

Hexagonal Gift Box

What you will need to recreate this project:

3 x A4 sheets medium weight card (approx 200/230 gsm)

or 2 x A4 sheets & off-cuts of the same card

Compass fitted with a sharp HB (regular) pencil

Tacky glue

Decorative paper to cover box

Embellishments to decorate

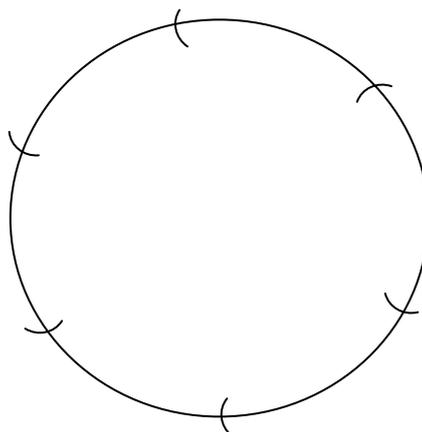
Assembling the project:

I have made a variety of these boxes to perfect the technique, but for this project we will be making the box at the base of the stack in the main image.

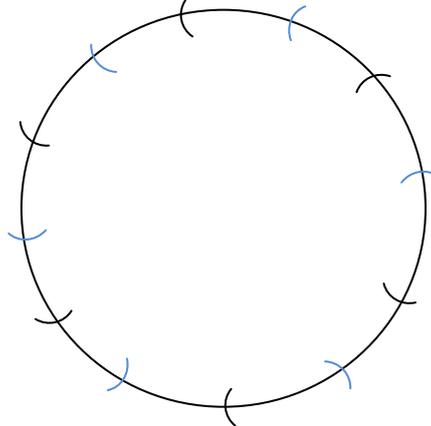
I could probably have made it easy for you by giving you the hexagonal templates but I have figured out an easy way to create them, so wanted to share that with you in this project. This way you will be able to create hexagon boxes in any size you want in the future.

Okay, check that the point of the compass & the pencil are level & then extend the arm against your ruler so that the span is exactly 6.4cm. Draw the circle on one of your sheets of card – don't alter the compass position as we need to keep it at 6.4cm for the next part.

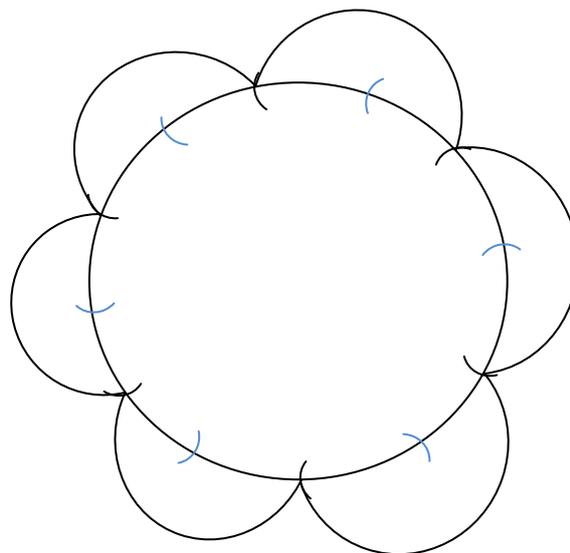
Put the point of the compass somewhere on the line of the circle you just drew & turn it so that you are able to make a mark where the pencil intersects the line in two places, above & below the compass. Move the compass point to one of those intersecting lines & use it to draw a third line, move the point of the compass to that line & repeat until you have six equally spaced marks around the circle. See diagram below.



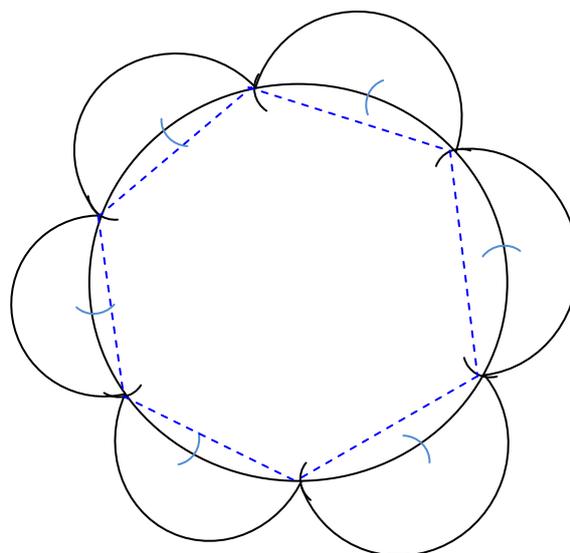
Reset your compass to 3.2cm & using one of the first marks as reference add a second mark between each of the first. See blue markings in the diagram below.



