



Huxlow & Rushden Academy
SIXTH FORM
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Production Arts Practice BTEC

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Create a model box inspired by the story below.

The room at the top of the stairs hadn't been opened in years. Dust clung to the air like cobwebs suspended mid-fall, and the door—swollen from time—groaned in protest as Elise pushed it open. Moonlight filtered through a gap in the heavy, moth-eaten curtains, casting silvery streaks across the warped floorboards. The wallpaper peeled in jagged strips, revealing rotting plaster beneath, as though the walls themselves had begun to decay. A broken rocking chair sat in the corner, its motionless frame angled toward the bed—a hulking, four-poster thing, draped in a sheet yellowed with age. Every sound was louder here: the creak of the floor, the soft scurry of mice behind the walls, even the beat of Elise's own heart. She stepped inside, the scent of mildew and something metallic curling into her nose. Behind her, the door slowly began to swing shut on its own.

You can use the "Shoebox" method to do this. An example of a shoebox stage is and instructions of how to make one is here:

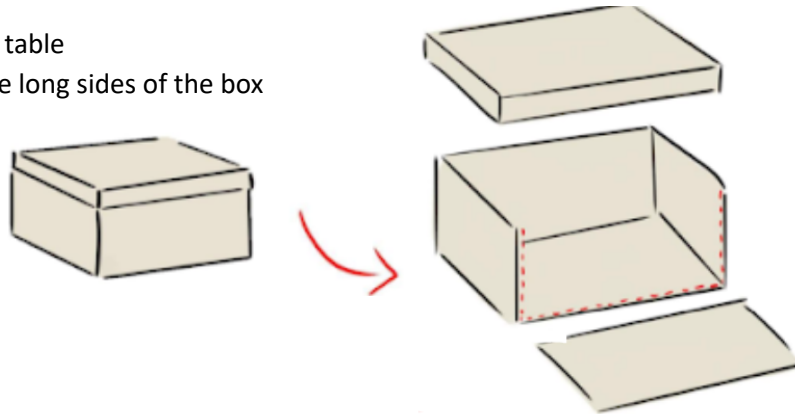


You will need:

- 1 shoebox (with separate lid)
- Scalpel (or scissors)
- Metal ruler
- Double sided tape (or glue)
- Masking tape
- Paints / pens / pencils
- Extra card, paper and fabric for getting creative!

Step 1

- Remove lid
- Place lid face down on the table
- Carefully cut out one of the long sides of the box



Step 2

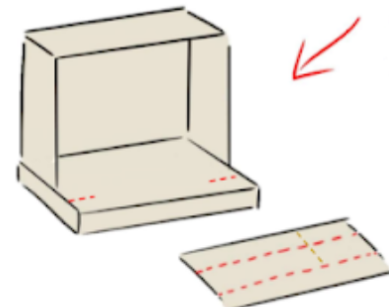
- Place box on top of the lid
- Attach box to lid (with masking tape or glue)
- Measure the piece you cut from the box into 3 even strips and mark with a pencil
- Cut the extra piece along the pencil lines

Step 3

- Carefully score 2 of the 3 strips a few inches from the top, and bend into a right angle (you will need to measure this)

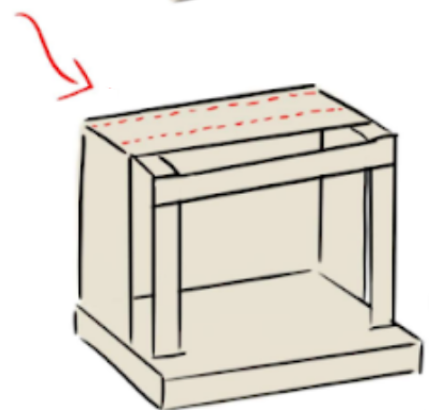
These pieces will form the sides of your proscenium arch, and give your stage more depth

- Cut slots either side of the lid, wide enough to fit your side strip



Step 4

- Push side strips a few centimeters into slots and tape underneath
- Bend the strip where you scored it, and stick to the main box (with double-sided tape)
- Use the final strip as the top of the proscenium (attach to the sides with double sided tape)



Your basic model box is complete!

Now you can decorate your stage however you like! Try making flats and scenic elements out of spare card-cut slots in the top of the box to 'fly' pieces in and out. You could make a backdrop or cyclorama for the back wall with tracing paper, and curtains with felt or fabric. You could also try using battery powered LED lights to give your stage atmosphere

You may wish to use the following materials to add to your model box.

For the structure:

- Foamboard / cardboard (available in various thickness)
- Superglue / all-purpose adhesive
- Stanley knife or scalpel
- Cutting mat
- Masking tape
- Dressmaking pins (use these to support joints)

For the furniture / architecture:

Mountboard

Foamboard (peel off top layer of paper to score or carve directly into foam)

Wood veneers (very thin offcuts of real wood, can be mounted on mountboard, or applied directly to the 'walls' or 'floor' or used as wood panelling. Find at the model shop, furniture maker or online.

Battery powered LEDs for lighting

For decoration:

Acrylic paint (can be mixed with sand for rough concrete texture, or applied thickly to emulate plaster on walls)

Watercolour paint (wash over wood veneers to change the colour or 'dirty down')

Printed strips of paper for wallpaper

Felt for a rug or carpet

Tools:

Crafting knife

Cutting mat

Paint brushes of various sizes

Palette

Sponges

Scissors

Metal ruler / scale ruler

Pencil

Permanent marker

Scale figures / furniture

Some examples of Shoebox model boxes are below:



Additional Resources

Create the floorboards: [Watch Floorboards video](#)

Create Walls & brickwork: [Watch walls and brickwork video](#)