

A place for everything

Smart storage boxes can be expensive, but you can create custom 'cartographic' storage by covering shoeboxes. Place the box on the reverse of the map. Draw around the base in pencil then tip the box onto its sides and each end, drawing around all of these to create your template. With a ruler, draw another line 1cm larger than the first outline and cut out. Fold the cut-out map up around the box and fold the excess 1cm over the top edge, creasing into place and snipping the corners with scissors to enable you to fold the edge over neatly. Unfold and apply glue to the outside of the box. Smooth the map up and press in place. Use the same method to cover the lid. And there it is, a holiday memory box.

You can also cover an old suitcase or trunk using découpage, to create useful storage space you'll be proud to have on show. To spark memories every time you open a drawer or cupboard by lining them with maps - simply measure the drawer base or shelf, cut a map to fit, and pop into place. You can stick maps inside cupboard doors, too.



A great way to store your holiday geegaws

Making art from your travels

Preserve your holiday memories by turning maps into handmade souvenirs, says Adrienne Wyper



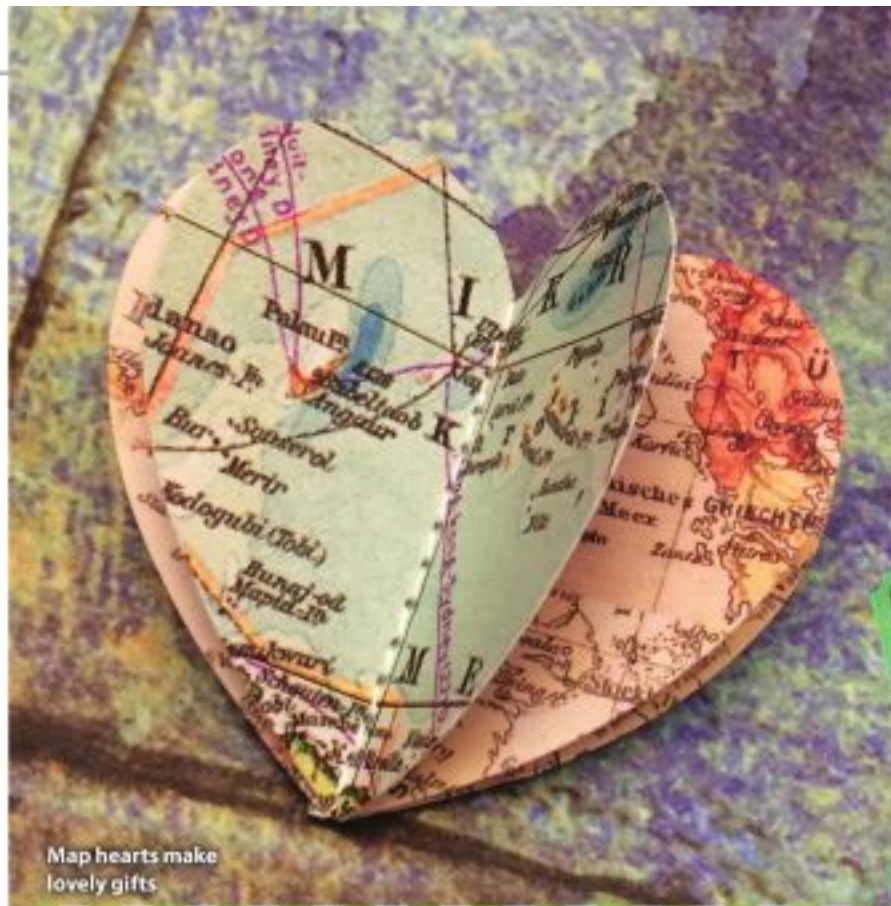
Light your way

To customise a tealight holder, or old jar, wrap a strip of map around the outside. Secure with tape or glue, string or ribbon.

To liven up a lampshade remove the shade to make your template. If the shade is straight-up-and-down, measure the depth and circumference and cut a strip of map to these dimensions. If it's conical, place it on its side on the back of the map and mark the seam as a starting point. Roll it around back to the seam, tracing along one edge with a pencil. Repeat for the other edge, and cut out the shape. Add double-sided tape along the edges and press into place.

The places you pick could be your most recent trip, favourite days out, former homes, or even dream holiday destinations. You don't need to use Ordnance Survey maps; how about transport maps, constellation charts or sightseeing guides?

No old maps? You can find maps on the internet (try www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk), and print them out, have a rummage in charity shops and car boot sales, or ask friends and family.



Map hearts make lovely gifts

A map of the heart

Show off a souvenir of your favourite places by making paper hearts of maps. Once you've cut out the shape, you can use them in so many ways. Attach one or more pairs using glue or by stitching together 5mm from the outer edge, sandwiching a length of string. Tie a loop at one end and hang up to twirl in the breeze. For something more substantial, how about a padded paper heart? Lay a loop of string between a pair of map hearts, then stitch around the edge, leaving a small gap in the side. Carefully push in soft toy stuffing, sew up the gap, and hang up.

Frame map hearts on their own, in pairs (a lovely wedding gift, with meaningful locations for the happy couple) or in groups of tiny ones.

Glue a map heart to a blank greetings card to mark a birthday, anniversary or Valentine's Day. Or, for a moving-house card, cut out a house shape, centred on the new home's location, and glue to a blank card.



Fun with frames

Display a favourite view, or photo in a frame, with a map as the backing paper. Use a box frame backed with a map to layer souvenirs such as tickets, trinkets, shells or pine cones.

Alternatively, cover a picture frame using the découpage technique. Cut or tear small squares and rectangles from a map (or a mix of several). Brush PVA glue on the back of one map piece, and position at one corner of the frame. Glue the remaining pieces, overlapping them. When the frame is covered, allow to dry, then seal with water-based varnish. If you've been on a classic railway journey a map of the route will rekindle memories of your voyage by train. ▷

An old railway map as backing for a frame

