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## Diy dice tray cigar box

I hate it when I throw my dice and they... fall off the table, knock miniatures over, land tilted half up and off the board (and the associated annulment of a perfect result), they go into snacks, make a loud rattling noise in a box lid... You'd think I never want to play games. But that is not true. The problem is that I've seen beautifully designed cube rolling trays where the felt kisses the rolling polyhedron while padded on a lush, dark green felt bed. I've heard the rich, low thumb-throwing of the dice as they fall over this spongy surface. And I saw the price tag on these cube bowls. 35.00 x 50.00 x 89.00 !?! Do you kidme? What a hickhack?!? There has to be a better way... and there are! Many people have turned cigar boxes into their own. So I thought I'd go and show how I did it. When I applied the dark green felt and jumped the dice in it for the first time, I could almost hear Telly Savalas' voice saying: Vegas, Baby, Vegas. You need a cigar box, a sheet of black adhesive craft foam (it was only green in the store today, so I only blackened a sharpie and in the edges), a sheet of glue (peel & stick) green felt, wood glue, scissors, a metal ruler and an x-acto knife. I bought the glue, felt and foam from Michael's Art Supplies for about 6 dollars. You can get an empty cigar box for a few dollars at each wine and cigar bar. First, you want to make sure that loose wood is glued. The small side parts that close the lid are only kept in place by friction, so I pulled them out and put some glue on and put them back in. Next I cut a paper pattern for the floor and then cut my craft foam to the same shape. Note that it is important to do a paper pattern, as most cigar boxes are not perfectly square. The foam first enters and sticks to

the wood, then the felt is cut from the same pattern and sticks to the foam. Don't worry if the edges aren't perfect. The pages will cover them up! Next, cut the foam for the sides. I left about 1/8 inches from above or so from the top of the box. Make long strips and then trim them to length. Put the foam on the sides and do the best you can with the edges where they hit. The pieces are smaller and you should be able to do a better job with the edges on creating a tight fit. But it doesn't have to be perfect yet! The felt is the magic that hides gaps! cut the felt in the same way you did the foam. Felt is pretty easy to work with, and it can stretch and twist easily, which should get you a nice, professional looking fit. That's it! You're done! For about 30 minutes time and around 10 dollars, you can roll a sweet cube tray that will impress your (nerdy) friends. Monocles will fall out of sight in amazement as your staff at Gentleman's Club who have collected a game by Maurice, discover that you have repurposed something as masculine as a cigar box for an equally masculine activity. The dice are also satisfied; I roll more sixes and twentys. The place for general (edition-neutral) RPG topics and all these non-role-related discussions. Please read the announcements in this forum before posting. Moderators: Matthew-, Warwolf skalding Lesser Deity of Dragonsfoot Posts: 4735 Joined: Thu Nov 02, 2017 13:16 pm Location: Big Tree, Spy Glass Shoulder, with a point to the N. of N.N.E. Post by skalding » Thu Aug 09, 2018 15:35 pm How many of us, I have experimented with various cube boxes/trays/organizers over the years. It is difficult to come up with a good mobile (as opposed to staying at home) system; and I ended up with several dice bags, a pencil bag and a cube tray in a plastic container, an old splinterware box (decorated), an old briefcase or loosely in a bag. (The briefcase was fun, but took up far too much space at the table.) Anyway, I think I've finally developed the perfect combo for me. It is a flat organization box with a pop-off lid that doubles as a cube tray. It stacks nicely with 1e books for transport. The table room (IMO) is ideal for rolling - only larger than a sheet of paper, and the corners are high enough for all non-demented rolls. Besides, it looks much more noble than Tupperware, is very customizable and should be easily repaired if anything should fail/break. I thought I would put this here if someone wanted to copy it, adapt it or make suggestions. (Always looking for ideas.) I think most people can do this (or a version of it) if they're moderately smart and