

Christmas Village Advent Calendar

To make this activity fun and stress-free, try creating this village over a period of a few days or weeks.

Crafter level: Intermediate

Time needed: Several hours

What you'll need

- About 15 to 25 containers, depending on size (if you use all smaller containers, you'll need more of them)
- Craft knife and blades
- Gesso
- Paintbrushes
- Craft or poster paint (we used white and light blue)
- Printout of door and window openings (optional)
- Small jewelry or gift box bottoms, for creating compartments in the large containers
- Masking tape or hot glue gun and glue sticks
- Craft glue
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Scrapbooking paper in colors of your choosing (we used red and white)
- Sticker numbers 1 through 25
- About 10 sheets wood grain scrapbooking paper or card stock
- Scalloped paper trims and borders (available in scrapbooking aisle of most craft stores)
- Double-sided mounting tape or squares (optional)



How to make it

1. Clean out all the containers and let dry. Cut off any protruding spouts with your craft knife. (The holes will be covered by your paper roof pieces.)
2. Apply gesso to the outside of any containers that have a waxy surface. Let dry. Then paint the outside of all the containers with several coats of craft paint, letting dry between coats. At this time, you can paint the insides of the small jewelry and gift boxes, if you want your "rooms" to have color. Let all containers and boxes dry overnight.
3. Determine which containers are large enough to cut more than one opening in. For those containers, cut openings with your craft knife where you want to add your windows. Use the templates provided on Page 3 of this PDF for cutting the doors and windows (optional).
4. Glue or tape the small box bottoms to the inside of the containers behind the window openings to create "rooms." Then cut the remainder of your doors until you have 25 total openings.
5. Now it's time to start decorating your houses! Apply your number stickers 1 through 25 to red scrapbook paper to give them a decorative frame and cut them out (optional). Set aside.

