

# Advent Calendar

A jolly and Christmassy advent calendar that can be restocked yearly and used for generations to come.

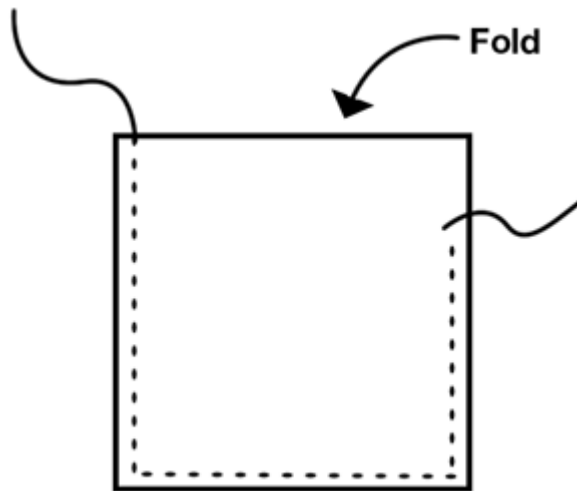
## Materials

1 metre of white cotton fabric	1/2 meter white cord
1/2 metre green felt	7 small black beads
50 mother of pearl buttons	3 very small black beads
1 special button	2 small buttons
9 bells	small length of ribbon
2x 1/2 metre wooden dowelling	red, green, gold & black threads

Fabric paints in red, green, gold, yellow, black & blue.

## Method

- Cut 24 pieces of white cotton fabric. (13 x 26cm each)
- Fold in half and iron.
- With a small, straight stitch, sew three quarters of the way round.
- At the start and finish of this seam, go back about three stitches and then forward again using reverse stitch to strengthen.
- Cut the excess off these seams and corners before turning the right way round.
- Iron all 24, with the loose edge ironed into the fabric square. This will be sewn up later.
- Draw out and cut around the templates.
- Draw around these templates lightly and directly onto the white fabric squares.

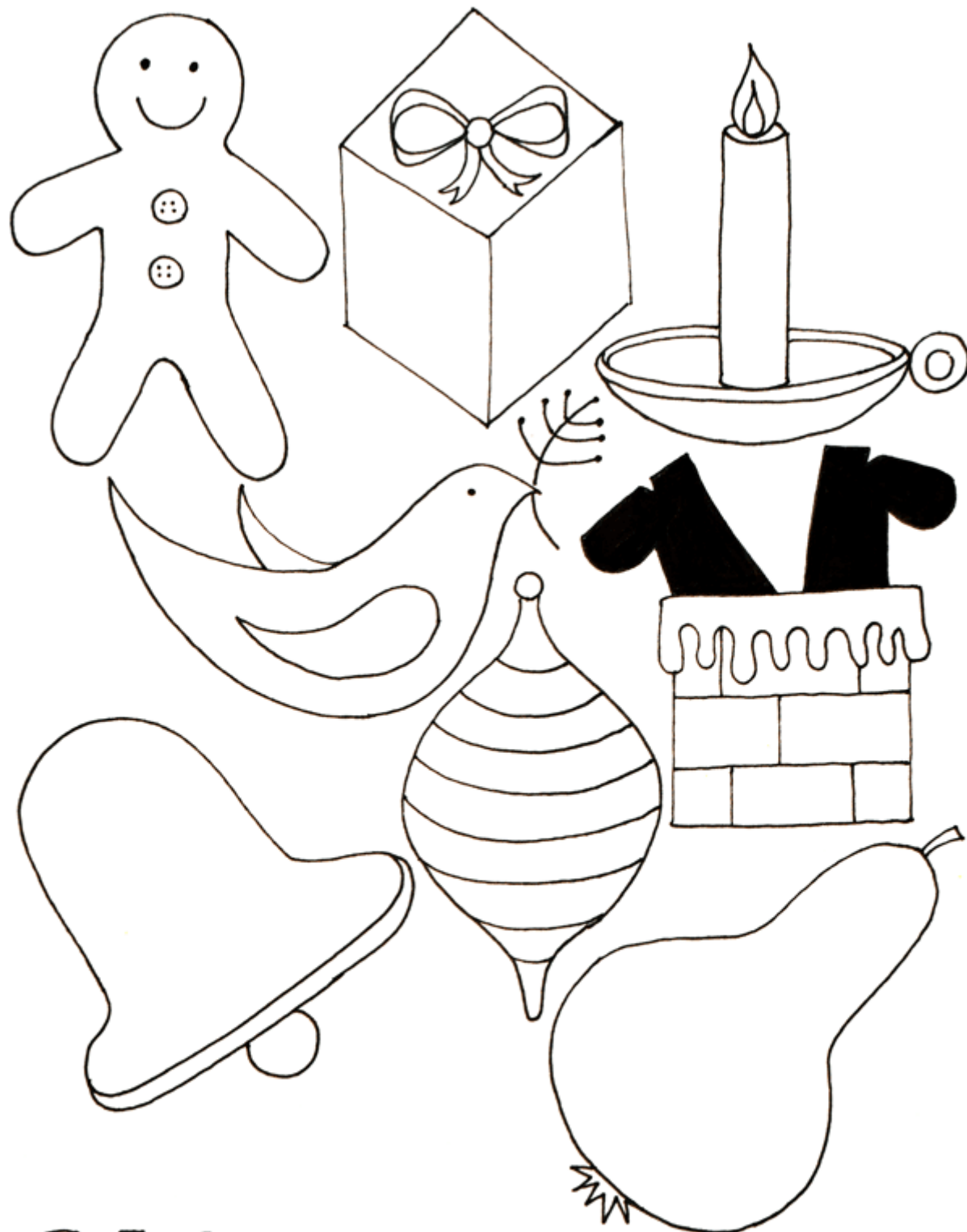


Most of the designs are bold & simple.

- Using the fabric paints colour in the images.  
Fabric paints are easy to use and quick to dry.
- Once dry, iron to fix the dyes.
- Using your darning foot, with the dog feed down and the stitch length at zero.
- Free machine embroidery in the appropriate or contrasting colours around the images and numbers.
- Add the beads, buttons and bow by hand to the gingerbread man, snowman, robin, dove and present.
- Using the buttonhole stitch, make button holes in the middle at the top of each fabric square. (This will make you an expert at buttonholes)
- Take the half metre of green felt, making sure the edges are cut straight, fold over and sew a seam along the top, giving enough allowance for your dowelling to fit snugly.
- Starting at the top, sew a row of 4 buttons onto the felt.
- Button the first 4 squares to these, and pin the bottom of the squares too.
- With a white thread in the machine, stitch around 3 sides, leaving an opening at the top to form a pocket. (This also closes up the loose seam where the fabric was turned the right way round)
- Continue sewing down the buttons and fabric in rows until you reach the end.
- Use an extra special button for the top of the Christmas tree.
- Fold over the green felt at the end and stitch a seam in green thread, again wide enough to fit the dowel snugly.
- Trim of excess felt.
- Sew the spare mother of pearl buttons down the sides, attach 9 golden bells at the bottom.
- Attach the cord securely to the top.
- Slide the two lengths of dowelling into the top and bottom seams.
- Now it is ready to fill up with goodies of your choice each year. ENJOY.







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