have a few simple hand tools. Directions below. Here's how I made this: 1) Get an old wooden box. This is a cigar box that is 7.5 x 12.5 x 1.75 inches. It stacks nicely with the 1e Dimension books, and I recommend flat and flat anyway - with just enough space to hold a d30 or your biggest cubes. When buying, measure enough space to place for the cork lining, which you put in about 1mm or 1/32 inches thick (which are doubled for lining both the bottom and the lid.) 2) Carefully pry the hinges and bars. (This gives you two cube shells, the lid and the bottom. I have a version with the hinges and bars intact, and while good for transport, the completely removable lid/tray is IMO's far superior version.) 3) Line the inside of the box and the lid with cork. I used shop bought cork sticker back shelf lining. This was probably the most expensive but it was worth it. When you go this route, the key is to easily intersect the pieces and trim them with a razor blade as soon as they are in place. Have some denatured alcohol nearby as the blade becomes sticky. I finally went with an old thin razor blade that led from the cork side to stumble the vertical edges. Additional cork can be used to the bottom of the box (I used two strips and they do the job - but I had enough left to do the whole floor, or make a second dice box completely.) You can also leave your own completely unlined, or line only the bottom /up (as opposed to the edges), or line just the top/lid and leave the bottom naked. You could try fabric or leather or wrinkles and some Elmer glue or other glue - but I prefer to roll on the cork. (When going with fabric/leather/pleather, a good cheap source is often frugal jackets - buy an injured one and cut the pieces from the back. (Or ask if they throw out unsaleable leather couches/loungers and recycle leather/recycle for nothing.) A beautiful Wolltwill e.H. could be a good thing to experiment with and will probably be my next project.) Whatever you do, make sure it doesn't shrink the inner dimensions of the box too much for the dice. 4) Optional - I used small magnets and super glue to attach the lid to the box. The internal frame (next bit) helps to secure the box so that the lid does not slip horizontally. But you'll probably want a little more security. If you don't make magnets, you can use anything to buckle it for transport including a large rubber band. Here is a decent magnetic source, just be sure to measure the width of your box carefully before you order. ( If you do this, I recommend turning a drill by hand to make the hole - cigar boxwood is soft. Also, make sure that the N/S poles are lined up on the box and lid. Otherwise it is a pain to repeat it. The magnets and the frame should keep the lid on for most things. 5) Get about 1 x .25 inch (or skinnier) slats to make the internal frame. This is the nastiest part, but it's what makes this a totally great box. The key is that you do not permanently attach this to the bottom of the field. On this, the longest pieces are slotted, and the shorter vertical slots, including the end pieces, fit into them. (You can use a miter saw or file to create the slots for the internal bits.) I didn't glue it at all - I used cardboard scrapers from the back of a notepad to fill the gaps, of which I had only one. (The cork makes it tight and forgiving.) Also sandpaper the outer edges of the inner frame, so that the exposed tops are curved in the direction of the center of the box, and so the lid can easily slide on it and buckle. (I shot the pieces, but you have to This is the key design bit for me - the inner frame will put the lid on (along with magnets /a band / a strap). It will organize your stuff. But if you can't stick it into the bottom of the box you: 1) easily remove a new set of internal frame parts for a new custom configuration 2) remove it completely from the box to get two dice trays - the lid, and the now empty box. This can be good for certain games 6) Finally - decorate it. Obviously you can paint stickers, stencil, whatever. I will print and shoot the 1e DM screen image on the outside. I wanted to use some old dice to make feet for the box (stick a d20 to every corner), but I decided that I still wanted this as a put it in a bag mobile cube box. But for the house dying feet would be fun. It came to 5 dollars for the box in a thrifty shop, 5 dollars for the magnets, 12 dollars? for the cork shelf lining from the local hardware