

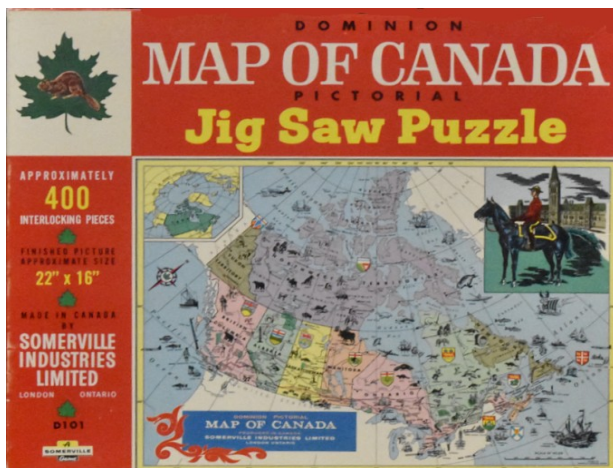
Mini Jigsaw Puzzle Box Ornament

<jensoriginalsembroiderydesigns.yolasite.com>

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As I've mentioned in earlier posts, my husband loves handmade ornaments, and he's particularly fond of miniature versions of beloved objects.

And like most of us, he's got a touch of nostalgia, especially around Christmas, and I like to make him at least one special keepsake ornament each year. So after I made the little matchbox/board game ornament that I wrote about last week, I decided to make something similar for DH.

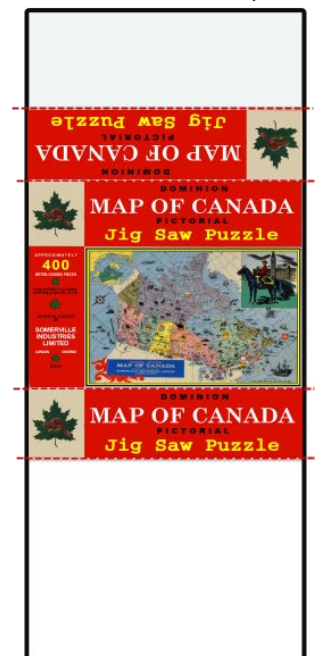
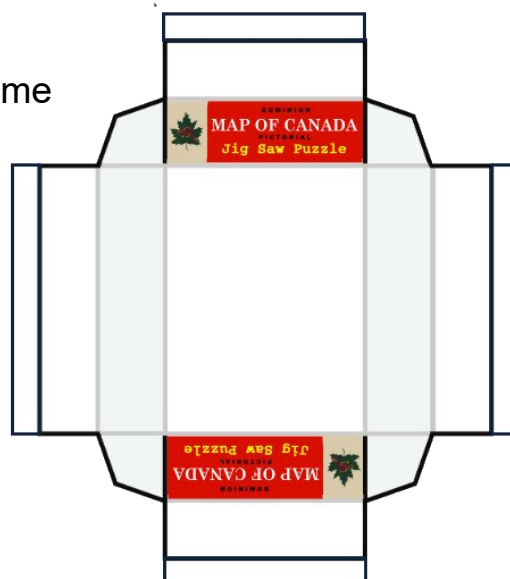


One of his fondest memories is of himself at about 4 years old, doing a jigsaw puzzle with his mom. The puzzle in question, published by a company called Sommerville, was a map of Canada. It must have been very popular, because it stayed in print for a long time, and copies of this vintage puzzle can still be found, in exactly the version that DH and his mom did back in the day.

I bought a copy in a thrift store a few years ago as a gift for him, and he still likes to assemble it from time to time, I think as a way of connecting with those memories of his childhood times with his mom, before he went to school.

Naturally enough, when it came time to make a matchbox memory ornament for him, I decided to recreate his precious puzzle.

Just as I did for my board game, I created a matchbox using images of the puzzle box, then printed it on 110 lb card stock, scored the fold lines, folded and glued it into a finished box. Adorable!



It's a cute ornament just as it stands, but I wanted just a bit more verisimilitude. I wanted puzzle pieces.

Luckily, I have a paper punch that cuts tiny puzzle pieces, just the right size to put into my puzzle box ornament.

I printed a copy of the map image on 110-lb card stock, and used my little punch to cut it into tiny puzzle pieces.



I bagged the little puzzle pieces in a tiny ziploc bag, just the way DH stores the real puzzle pieces.

Unfortunately, you can't actually assemble the teeny puzzle, because the punched pieces don't fit together, but it sure looks cute.



I probably don't need to add that DH loves his puzzle box ornament, and especially the teeny pieces in their ziploc bag. Hanging it on the tree each year brings fond memories of that long-ago day when he did that very first puzzle together with his mom.