Holiday Card Display with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Card Display
- [Cameraman] Go. - Hi, everybody, welcome to Creativebug. I'm Courtney, coming at you live, like we always do on Tuesdays and Thursdays, which means you can write in and ask us questions, so be sure to do so. We always love getting all of your questions and comments. A lot of you have a lot of great ideas about variations on the projects that we make on these live shoots, so feel free to join us, any time during the shoot. And, right now, we're about knee-deep into the holiday season, which means, if your house is anything like my house, my kitchen counter is covered in holiday newsletters, Christmas cards, and pictures of my friends' babies, so, I thought I would show you a quick and easy way to make a little card display, that you can adapt to the size of your space. You can make a small version of this, a large version of this, and it's really fun and super economical to make. And I kind of toyed around with some different ideas, but what we're going to be using are wooden paint stirrers from the hardware store. I just picked these up at my local hardware store, here in San Francisco, and they were about a quarter apiece. If you are in a little town, maybe your hardware store will give you them for free, or maybe you already have them lying around. You could, of course, adapt this to some other kind of wooden stick, or any kind of scrap board you might have on hand, and you need hot glue, and if you want to paint this, you can use some craft paints, and then you'll also need some little clothespins. I like these mini ones. You can often find these at the craft supply store. Sometimes they're painted, you can paint your own, and they come in a variety of sizes. You could even use large clothespins, but I like these mini ones, since we're just clamping together cards and newsletters and not anything super heavy duty. I just want to give you a few ideas for layout. If you wanted something super, super simple, maybe to place in a really narrow space in your home. Like, I normally display a Christmas card in this little tiny space in the hallway, that's between the front door and the closet, and it's just about a foot and a half wide, so you could do just two overlapping paint stirrer sticks, hot glued together, and you can paint them out and attach your clothespins, here. You could do something like a snowflake. Something like that. You can even add another paint stirrer, have these overlapping. It's almost like playing with little kids' building blocks. You get to play with different types of geometric shapes, and figure out what kind of shape your lines will make. These particular paint stirrers, I really like, because they have a slight little, kind of, neck, or, kind of, divot, here, so that's fun to kind of think about in your overall design. So a snowflake would be something like that. you can do something very simple, like just a triangle. You could put a stem on that. You could do overlapping triangles, if you want to do a Star of David. So, it's nice to just lay everything out and get it, kind of, adjusted before you hot glue anything into place. Another thing that you might want to consider, is if you do want to paint it, I find it easier and a little more consistent if you paint your stir sticks first, so figure out your design and then do a quick paint. You can use spray paint, if you like. You could line these all up. I would tape them on the back to keep them together, just with some painter's tape, and you could actually just use a paint roller to roll the paint out on all of them at once. My favorite technique is a super simple. I really like using a dry brush. If you have seen any of my service designer painting classes on Creativebug, you'll know that these hardware store brushes are my favorite to use. And I don't add any water with my craft paint, and my hardware store brush. I just get the tips of my brush loaded with paint. Not too much, because I really want these little bristles to separate, because this is a very

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coarse-bristled brush, and then I just do some dry brushing, so you can make that as dense a color or as soft a color as you like, and I would paint all my sticks first, and then assemble them. It's nice to lay out your design first, just so you know how many paint sticks that you need to paint, to begin with. I'm just going to set that aside. I wanted to show you, kind of, a tall Christmas tree, where I've painted all the sticks in advance, overlapped them, and just hot glued them together, so you get a really simple Christmas tree, and your little clothespins get hot glued on like that. I think we could make a star together. That's what I was thinking. This would be great on a really large wall or big open space. I'm not cutting down my paint sticks, which makes it really easy to compose this, so this would be good over the back of the couch, or, I was thinking, over a fire place. I have one, kind of, on the set, back here, that's just a wreath style, made with either five or six paint stirrers. I'm paying attention to where that little taper goes. I'm going to have that at all of my points, I think. So you just lay it out, and then you can adjust the angles of everything before you actually hot glue it into place. I'm never that great about sending out Christmas cards. Sometimes I send out New Year's cards, or if I'm really late, I send out a Valentine's Day card, but you can use this concept for anything. It could be birthday cards that you want to save. It could be business cards in your home office, just post cards friends sent to you. I have a lot of friends that I correspond with just with post cards and mail. It's fun to save the envelopes if they're addressed with really pretty lettering, so this is a great idea, and it's very lightweight, too. It's not super heavy. It's not going to put a huge hole in your wall. You can tack this up with just a thumbtack. I'm just adjusting my star, here, to make sure everything looks pretty even, and I like the angles. I'm not going to paint this one. I like the neutral look. Everything needs to be overlapping a little, so that I have a place to glue, and I'm just adjusting it, and I think that looks good, so once you have your design in place, hopefully your hot glue gun is warming. I'm using, kind of, a hardware store style hot glue gun, because the glue is much hotter, and I think it holds a little bit better than your average craft store hot glue gun, but feel free to use whatever you have on hand. Those are the best tools, the ones that are readily available to you when you are ready to be creative. And I'm just placing a little bead of glue down, and pressing things into place, and have a little bit of working time. The hot glue is pliable for about a minute before it sets up entirely, which is just the right amount of flexibility to allow you to glue these pieces together and just kind of reposition the angles to make sure your star looks good. - [Woman] We have our first question. - Remember, you guys can write in and ask questions. Sounds like we have a question. - [Woman] Zieda is just joining us, and she wants to know, "What kind of sticks are these?" - Hi, Zieda, thanks for joining us. If you're just joining us, I am making a Christmas card, or holiday card, display. I kind of went over different shapes that you could do, and these are just using a very simple paint stir stick, that I picked up from my local hardware store. If you're just getting a couple, it's likely that your hardware store will give them to you for free. Because I was getting about 20 or so, to play with different types, when I was coming up with this craft. I think they were about 25 cents apiece, so very affordable. A great thing to do with old paint stir sticks that you could be really fun with layers of paint on them. This doesn't have to be just for Christmas or for the holidays. You could do this for cards that you get all year long. It could be a nice look back at your year, when you get birthday cards, or announcements. I feel like I'm getting a lot of wedding and baby announcements right now, and have been, over the last year, so this would be a great display for that. But if you want to substitute this with some other kind of reclaimed wood, you totally can. And this last guy, I'm just going to hold in place. Let's make sure everything is connected and set up. You can see I have a giant star. And if you are joining us a little bit later, you could paint this now, but I actually recommend painting your sticks in advance, because I think you get, like, a cleaner

