



ANASTASIA'S EMBROIDERED HEART BOX

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As the crafts editor at *American Woman*, Anastasia designs quick, easy, and inexpensive craft projects that leave her readers with a sense of pride over the finished product. This embroidered heart box can be made from Valentine candy boxes or heart-shaped inexpensive papier mâché or wooden boxes found at craft stores.

Materials: any size heart-shaped box; thin marker; acrylic spray or brush-on primer and paint in your choice of color; paintbrush (optional); four pieces of felt in complementary colors; four skeins of embroidery floss in complementary colors; embroidery needle; scissors; small, medium, and large heart-shaped cookie cutters smaller than box lid; fabric glue.

1. Using the box lid as a template, trace the lid onto a piece of felt. Cut out the heart shape.
2. If using a heart-shaped Valentine candy box, skip this step. If using a papier mâché or wooden box, spray or brush a coat of primer to the box. Allow paint to dry. Repeat with the chosen paint color. Apply a second coat if necessary but allow the first coat to dry completely before applying the second coat. Note: If using spray paint, it's best to apply several light coats of paint rather than one heavy coat to avoid drips.
3. Using four strands of the embroidery floss color of your choice, backstitch around the large heart, approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch from cut edge. Set aside.
4. Trace one each of the three cookie cutters onto the three remaining colors of felt.
5. Using four strands of the floss colors of your choice, blanket stitch around the large and medium hearts. Use a running stitch approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch from the cut edge of the smallest heart.
6. Using the fabric glue, glue the largest heart to the top of the lid, then glue the large, medium, and small cookie cutter-shaped pieces of felt in that order on top of the lid.