

Surprise Exploding Box

From drab to tropical splendour

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On the outside this box looks very bland and ordinary but inside it hides a colourful tropical paradise. In keeping with the sentiment on the candle this gift box reminds you to not judge a book (or box) by its cover for we never know what is inside or about to break out. So why not grab yourself some supplies and make one for yourself. This was made for a votive candle which has a base of approximately 1.25 inches (3.2 cms) but could have a bath bomb or fizzer nestled in there or could have the base removed and hold anything you fancy. Dimensions could also be increased to make it bigger (and reduced to make it smaller) just remember you need a square with the measurements being easily divisible by 3. Stampin' Up! supplies were used throughout this project and links are at the end.

Inch measurements are in **BLUE** and **centimeters** are in **ORANGE**

Here's how to make the box.

To make the box and lid

1. Take a piece of Cardstock in Crumb Cake measuring **7.5 inches (19 cms)** square
2. Score on each side at **2.5 inches and 5 inches (5.4 and 12.7 cms)**
3. Fold and burnish score lines and cut away all four outer corners. Do not notch in and you don't have to be too careful as the more rudimentary the box looks on the outside the better
4. For the lid cut a piece of Crumb Cake Cardstock measuring **4.5 inches (11.4 cms)** square but add **1/16th of an inch (0.2 cm)** to each side to ensure the lid fits snugly

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5. Score the lid at **1 inch (2.5 cms)** on all four sides
6. Burnish the score lines and cut up the bottom left score line to the first horizontal, turn the paper 90 degrees and repeat in all four corners
7. Now take some of the stamps from your Butterfly Basics Stamp Set and using Basic Gray ink stamp (you could also use stamped off Basic Black) to make it look like an old air mail/par avion package. Stamp directly onto the cardstock and don't worry if it's not perfect again you want it to look weathered, old and a bit battered (distressed might be the technical term). Stamp both the lid and the box cardstock just on the outside.



Now for the insert to hold your candle

1. Take a piece of Emerald Envy cardstock measuring **4.5 inches** square (**11.4 cms**)
2. Score all four sides at **1/2 inch and 1 inch (1.3 and 2.5 cms)**
3. Fold and Burnish all score lines.
4. Take either a **1.5 inch (3.8 cms)** circle punch or a die of the same size and make the hole in the card stock using your eye to ensure it is central or measuring to find the centre if you prefer. You can mark the centre with a large cross as the cut away circle is going to be discarded anyway.
5. Now hold the cardstock right side facing you and you will see four small squares in the bottom corner. Cut away the two on the outer side and the one at the bottom edge of the two remaining. Cut along the horizontal score line of the one remaining until you reach the first score line to cross it. This makes a tiny flap to stick your base together. Turn 90 degrees and repeat on all four sides.
6. Take adhesive of choice, a wet glue or tape is good for this and put on the right side of all four tiny

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corner flaps.

7. Fold the edges of the cardstock in so that the flap sticks to what will be the outer edge of the insert. Repeat on all corners and you can now cut notches out of the remaining edge flaps which will tuck under and have adhesive applied to stick them to the bottom of your box. You can slot a piece of cardstock into the space so that when you remove the candle you are not looking at the bare base and the edges of the insert. You can use a piece of cardstock taken from the corners in step 3 of making the box for this.

Always make sure your candle or gift item fits into the hole cut before sticking the insert together and fastening to the box.



Now to decorate the inside

1. Take a piece of Whisper White cardstock measuring **5 x 5 inches** (12.7 x 12.7 cms)
2. Using the large leaf stamp and Emerald Envy ink randomly stamp onto the cardstock
3. Using the small flower stamp and Daffodil Delight ink randomly stamp onto the cardstock
4. Using the small butterfly stamp and Flirty Flamingo ink randomly stamp onto the cardstock

It doesn't matter if colours overlap or if stamping is not perfect, the piece of cardstock is meant to look like a rain forest type image

5. Now cut the card into 4 same sized pieces and glue onto the inside flaps of the box.
6. Now take the large butterfly stamp and using Emerald Envy stamp 4 butterflies onto Whisper White cardstock scraps

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7. Now take the honeycomb type stamp and using Daffodil Delight stamp onto a piece of vellum large enough to cut 4 butterflies out of (allow to dry well before using)
8. Take Glimmer Paper in Blushing Bride and using the small butterfly die from the Butterflies Thinlits and a Big Shot cut out 4 butterflies.
9. Still using the same die and the Big Shot cut out the 4 Emerald Envy stamped butterflies (use masking tape or a magnetic platform to help with precision)
- 10 Now cut out 4 butterflies from the stamped vellum
11. Using a light dab of liquid glue stick the bottom butterfly to the paper you have just glued to the inside flaps of the box and build the other butterflies up on top of it by applying a tiny amount of glue to the central body of the butterfly only (this will allow you to flick up the wings and really dramatise the triple layer effect).



