

THE ADVENT CALENDAR

Advent Calendars date back to the 1800s in Germany. This practice started with chalk markings on the wall or door, eventually leading to printed pictures, and then small boxes/doors were added in the 1920s with gifts inside to help children and families count down the days until Christmas¹. Tom and Olive Plant may have had a wooden, painted Advent Calendar set up in their Main Hall or Library. Today we often see Advent Calendars for sale in super markets, filled with chocolates or goodies from specialty stores.

Below we've outlined how to create your own modern Advent Calendar like this one:



WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Wrapping paper
- Hole puncher
- Tape
- Scissors, zig zag scissors (optional)
- String, twine or ribbon
- Wooden dowel (or a stick)
- Advent gifts
- Marker/Pen/Stickers

¹ <https://doinghistoryinpublic.org/1-advent-calendars/>

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HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN ADVENT CALENDAR:

1. Cut the wrapping paper into 9"x6" rectangles, you'll need 24 of them. These do not need to be exact.



2. Fold the ends of the wrapping paper in on itself so it overlaps a little bit.



3. Fold in the corners on one of the two open sides.



4. Fold the end up creating a gift wrap pocket.

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5. Tape the folded edge down, you can also tape where the wrapping paper overlaps.



6. Hole punch the open side of the pocket.



7. Flip the pocket over so the tape is on the bottom. With the hole as the top of the paper, use your marker to write the number 1.



8. Repeat steps 2-7 for all 24 wrapping paper pockets.

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9. Attach string or ribbon to your dowel. If you don't have a dowel, a cardboard roll from wrapping paper works wonderfully!
10. Fill your gift wrap pockets with little gifts and tape each pouch shut. Small, lightweight gifts work best for this particular advent calendar, perhaps a piece of candy.



11. Cut ribbon to varying lengths, string them through the hole on the packets and tie them individually to the dowel. Start with 1 and work your way up. Tie them at varying lengths, and layer them as you desire! You'll want 24 at the top.



And voila! Hang your Advent Calendar somewhere in your home, and starting on December 1st, cut off #24 and open the gift. Continue counting down the day until Christmas by taking off one gift a day. Enjoy and Merry Christmas!

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