Do not reset compass but use the 3.2cm setting, place the point of the compass in one of the blue marks where it intersects the circle & draw a half circle on the outside of the original circle forming 'petals'. I have drawn another diagram for you & believe me when I say it was harder to do the diagram than the real thing!



Now with your ruler & pencil score a line between each of the initial black points to form your hexagon, (see diagram below), these should each measure 6.4cm & ideally these lines should connect to one another at the points or you will have gaps in the corners of your finished box.



Repeat to form a second hexagon but configuring this one with the compass span of 6.6cm rather than the 6.4cm span we used for the first, & 3.3 for the 'petals'.

Cut around both circles & carefully fold the scored lines leaving them folded as a guide to folding the others, you are aiming for each corner to form a point. Repeat with the second hexagon & then put both aside while preparing the sides of the box & lid.

I like square cards so I always have loads of strips of card left over from trimming down A4 sheets, if you have some of these lurking around they are ideal for creating the sides of your box. Though you can make the box as tall as you wish, I used up some of my off-cuts to create the sides of this box.

For the lid I cut down a strip to measure 5cm wide & 20.8cm long. For the base I left the width of the strip as it came - around 6/6.2cm but cropped the end off to get a 20.2cm length, you will need two of each. The strip for the lid needs to be a little longer because it has to fit over the strip we use for the box base when it is all made up.

Lay the wider strip horizontally on your work surface & butt the ruler up against the bottom of it, align the left hand edge to the zero marking on your ruler. Mark the following points: 6.4; 12.8 & 19.2 along the base of the strip, remove the ruler & butt the second identical strip up against the first & transfer the markings to that one too.

I have a score board so only need one mark to allow me to score, but if you don't have a score board you will need to swap the strips over, moving the top one to bottom so you can carry on transferring the measurements to the top & bottom of both strips.

Put these aside until you mark up the narrower strips that will form the sides of the lid.

Lay the first strip horizontally again & butt the ruler up against the bottom, align the left hand edge with the zero as before, this time the measurements you need to mark are as follows: 6.7; 13.4; 20.1 & 21.1cm. These measurements are slightly larger than on the base as it has to fit over the top of that when we put it all together. Repeat the steps above to transfer the markings on to the other strip of card.

Basically all of the panels measure the same as the initial compass setting, so 6.4cm for the base & 6.6cm for the lid in this instance - but this depends upon the weight of your card, so if yours is heavier you may need to take that up to 6.5 & 6.7cm.

Understanding this point will help you to make hexagonal boxes in any size you want, rather than being tied to the size of any templates you may have, then you are really only limited by the size of the card you have available.

Score in all of the lines you have marked on all four strips & then use the 1cm tabs at the end of each to join together the two narrowest one's & then the two wider one's together using Tacky glue, thus forming two hexagonal 'rings'.

Finally we put the parts together & find out how accurate your measuring was!

Sit the shortest of your hexagon rings upright on your work surface, apply Tacky glue liberally to each of the folded 'petals' on the smallest of your hexagons & drop it inside of the hexagon 'ring'.

The trick is to keep it all level on your work surface so that when turned upright everything will be flush. Unfold the tabs one by one & stick them to the inner wall of the hexagon 'ring'. Once the glue begins to grip turn the work on its side & secure the tabs into position with your bone folder. They need to be completely flush with the inner wall to enable the lid to slip seamlessly onto the base.

Repeat for the larger hexagon & 'ring' to create the base of your box - I found a long bone folder was a great help with the securing of these 'petals'.

Now all that is left to do is to decorate your box!