

Advent Calendar Instructions

First, thank you to Noël Piper for the original concept for this calendar. Her "Noel Calendar" is not currently available, but was the stimulus for this idea..

Before you begin:

The patterns included are for cutting out a felt calendar. There are many adaptations you can make, but this will get you started. This project will take a trip to the craft store, about 3-4 hours of work, plus time for the glue to dry.

You will need the following:

- Hot glue gun and glue sticks OR felt craft glue (I recommend the craft glue)
- Large piece of felt for background (approximately 3'x3' depending on the finished size of your pieces)
- 3M photo mounting strips (or you can sew a slip for a dowel rod)
- Good, sharp scissors
- Fine point sharpie marker or other pen for tracing on felt
- Three craft sequences
- 8x10 Colored sheets of felt. If you are matching this project exactly, you will need:
 - Gray
 - Sparkled white
 - Purple
 - Green
 - Yellow
 - Black
 - Off-white/cream
 - Black
 - Dark brown
 - Brown
 - Tan/skin tone
 - Red or burgundy

I was able to purchase all of my felt, glue and supplies at a local craft store for under \$20.00

Instructions for each piece:

Use the number patterns to create each of the following pieces. Use glue to attach parts. For hair and facial hair you will need to adapt the size to fit your character's face appropriately. Each piece is uniquely cut and fit together so you will use the pattern as a guide and then trim each piece accordingly. Always overcut the arm sizes and then trim them once they are glued on. For color suggestions, see photo of finished product. When cutting, cut patterns on the *inside* of the line. Trace on to felt and then cut *on the inside of the traced line*.

1. **Mary**-Pieces 5 and 6 for body and head dress. Piece 2 for head. Pieces 7 and 8 for hair and bangs. Piece 3 for arms. (Mary is the most complicated piece to glue. Layer the pieces in this order from BOTTOM to TOP: 6, 5, 8, 2, 7. Then add the arms.)
2. **Joseph**-Pieces 1 and 2 for body and head. Two arms from Piece 3. Piece 4 for hair and beard that attaches behind the head.
3. **Bethlehem**-First set of houses. Use pieces 28 to make a set of houses. One house lays horizontal and attaches to a second piece that is vertical. You can chose to attach them together or leave separate. Use shapes such as 23-26 and 29-31 to make windows and doors.
4. **Inn**- Second set of houses. Use pieces 28 to make a set of houses. One house lays horizontal and attaches to a second piece that is vertical. You can chose to attach them together or leave separate. Use shapes such as 23-26 and 29-31 to make windows and doors.
5. **Stable**-After completing Mary & Joseph, cut a simple stable that will be just large enough to enclose Mary, Joseph, and the manger (approximately the height and width of half of an 8.5x11 sheet of paper.) Or use pattern Piece 27.
6. **Cows**-Piece 36 and 37.
7. **Goats**-Piece 38.
8. **Donkey**-Piece 35.
9. **Sheep**-Pieces 20 and 21 for body and head. Cut out four of piece 22 and attach two legs on front of body, and two legs on back of body.

10. **Shepherds**-Pieces 7 and 8 for body and head. Two arms from piece 3 that can be positioned however you want. Piece 16 (the staff) to be held. Use piece 17 to add mustache if desired.
11. **Shepherds**- Pieces 1 and 2 for body and head. Two arms from piece 3 that can be positioned however you want. Piece 13 (the staff) to be held.
12. **Angel**-Piece 39 and 40.
13. **Angels**- Piece 39 and 40.
14. **Manger**-Piece 18 and 19.
15. **Angels**-Piece 39 and 40.
16. **Sheep**- Pieces 20 and 21 for body and head. Cut out four of piece 22 and attach two legs on front of body, and two legs on back of body.
17. **Men**-Pieces 1 and 2 for body and head. Two arms from piece 3. Use pieces 9-12 to create hats, crowns, and facial hair as desired. (Cut out hats and facial hair larger than desired and then trim to size of character.)
18. **Star**-Piece 41. Cut out two and glue together at angles to create an eight-point star.
19. **Wise Men**- Pieces 1 and 2 for body and head. Two arms from piece 3. Use pieces 9-12 to create hats, crowns, and facial hair as desired. (Cut out hats and facial hair larger than than desired and then trim to size of character.)
20. **Wise Men** - Pieces 1 and 2 for body and head. Two arms from piece 3. Use pieces 9-12 to create hats, crowns, and facial hair as desired. (Cut out hats and facial hair larger than desired and then trim to size of character.)
21. **Gold**-Piece 16 and 17. Glue sequence over top as desired.
22. **Frankincense**- Piece 16 and 17. Glue sequence over top as desired.
23. **Myrrh**- Piece 16 and 17. Glue sequence over top as desired.
24. **Angels**-Piece 39 and 40.
25. **Jesus**- Pieces 14 and 15.

