

## Boxes by Barbara

This original design used Snap Attachments and Elastic to hold the box closed for transport/opening/removal/closing of boxed paintings. It can be modified by using Velcro adhesive strips in lieu of the Snaps & Elastic system.

### **Materials:**

- ◆ Flat Cardboard Box (matte boxes from the Frame Shop are great, however, I have gone to the recycle depot and asked them to hold large flat boxes for me)
- ◆ Ruler or Measuring Tape
- ◆ Butter Knife
- ◆ Sharp Kitchen Knife
- ◆ Blue Jean buttons
- ◆ Duct Tape
- ◆ Braided Round Polyester Elastic
- ◆ 1 " or 1-1/2" Strapping (Sewing Notions)
- ◆ Cheap Plastic Place Mat from \$ Store cut into 1" squares and hole made in middle
- ◆ Awl (optional)

### **Instructions:**

It is best to build a standard size, if most of your paintings are 18 x 24 then I suggest you build boxes 24 x 30 to allow for a varying size range and you do want to use them over again.

Flatten out the box. Measure out box size and mark with pencil. Measure out sides, bottom, and top, allowing a good 1 1/2 " on the sides and bottom, and 6" for a flap closure. Score all folds on the inside of box with the handle of a butter knife.

Trim excess with sharp knife. This is a good time to put your snaps in place, measure up from the bottom front 12", center it, make a hole with awl and attach snap. Put two holes in the back of the box about 6-8 inches in from the edge. Fold cardboard and tape edges with duct tape.

Insert round elastic through the holes made in the back of the box and plastic 1"x1" piece with the hole, and knot the elastic. (This method stops the elastic from pulling through the cardboard). Make it taunt enough so that it will hold the front flap down when it hooks over the front central snap. Cut slots for handle (center it) and put strapping through slots and tie popsicle sticks to hold handle in place and stop it from pulling out.

Once you build one, then you will understand how easy it is, but it does take time. Also, you may come up with a better method. I found that the jean buttons worked the best, but you can use snap enclosures as well. grommets to put the elastic through as well. Velcro Strips can be used, but have found the adhesive pulls away after a time, but can be reinforced with staples or stronger glue. Good luck!