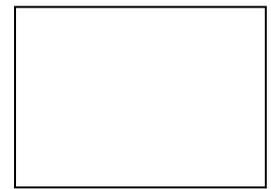
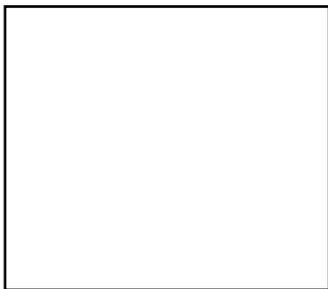
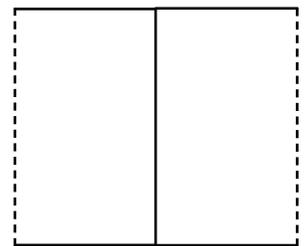
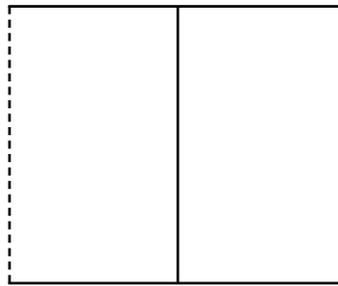
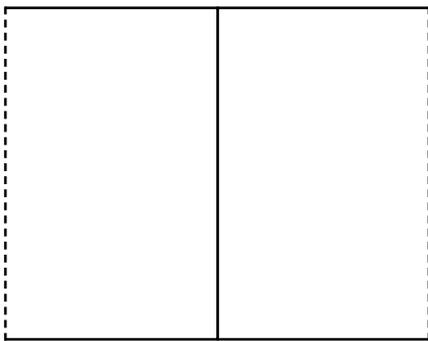
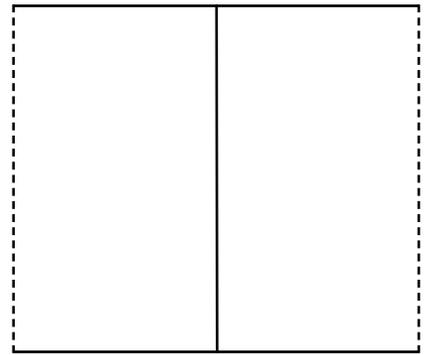
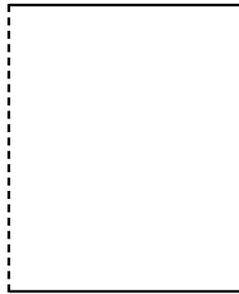
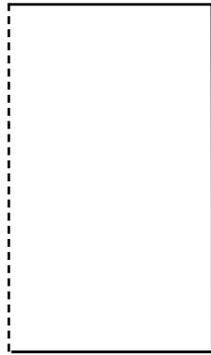
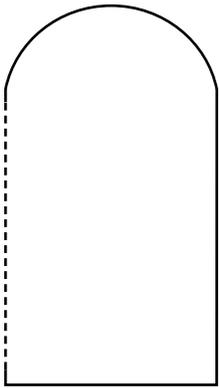
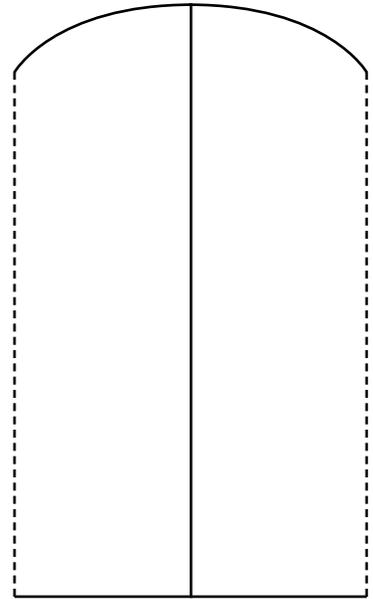
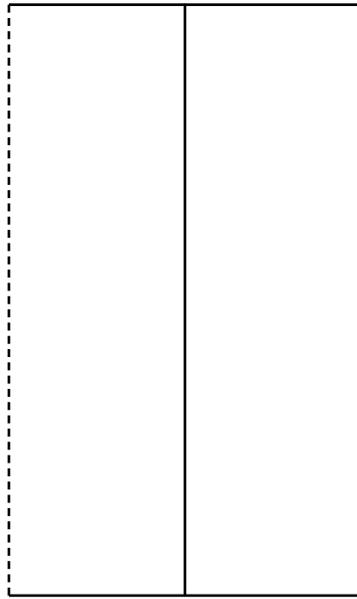
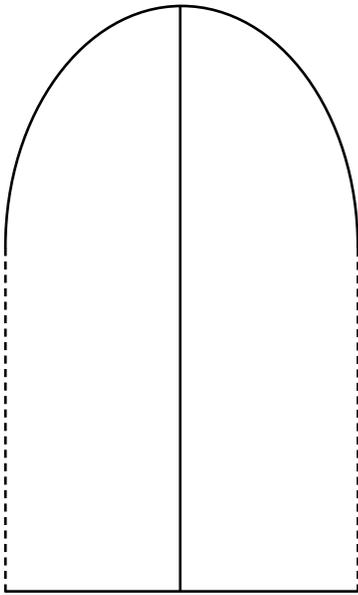




6. Cut wood grain paper into strips about 1-inch wide for the roof and about 1½-inch wide for the roof “peaks” (to cover the top seam of the containers). Snip vertical fringe about every ½ inch along the 1-inch strips to create the look of individual shingles. Snip fringe along both sides of the 1½-inch strips—these will be folded in half over the middle seams of the containers.
7. Measure and cut the strips to equal the width of your containers. Then layer and glue the strips along the tops of the containers starting with the bottom row. We used 6 of the narrow strips for the roof (3 per side), and 1 strip of the wider paper for the roof peak.
8. Once you’ve covered the roofs, it’s time to add your window shutters and doors. Cut pieces from your scrapbook paper to match the sizes of your openings. Glue to the fronts of the doors and windows. If you’ve cut your openings as holes (without flaps), cut a few small rectangles of paper to use as hinges for your paper shutters and doors.
9. Add your number stickers above each door or window. Cut paper trims and borders to fit any openings where you want to add more decoration. Attach with mounting tape or squares to give added dimension (optional).
10. Now fill your Christmas village with little treats and display on a mantel or table!



Christmas Village Advent Calendar Window and Door Templates



Solid lines indicate cutting lines.
Dotted lines indicate folding lines.