Now the candle

1. Take or make a small votive candle with a base of **1 1/4 inch (3.2cms)** do not exceed the dimensions of the hole you have made in the base.
2. Ensure that the candle is not taller than **2.5 inches (6.4 cms)** or it won't fit in the box
3. Using Flirty Flamingo and the stamp with the inspirational quote on it stamp onto plain white tissue paper (this can be tissue such as that used for wrapping gifts or that used to make napkins, just make sure it is white, plain and only one layer).
4. Cut the tissue to fit the candle (tearing the edges gives a better effect)

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5. Place the tissue where you want your sentiment to appear on the candle and cover with a piece of greaseproof paper with the greased side on the candle, hold it tightly at the back to not let it slip and so as not to burn yourself.

6 Use a heat tool to warm up the surface of the candle through the greaseproof candle so the tissue absorbs into the wax. Be careful and maybe try this on a spare candle before you get to work on your gift candle. These days many votive candles are made using vegetable waxes which are much softer than parafin wax or a parafin sterin blend which take the heat better. and are traditionally used for pillar candles. Vegetable wax candles tend to be much softer and met much more quickly and when using a small candle it is easy to end up with a very soggy mess.

Crafty Little Tip: If your candle does drip a little rub it on some cardstock or the back of some DSP like a crayon until it is worn down smooth again and this then transfers the fragrance to your card of paper making it fragranced - just remember to make it the back of what you are going to use and remember that adhesives may not stick so well if you put it all over (I keep it to the centre) and also inks will not take on top of the wax so take extra care to make sure it is on the reverse side of any card or paper that you do this with - a little pencil mark will help to remind you.



You're done! Pop your candle in, draw in the box sides and pop the lid on and there it is! A plain and simple little gift box that harbours a beautiful colourful surprise! Using a fragranced candle obviously gives a gorgeous aroma to your gift too.

If these instructions were awkward to follow (it's not easy to write things step by step for all abilities) then please do watch out for my video tutorial coming up on the Crafty Little Things You Tube channel really soon. Bear with me I'm getting there!

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[Stampin' Trimmer \(Metric\) - 129722](#)

Price: £27.00



[Bone Folder - 102300](#)

Price: £6.25



[Simply Scored - 122334](#)

Price: £27.00



[Paper Snips - 103579](#)

Price: £9.00



[Butterfly Basics Clear-Mount Bundle - 139323](#)

Price: £46.75

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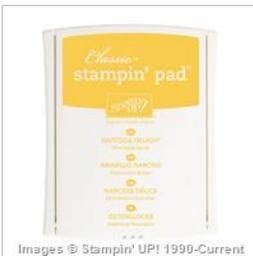
[Butterflies Thinlits Dies - 137360](#)

Price: £22.00



[Emerald Envy Classic Stampin' Pad - 141396](#)

Price: £6.00



[Daffodil Delight Classic Stampin' Pad - 126944](#)

Price: £6.00



[Flirty Flamingo Classic Stampin' Pad - 141397](#)

Price: £6.00



[Blushing Bride Glimmer Paper - 140550](#)

Price: £4.50

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[Vellum A4 Cardstock - 106584](#)

Price: £6.00



[Emerald Envy A4 Cardstock - 141420](#)

Price: £7.25



[Whisper White A4 Cardstock - 106549](#)

Price: £8.25



[Multipurpose Liquid Glue - 110755](#)

Price: £3.75



[Big Shot - 113439](#)

Price: £99.00

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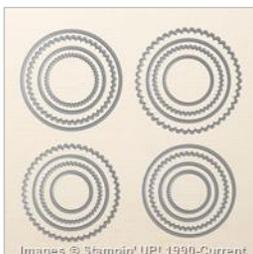
[Magnetic Platform - 130658](#)

Price: £36.00



[1-1/2" \(3.8 Cm\) Circle Punch - 138299](#)

Price: £14.50



[Layering Circle Framelits Dies - 141705](#)

Price: £32.00



[Heat Tool \(Uk\) - 129054](#)

Price: £27.00