

Mini London Game Ornament

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This vintage board game, based on a map of the London underground, was a family favourite when I was a kid: a go-to choice whenever we had a game night.



Although we played it throughout the year, in my memory *The London Game* is associated most strongly with Christmastime, with the whole family gathered around: Happy memories.

The year I moved away for school, I received my own copy of the game for Christmas. I still own it, and whenever we bring it out, I can hear echoes of those long-ago games with my folks, and all the sibs.

With all that nostalgic appeal and the memories of happy Christmases past, I decided it was time to make a *London Game* ornament.

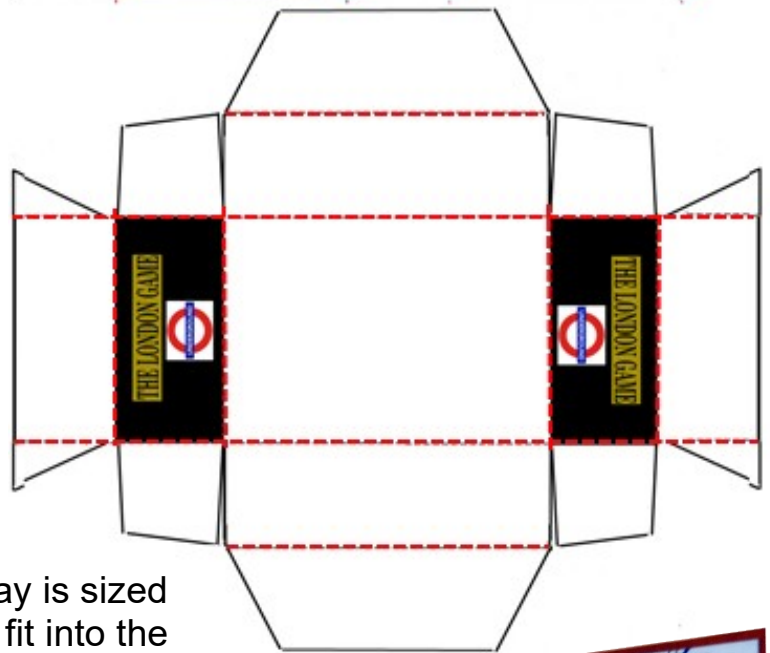


I considered making a lidded box with the same proportions as the game itself, but in the end I decided to go with a matchbox shape instead. This way I can easily open the box to reveal what's inside, even when it's hanging on the tree.

Using my original box as inspiration, I painstakingly designed a matchbox that could be printed on 110-lb card stock, and added the underground symbol to the bottom (back) of the sleeve.

I printed the images at 6" wide. Before cutting out the box pieces, I used a stylus to carefully score all the fold lines (the score lines are shown in red on this diagram, though the red lines weren't included on the print-out).

Once the scoring was complete, I carefully cut out the shapes, then folded and glued them to make the tray and the sleeve.



The tray is sized to just fit into the box sleeve.

It's cute on its own, but I wanted to give my ornament a little additional detail: I printed out the game board map of the London Underground, sized to fit into the box, and glued it to a piece of lightweight



red card (the back of the actual game board is red).

The game comes with two sets of cards, plus pawns shaped like human figures, a die, and some small markers.

To simulate these teeny pieces, I printed this image of the open box with the pieces arrayed, sized to just fit the interior of my box.



My miniature *London Game* is too darned cute, and makes an adorable memory ornament.



I just love the little game board, and the glimpse you get of the game parts when the box is opened up.



I'm not sure why this ornament didn't make the cut when I posted about my favourite handmades, but with its combination of cuteness and nostalgic appeal, it surely belongs on that list.

I have lots of ornaments with sentimental value, but none are quite like my little *London Game*. Each year when we decorate the tree, this one in particular brings to mind all of those fun times around the dining room table with my parents and my siblings, delightedly playing the game. In my mind's eye I can still see their laughing faces, and if I listen carefully, I can almost hear their voices echoing down through the years.

Recalling those moments is part of what makes my Christmas merry, and will be for the rest of my days.