing to do so they still feel special, someone who has a birthday in December still feels special and not overshadowed by the holiday. Or you could do it for Hanukah. One of my really good friends does an advent calendar for Hanukah for her boys. So you could use these matchbooks, or boxes, for any of those. You don't need the matches inside, so make sure you have a really large box. And you can save these matches, actually. I was trying to think of what I could do with hundreds and hundreds of matches. You can put them in a little mason jar, and with the top, use it as a template for sandpaper, just double-sided tape that right onto the top, and then you have a great little jar full of matches, and an easy strike-anywhere top that you can give as a gift. So we're not wasting all those matches. The first thing you need to do is cut each of your boxes in half. So remember, you're going to be doing this to all 12, and I just cut them closed, so I'm cutting the outside and the drawer at the same time. You can eyeball this, but I think it's helpful to draw a little guideline. And I'm actually gonna use the centimeters of this little ruler, because it's exactly 12 centimeters. So I'll make a mark at the six. And another mark at the six. Draw a little line. And do the same thing on the back. And the sides, I'm not going to worry about. When I do my cuts, I can just kinda eyeball from one cut to the other. And these don't have to be perfectly exact, don't worry about that. What I like about this advent calendar is it doesn't cost a lot of money in the materials, which is nice, and it's totally something that you can keep and use year after year, even though it's only made out of paper and cardboard. (knife cutting) This is the backside, so I'm cutting through both the outer box and the inner tray, so this, you're gonna require a few little cuts and a sharp blade. And I just cut straight down the sides from this cut. Then on the top of this, there's no tray to cut, so usually, you can just get it done in one. And then I just use my scissors for this corner. Makes it super easy. You can do some trimming if anything is not perfect or exact. But now you have half. Now again, if you wanna do this with 24 full matchbook boxes, you totally could, but I'm doing

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these halfsies instead. Now, I've made this before for some little girls that I had in my life many, many years ago, and we kept it every year, and I actually redid every piece of paper, redid all the trays, and that took a lot of time, so I'm gonna show you an easier way to assemble this because December 1st is on Thursday. So I have a few others already cut in half. I'm just gonna show you with eight half-boxes instead of the full 24. And all of this comes together super easily with double-sided tape. So I'm double-siding, I'm using double-sided tape to attach the boxes to one another. And if you have any sticking out, that's fine, we're gonna cover everything with paper. It doesn't even matter if your trays are upside-down because you can change them out, so don't be too precious about this. After the first row, I'm not double-siding... I'm not doing tape in between each box, I'm just doing it on the top of each layer, and every subsequent layer. So that's layer two. I'm adding double-sided tape in the front and kind of in the middle because these boxes are starting to splay a little bit. There's three. We can do this, and eight. Let's say we were doing this for Hanukah. Now we need to cut a backing piece, so that all of these little drawers have a back on them so your little gifts don't fall out, and I like to use card stock for that. You could use scrapbook paper that's card stock, or I like to use this gold card stock, and instead of measuring, I'm actually just gonna trace the shape of this. I'll line up this whole little brick, right? Everything is attached now, it makes it super easy to work with. Grab my Sharpie, and I'm just gonna trace... This isn't exact because I'm gonna make the measurement more exact when I go to cut it on my paper cutter. Just need to know roughly. Just using a Fiskars paper cutter. You should be able to get this at your craft store, your local craft store, and I can see the line that I traced, slide that along. This makes it so easy, and I can retrim if anything is off. Okay. That looks good. And then for the sides, I'm gonna do strips of paper, and I think this is about 2 1/2 inches wide. Yeah, so I'm just gonna cut a few strips, this is a text-weight paper, and we just wanna cut 2 1/2-inch strips out of this, and cut a few so that you have some flexibility. You can try different kinds of paper. (adjusting microphone) Sorry everyone, a few technical difficulties. I'm gonna measure 2 1/2-inch strips with my lightweight paper. Again, this is just scrapbook paper, and you can do solids, you can do prints. Let's see. And you can trim things up, too, you can always cut a little bit bigger and then trim things up. Alright, this one I cut a little large. And again, I'm just gonna use double-sided tape for this as well, and I'll just start at the top. I'm just going all the way around. Could use a really cute decorative scissor, could try to line up your dots, but again, you don't have to be precise about that, which I love. Using double-sided tape makes this so easy, because I don't have to wait for anything to dry, nothing is wet, there's no wet adhesive, so nothing is rippled, nothing is distorted in the process. And everything can be trimmed. Alright, so those are my sides, and I still have to put my backing on. We cut this right to size and I think I wanna round the corners a little bit, just using some scissors, and then I'm gonna use Washi tape to attach it. I could also make it a little bit longer on each side, like an inch longer, and then tuck it under the sides. Whatever your preference is. And I'm just eyeballing this, and freehanding it, so it doesn't have to be precise. Good. And then you can use a coordinating or contrasting Washi tape. You know I love my Washi tape, this is like a miracle tape. So much fun to use. I'm gonna leave it long until I get everything on, and then I'll trim it down. What I like about all this fun paper crafting stuff is there are a lot of nontraditional Christmas colors, so we're using teals, which I really like. You could use pinks. It's almost like wrapping a package at this stage. Here, too. Use a little bit of Washi tape on the top. And I'm just gonna trim down anything that's not perfect, just around those corners a little. Remember if you have any questions, feel free to write in. And because my Washi tape was a little short on this side, I'm gonna do one more band of Washi tape. And in this case, the Washi tape is both functional and decorative. Just trim this up so it matches

