

# Santa's New Accessories

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I bought this figure of Santa painting toys a year or two ago, but I hadn't realized until recently that he was missing some accessory pieces: two paint cans and a box of toys.

These are cute, but my \$5 thrift shop version came to me without them.

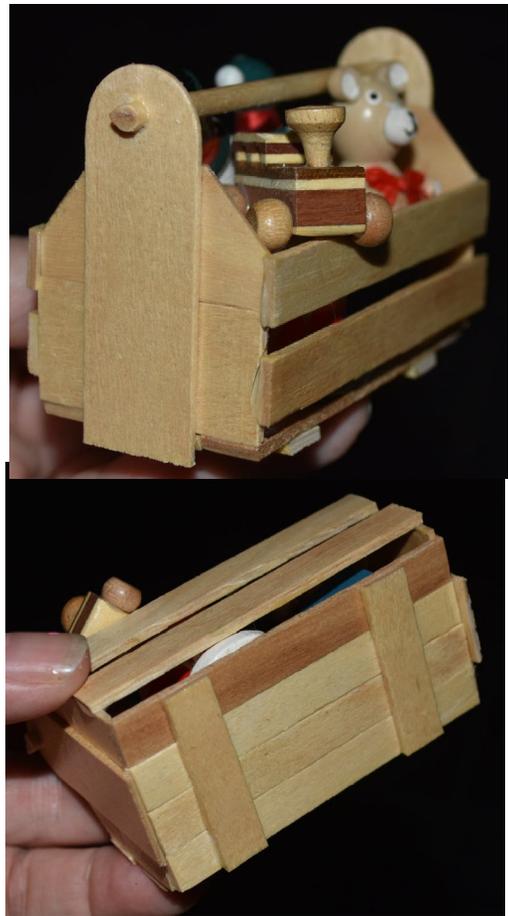
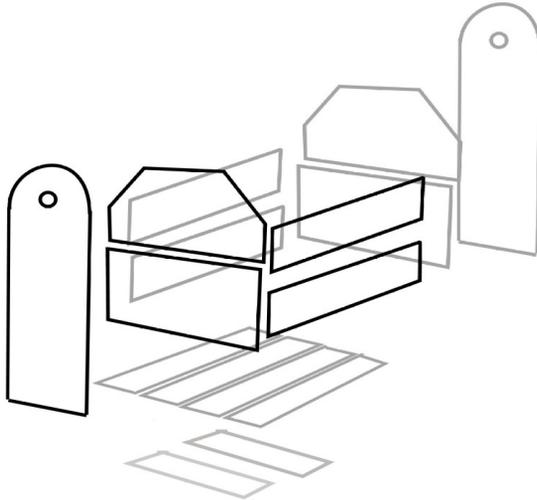


But once I saw the picture on line, I really liked the way the extra pieces create a little vignette, so I decided that my guy needed his own versions. And the only way he could get them would be for me to create some myself before I put him away for the year. Challenge!!

I didn't look too closely at the ones in the photo before I made my own, so the proportions are a bit different from the originals, but I'm still pretty pleased with the way they turned out.



To create a wooden toy carrier similar to the one in the photo, I used 9 popsicle sticks and two tongue depressors for the crate portion, and a small 1/8" dowel for the handle. I didn't think to take pictures of the whole process since I'm not doing a lot of project updates anymore, but the photos of the finished crate will give an idea of how it went together.



From the popsicle sticks, I cut eight pieces about 3.5" long to make the side slats and the bottom, and two pieces about 1.25" for the bottom braces. From the tongue depressors I cut four straight pieces about 1.25" and two curved ends about 2.5" long, to make the wooden ends of the crate. I drilled a small hole in each of the curved ends to accommodate the dowel, and trimmed the corners of two of the straight pieces on an angle.

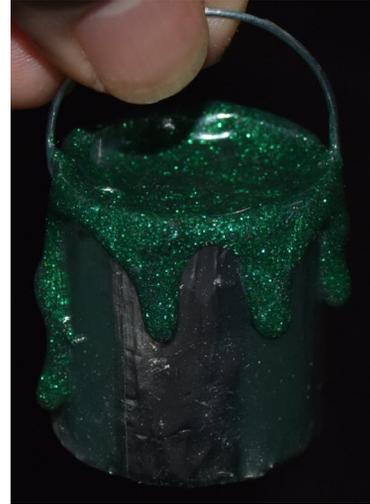
To cut the sticks and the dowel, I used a special cutting tool by Benchmark, called Anvil Cut. This tool uses a replaceable utility knife blade (extras can be stored in the handle) and it's perfect for this kind of task, cutting straight and cleanly through the sticks.



I put the crate together with tacky glue, assembling the base first, then the ends, and finally adding the slats to the sides. I fitted the dowel in the drilled holes and marked the length, then trimmed it and glued it in position.

Then I gave the whole thing a coating of antiquing Mod Podge. Once that dried, I filled the crate with some little wooden ornaments that I had in my crafting stash. It's not identical to the one that would have come with my Santa when he was new, but it works just fine.

To make the paint cans, I cut strips of cardboard just over an inch wide and rolled them up to form a cylinder about 1" in diameter and just over 1" high. I glued these together, then covered them with silver foil paper, which I decouped in place. I stuffed the interior of the cans with more rolled-up paper, filling them to a level 1/4" below the top. I then punched holes in the sides and inserted handles made from craft wire.



For the paint, I used red and green glitter hot glue, which is perfect for this purpose, since it makes quite convincing drips of paint down the sides.

I filled in the tops of the cans and made the drips, then set the can aside to harden.

Ta Da: adorable paint cans scaled to suit my Santa.

My paint cans don't look exactly like the ones that should have come with him, and my toy tote is a bit longer than the original and not as tall, but that's okay -- I'm very happy with how they look and chuffed that I was able to come up with a version of the toy carrier without having to use the saw.

Best of all, now my Santa is complete as he was meant to be, and he looks just delighted!!

