

# ADVENT CALENDAR

**YOU'LL NEED:** 1 x MDF Advent Calendar Kit, green acrylic paint (for the main colour), cream acrylic paint (for the numbers), foam brush x 2, Kraftex Antique Cracks Large, Kraftex Antique Cracks Top Coat, Kraftex Decopodge, Kraftex Seal Coat, a selection of co-ordinating scrapbooking papers (for the drawer fronts), Gold oil paint, a soft cloth, a Christmas photo laser copied, wood glue, plastic cup, cellotape, craft knife, sandpaper, newspaper, scissors and a nylon hammer or rubber mallet.



**Step One:** Separate the wooden pieces carefully. Use your craft knife and/or some sandpaper to tidy up the edges if necessary.



**Step Two:** Using your nylon hammer or mallet, put the Advent Calendar together.



**Step Three:** Use Wood Glue to stick the plain base strip on the bottom and clamp in place until it dries. This base strip helps the Advent Calendar to sit straight and not fall forward.



**Step Four:** Paint the whole calendar on the sides, back, front and inside. You will need to do two coats for a good even finish. Another option would be to paint all the pieces before the whole thing is put together.



**Step Five:** Paint Kraftex Large Cracks on the outside top and sides. Dry for at least 30 minutes but no more than 6 hours and then paint a layer of Kraftex Top Coat over the top. Allow up to two days for the cracking to finish. Place it in the sun if possible for faster results or in a warm, dry spot like a hot water cylinder cupboard. Antique Cracks is very temperature dependant and so if it is too damp or cold the cracking will not happen.



**Step Six:** Tape the drawers together and paint them with the green paint.



**Step Seven:** Use a variety of co-ordinating papers to decorate the fronts of the drawers. Stick with decopodge or white glue. Dry. Paint decopodge over the paper fronts to seal the paper.



**Step Eight:** Paint the numbers in the cream paint and allow to dry. Carefully push them out and glue on to the drawer fronts with white glue.



**Step Nine:** Use Decopodge to stick in a piece of co-ordinating paper to the centre square. Next, stick your photocopied photo on top. Dry and seal with Decopodge and dry again. Stick a gold painted wooden star in the corner with epoxy glue or wood glue.



**Step Ten:** Using a clean, soft cloth, rub a very small amount of gold oil paint in to the cracks of the sides and top of the Advent Calendar. (This brings out the cracks). Allow to dry for 24 hours.

**Step Eleven:** Pour some Seal Coat in to a clean plastic cup. Paint the whole advent calendar with Seal Coat including the sides, front and back of the main piece and the drawer fronts and the inside square where the picture is. Seal Coat is a mineral based 'varnish' that will waterproof and protect your Advent Calendar. NOTE: It is necessary to make sure any paper is completely sealed with Decopodge before the Seal Coat is applied otherwise the paper will appear 'wet'.