store, and I harvested the lattice plywood. You need razor blades, sandpaper and ideally a miter saw/file for the internal grid. Shellack/poly/paint - if you have it lying around. And a little patience. But it's worth it. Anyway, I hope someone finds this useful - questions, comments, recommendations, substitutions, suggestions are all appreciated. If you want to run this as a concept dry to see how it works for you, I recommend getting a shoebox and cutting it so you have the lid and an inch thick bottom. Use the spare box to make the internal frame/organizer and load your stuff in. Carry it around, set up a shop, roll into the lid. Last edited by skalding on Thu Aug 09, 2018 16:09 pm, a total of 3 times edited. serleran Ancient Deity of Dragonsfoot Posts: 33325 Connected: So Mar 14, 2004 8:15 am Post by serleran » Thu Aug 09, 2018 15:51 pm I personally want one that was shaped like a skull and the cubes could roll out the eyes or mouth. Maybe insert out of sight, instead. --- You wear to look like human guys, but you're not a man, You're a Chicken Boo. skalding Lesser Deity of Dragonsfoot Posts: 4735 Joined: Thu Nov 02, 2017 13:16 PM Place: Big Tree, Spy Glass Shoulder, with a Point to N. of N.N.E. Post by skalding » Thu Aug 09, 2018 16:04 serleran would be personal like one that was shaped like a skull and the cubes could roll out the eyes or mouth. Maybe insert out of sight, instead. If you send me your skull for a mold base, I'll see what I can do for you. bobjester Greater Deity of Dragonsfoot Posts: 8403 Joined: Sat Nov 11, 2006 22:56 pm Location: My Cup Runneth Over Post by bobjester » Thu Aug 09, 2018 16:06 pm serleran wrote!: would be personal like one that was shaped like a skull and the cubes could roll out the eyes or mouth. Maybe insert out of sight, instead. A skull chucker? I found several cigar boxes of different quality and passed on the idea for the use of my players as dice boxes. I found an old discarded art case, barely bigger than a i am currently using. The case has a handle and simple latch - so you can carry it briefcase style, and flips open flat in two equal sized shells. I glued green felt on both sides to the inside, so I have two green felt roller surfaces. The only problem I have is to develop a way to create a cube tray for a page to store cubes neatly when not in use or transport. Transport. it's right now, all D&D is with me, so I never really have to move the case, so my dice during movement won't all mumbly jumbly. Thank you for publishing this as I may need to find the wooden slats you have pictured above and create compartments for the cubes on one side, although I have no woodworking tools to notch the sides of the housing inside. Maybe I need to think about it to avoid my lack of suitable tools, work spaces or wood skills. If I could just buy a removable plastic tray to insert into the case so that the cubes reside comfortably and don't mix during transport, that would be ideal. Skalding Lesser Deity of Dragonsfoot Posts: 4735 Joined: Thu Nov 02, 2017 13:16 Pm Place: High Tree, Spy Glass Shoulder, with a Point to N. of N.N.E. Post by skalding » Thu 09 Aug 09, 2018 16:25 bobjester wrote:serleran would be personal like one that was shaped like a skull and the cubes could roll out the eyes or mouth. Maybe insert out of sight, instead. A skull chucker? I found several cigar boxes of different quality and passed on the idea for the use of my players as dice boxes. I found an old discarded art case, barely bigger than a D&D book I'm currently using. The case has a handle and simple latch - so you can carry it briefcase style, and flips open flat in two equal sized shells. I glued green felt on both sides to the inside, so I have two green felt roller surfaces. The only problem I have is to develop a way to create a cube tray for a page to store cubes neatly when not in use or transport. As it is now, everything is D&D with me, so I never really have to move the case, so my dice during movement will not all mumbly jumbly. Thank you for publishing this as I may need to find the wooden slats you have pictured above and create compartments for the cubes on one side, although I have no woodworking tools to notch the sides of the housing inside. Maybe I need to think about it to avoid my lack of suitable tools, work spaces or wood skills. If I could just buy a removable plastic tray to insert into the case so that the cubes reside comfortably and don't mix during