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the other pieces. And I think I'm gonna add some red and white Washi tape, too, just, I like kind of a patchwork look, these ones all tear instead of cut. What I love about these little boxes is that guess what fits really nicely inside of them? Washi tape. So you could give it as a gift. I'm just kind of re-patterning the top of this. Just a little bit more of this polka dot. Okay, that's looking good. Think I'm gonna do a few more on the back, too, so everything's coordinated. Just for fun. Alright, so now we have this cute little eight-tray set, and it's hard to get everything open right now, because we haven't punched holes and added little pulls, so that's what we're gonna do next. And I'll take out all the trays. Now you'll see that the trays don't have a backing on them. We've created a backing by putting a sheet in the back. If you wanna attach a backing as well, you could do an inch-and-a-half strip of paper that you tape on the inside just using Washi tape or double-sided tape. It's not really necessary if you don't pull the drawer all the way out of the calendar. So I just leave it. And you can use any hole punch. I happen to have a Crop-a-Dile, which is heavy duty. You don't have to use something this heavy duty, but it's super easy because what I love about the Crop-o-Diles is they have these little guides, so you punch at the same depth every single time, and what I'm doing is just the seam happens to come right in the middle of the box here, in the front, so I'm just punching on that seam. Super easy-peasy. And I'm just gonna go ahead and punch all the trays at once. You can add a ribbon for a pull. I like using twine, because it makes a big enough knot that it's not gonna pop through the hole. Something like a thin thread would probably not give you enough thick of a knot, so you wanna think about something that has a little bit more. We're just using a twine. Cut off about 3 1/2 inches or so. And then I'm just gonna do an overhand double knot here. Or an overhand knot, rather, just a single one, not a double one. That did not knot, let's do one more. Can give yourself a little bit more length, if you need it. There we go, I didn't have both the tails in my hand. So that's a double knot. I'll trim it, so it's nice and clean. And then you're just gonna loop this, take the part that is the loop, pinch it between your fingers, and just run it through the hole that you've punched, and you create an easy pull. Now I've got all my other ones tied, so we'll just pop those in. It's a nice way to add a little bit of color and texture, so you could use Baker's Twine. That you might have to do double knots so the knot doesn't pop through the hole. I, of course, wanna fill up my advent calendar with craft supplies, and fun things like that. I think you could fill one with pompoms or, there's so many little mini sets of crayons or super tiny, petite paint sets that would be super fun. You could do candy, of course. You could do something like quotes or inspirational words. I just like, like I said, I like building the anticipation for the holiday. Just need two more here. And one last one. Alright, so you have all of your drawer pulls. You can pop them back in. Now you could number your advent calendar in chronological order starting at one and going to 24, in this case, from one to eight, but you can also randomize it, which is really fun, especially if you're doing this for really little kids, it's kinda fun for them to hunt for their number. You could rubber stamp on this, you could use stickers if you don't like your own handwriting. I think using brush markers are really easy and make it look a little more calligraphic. You don't have to have perfect handwriting for this. I just have a variety of sort of holiday colors, but still in keeping with my pink, red, and aqua. So I could do one here, and maybe two is here. Three is here, I'm alternating between the left and right side. Let's do four. How about five. Six. Seven. And Eight. And then you could add, like I said, stamps or stickers to the front of these. I think it's just really easy to do something like snowflakes. Or you could do holly berries. Maybe that happens in a few places. Do some pink ones here. You could do fun little doodles if you did any of the daily challenges with any of our artists, I'm sure there are a lot of great ideas for making different kinds of imagery. You could do stars, you could do Christmas trees. I feel like the eight you can't really see, so let's change the color on the eight. Little

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starry sky, maybe there's a little moon in there. And that part goes really quickly. Again, you could embellish this with glitter. And then the best part is filling it, of course. So what're we gonna put in here? Maybe we start with a great truffle on day one. Some fun little glittery hair ties on day two. This is my favorite part, is shopping for all the little goodies that go in here. Those glittery hair ties were really popular a while ago, but they're so handy. I think ChapStick would be fun. Do two little ChapSticks. Oops. Let's do some red candy. Like I said, Washi tape fits in here. Rubber stamp could be a nice little thing. Could buy a whole set of rubber stamps and then put them throughout. You could totally customize this to whatever your interests are. A matchbook car, why not? That car's too long, let's put him on his side. There we go. Until your entire calendar is filled. I have a larger version. For the full 24 days. Some more color palate, this is with those teals, pinks, and reds, which I love, that kind of fun, more elevated and kind of more whimsical, if you will, Christmas look. Again, I randomized the numbers, I just used my brush pens, I added some glitter glue for a little bit of shimmer. And then we've got really cute little things hiding in here, like this little bear that Lexi gave Leanna last Christmas. We're not regifting it, don't worry. We miss you, Lexi. Alright, fun little things, like stickers could go in here. This could be as elaborate or as simple as you like, but I like the tradition of it. So let us know what kind of advent calendar you're gonna make on Thursday, that's the first of the month. Again, you could do this for a birthday countdown instead, or for the eight days of Hanukah would be really fun, or just because, maybe you wanna do one in January, because you need something to look forward to. Why not do an advent calendar? We'll see you guys on Thursday for our next live shoot.

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