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overall color application. If you come in and paint it now, you may get some gaps or, kind of, denser paint where your sticks overlap, but don't worry about that. You could have a prototype or you could flip it over and paint the back. This particular one has all of my hardware store information on the back of it, so I'm using the plain side, facing up. Alright, that is set up. I just want to make sure everything is connected. Looks good, and now we can add our clothespins. As I said before, you can get clothespins in the scrapbook section, usually, in your local craft store, at your hardware store. Right now, because of the holidays, I found these little mini clothespins in lots of different places. I happened to go to the container store to get this little pack, and they come in a variety of sizes, and these ones are already painted, but you can paint your own. You could even add washi tape to them, if you wanted. And I'm just going to hot glue these into place, also. I think it's actually easier to just do a little bit of hot glue on the back of the clothespin, itself. And you can have your cards ready, if you want. I like to just kind of place these randomly, but if you do have your cards, and you, kind of, have thought about where they're going to go, you could attach them first, and then glue the clothespins on. Just depends on how you want to work. They're pretty flexible. I mean, the nice thing is that once the clothespin is down, you can choose to put the card in any direction that you like. And I'm alternating here, between green and red clothespins. Again, you could use washi tape and do glitter ones. I'm kind of spacing them out every six inches or so. If you find that that's not enough, then you can add more. And the nice thing about using the hot glue, as opposed to another type of glue, is that it sets up pretty quickly, which makes this a very easy craft to put together in just less than a half hour, if you have all your materials ready to go. Do any of you guys have any Christmas card traditions, or holiday card traditions? I think, in France, they do something called some kind of fishguard. It's like (in French) something something, and they send it out, not during the holidays. It comes a little bit after. Of course, like I said, I like to send out Valentine's Day cards, because I'm always too rushed during the holidays to remember to send these out. I was just thinking about how cute it would be to do one of my dog, Charlie, but, of course, Christmas is like two weeks away, not even. So, maybe that will be a Valentine's Day card. I'm just kind of scattering these clothespins everywhere. And like I said, you can add more later, if you feel like this isn't enough for the amount of cards that you have. You can also mix in post cards or bits of travel ephemera. You can adapt this concept to anything. It doesn't have to just be holiday cards. But it's a fun, kind of, alternative to, like, a wreath, or something else you'd place on a wall. Alright, we'll just do a few more clothespins. I've probably used something like 15 or 20 clothespins for this star, but it's a pretty large star. You'd need less than that if you wanted to do something more like a wreath, which is what I did over the mantle piece, here. Alright, that looks good. Now we can test it out. Got some cute kids and a dog in that one. You can have these open or closed. There's, like, so many more styles of holiday cards these days. There's, like, folding ones, and ones that are panoramic, and they're usually printed on the front and the back. My family never really sent out an annual holiday card. I think rounding everyone up to get a picture where everyone was smiling would probably be pretty difficult. Alright. Maybe we'll put this one here. I really like that image. And you're all set. Now, you could install this right onto your wall. Like I said, a thumbtack would even do it. You don't even have to put a nail in, because this is so light. If you are doing it into brick or something like that, then you could do a little nail, and then you may want to add the cards, on the table, or you can put them ... Once your piece is hanging, you can do them right on the wall, what ever is easier for you, but this is a thing that can change over the season. You can set it up at the beginning of the month and then add cards as they come in. Keeps your counters clutter free, and I think it's nice to kind of look back and reflect. Kids change so much in the span of a year, so it's really fun for me to look through of

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pictures of my friend, Alisha's, daughter, and how much she's changed over the last couple of years. My friend, Rebecca's, little boy, who's going to be, I think, two in this coming year. So that's really fun to do, and if you're still needing a Christmas or holiday present idea, Creativebug is 365 days of inspiration, and if you purchase a yearlong subscription to Creativebug, so it's 12 full months for 50 dollars, you can give the gift of creativity, and get a gift for yourself. We're doing a special offer where you can get a 15 dollar Amazon gift card for you, in addition to purchasing the Creativity gift on Creativebug, for your friend, and Allie's going to be posting that link now. Have a great week. We'll see you on Thursday, and thanks for joining us live.

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