transport, that would be ideal. I have the folding box approach (repurposed briefcase), but table room is always a problem. So I love the new detachable lid. (Players can hand it over back and forth if necessary.) FWIW, slotting is not very hard to do - basically are only deposit / saw a notch in which another piece fits. Also, if you look closely, in this design the slits are not carved into the cigar box itself - there are two long lattice pieces on the top and bottom, and the slits are carved into them. You place the two long pieces in the box and press the ribs into the slots. They don't have to be tight - just tight enough not to move around in traffic. Personally, I like the grid grid because I get box utility, but two trays when I need them. I just stack the lattice pieces on the side. And the bottom of my box is fully lined with cork, just like the lid. But I think a tight plastic tray would work just as well. The trick is always to find one, but it fits . . . bobjester Greater Deity of Dragonsfoot Posts: 8403 Joined: Sat November 11, 2006 10:56 PM Location: My Cup Runneth Over Post by bobjester » Thu Aug 09, 2018 16:31 Yes, I've seen what you call grids, and it's ideally better than sawing notches in the case itself, and is an excellent approach. But this kind of craftsmanship is about my means and skills, right now. Anything sheer, X-acto knife, glue & color, but I'm good enough not to make it a total botch, so I'll go the plastic way. Thorfinn Skullsplitter Lesser Deity of Dragonsfoot Posts: 3698 Joined: Mon Sep 03, 2012 19:49 pm Post by Thorfinn Skullsplitter » Thu Aug 09, 2018 18:18 pm BitD, I did something similar, but started with a cheap backgammon board. Upholstery and everything was already in place. Removable partition, as I think you speak (pictures don't show me anyway), different sizes for pencils and markers, cubes, etc. I eventually replaced the central hinge that separates when opened, so that there were two bowls. But nothing skull-shaped... Skalding Lesser Deity of Dragonsfoot Posts: 4735 Joined: Thu Nov 02, 2017 13:16 PM Place: High Tree, Spy Glass Shoulder, with a Point to N. of N.N.E. Post by skalding » Thu Aug 09, 2018 20:08 pm D.J. wrote:I use the parts plastic boxes. Some have movable partitions, others do not. I've seen some DMs use the plastic fishing box for bait, which is usually clear to carry cubes and miniatures. No photos of them on my cube website, I have to work on it next week. Let us know when they are up. I don't make miniatures, but if I did this kind of box would make perfect sense. (Don't think you could really significantly improve this design.) Thorfinn Skullsplitter wrote: BitD, I did something similar, but started with a cheap backgammon board. Upholstery and everything was already in place. Removable partition, as I think you speak (pictures don't show me anyway), different sizes for pencils and markers, cubes, etc. I eventually replaced the central hinge that separates when opened, so that there were two bowls. Yes, my old wooden bag was like that - but it was just too big. I had a smaller backgammon board/box, but I had trouble finding one that wasn't glued to it. Preferences. That means it would probably work just as well (or better than) the cigar box. In fact, if you have two, you could replace the hinges on one with another set of bars from the other. Do you have pictures? Does anyone else have trouble seeing the pictures? EOTB Greater Deity of Dragonsfoot Posts: Posts: Accession: Thu 21 December 2006 19:42 Location: Teleport without errors Contact: Post by EOTB » Thu 09, 2018 20:25 pm Very cool A MeWe OSRIC group - find an online game; share a monster, class, or spell; Enter an input of what you want for new OSRIC products. Only not 1) talk religion/politics, or 2) a Richard skalding Lesser Deity of Dragonsfoot Posts: 4735 Joined: Thu Nov 02, 2017 13:16 pm Place: High Tree, Spy Glass Shoulder, with a dot on the N. of N.N.E. Post by skalding » Sat Aug 11, 2018 12:01 am McDeath wrote: Can we get a close-up of this d2? Both sides? Love these metal cubes. It was a poor quality King George 1917 penny. I've polished some of the font and polished it on a wheel - it's bronze, so it gets a beautiful gold-like shine that's clearly not copper-looking. It is a good prop with players and gives a nice ring when it is tipped for every 50-50 situation. You can get them for a few dollars on ebay. Ebay.

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