



This creative project was shared by the National Button Society.

CRAFT STICK HOUSE BOX

NBS encourages "no harm" button jewelry and crafting.
Buttons and buckles will not be damaged in the creative process.

DECORATE YOUR BOX WITH BUTTONS WHEN YOU ARE DONE!

Included are sticks and directions for a basic square box that you can decorate with buttons to be a house OR anything else. If you wish to create your own design, that would be awesome, too! This is a good box to store buttons in, because air gets in from the sides and roof lid, letting your polymer and celluloid buttons breathe. I'm sure you remember that buttons need fresh air just like you!

SUPPLIES

- Popsicle/Ice Cream Sticks
- Glue - I chose Elmers, but others also work
- Buttons
- Markers or acrylic paints (optional)
- Chimney pattern of card stock (optional)

PROCEDURES FOR A SQUARE STICK BOX

Count 38 sticks and set them aside for use.

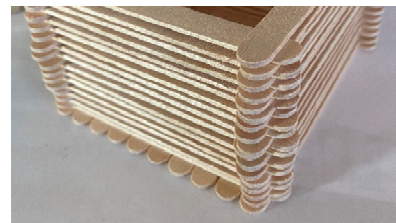
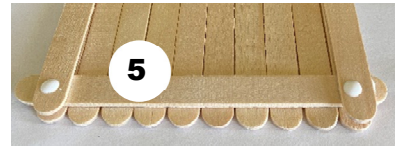
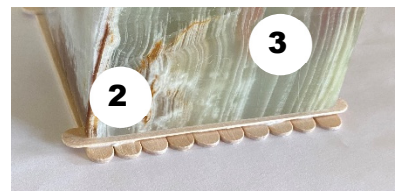
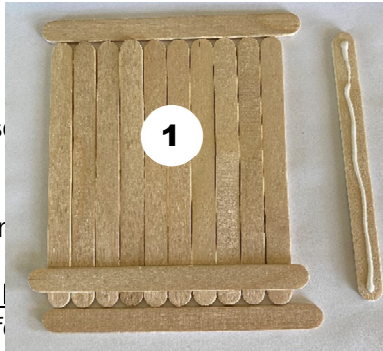
FLOOR AND WALLS

1. Lay out a side-by-side (parallel) base of TEN sticks. Straighten the ends by using a ruler or two sticks (see the illustration).
2. Glue a stick across each end (perpendicular). These two sticks keep the base together, so use a good glue for this.
3. Set a heavy item (a thick book perhaps) on top until the glue takes a good hold (just a couple minutes).
4. Next put a drop of glue near the stick ends and glue two sticks on the two other sides of the square.
5. Continue to alternate back and forth with two sticks at a time to build the walls of the box.

LID

Just like you built the walls up by gluing sticks two by two, you will do the same for your lid, but your lid square will get smaller and smaller.

6. You might want to build your lid WITHOUT GLUE all the way until it is done so that you can be sure it will work correctly. Then when you have got it right, take it apart and glue it together for the final lid.
7. You will start your first round on the top of your walls so that you know they will match each other.





This creative project was shared by the National Button Society.

8. To start, lay two sticks on top of your walls, but do NOT glue them down.
9. Put two sticks perpendicular across these sticks, making a square. Now glue these sticks to the first two. Let this square sit for a bit until the glue sets up. This is the start of your lid.
10. Start the roof sticks. Place the square you just built on your table surface.
11. Place a dot of glue on your two top sticks, at the edge of the bottom sticks or a little inside of that edge. See the picture.
12. Put two sticks perpendicular and a little towards the center from the first sticks. I covered up about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ of the previous sticks. You are building a pyramid.
13. Do the same for the other two sticks perpendicular to the ones you just glued down.
14. Alternate rows staggering the sticks a little closer and a little closer to the center each time, until they are finally touching.
15. Place one final stick on top pointing each way.

STOPS ON THE LID BOTTOM

16. Lay out six sticks. Mark them at 3 inches and cut them off. They should fit inside the side of your stick box. See pictures #16 and #17.
 17. Cut off the six sticks, turn your lid upside down, and make sure they fit inside your outside row of sticks. Put glue on the tips of the short sticks and glue one on each end of your roof.
 18. Put glue along the length of the two other cut sticks.
 19. Stack them on the first short stick. You will have three short sticks stacked. Repeat at the other end of your lid.
- Once the short stack dries, it will keep your lid from sliding sideways off the box bottom. You are done with your stick box!

DECORATE YOUR STICK BOX

You can use paint or markers on your stick box or leave it plain.

You can glue buttons to be windows and doors or just random decorations.

I drew a door and windows on my stick box and made window planters for button flowers. I thought about putting little shirt buttons on the roof to look like shingles, but decided I didn't have enough small buttons.

I did make a little chimney for my box house and cover it with buttons to look like stones.

You can sit your stick box anywhere. If you want to make it a house, you can paint a piece of cardboard or wood to be its "yard" and use sticks, etc. to make a fence, yard and garden.

Try anything you can think of. Nothing will be the wrong thing. Have fun!

