

Advent All Year

February 2026 Craft Along



This month we will be creating critters in fun, alternative ways. Then we will set them in a scene to peek out. There is a little extra surprise to these critters not shown in the sneak peek that I hope you will enjoy!

You will need to do a fair bit of die cutting ahead of time. I have a photo guide on dies and cardstock colors to help you through all the pieces. We will do some die cutting on the day of the event as well. I've noted what you need for now and what we will do live.

Advent Calendar Supplies

- Day 3: rabbit head, ear infill, hat
- Day 4: the tiered rectangle “rubber” pieces from the stamper (live)
- Day 5: all flower pieces (see photo note)
- Day 8: all banner pieces
- Day 9: purple sequins, optional
- Day 10: larger toast die
- Day 13: floral embossing folder
- Day 14: big leaf; stem (live), worm head layer

Options for each critter

- Critter 1 (rabbit, pictured)
 - Day 5: single round textured “flower”
- Critter 2 (cat)
 - Day 14: worm body
- Critter 3 (dog)
 - Day 1: ears; Day 14: worm body

For Day of	Alternative	My Supplies
General Supplies		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ink, dark brown or gray		C9 Ink—Mushroom
<input type="checkbox"/> Foam tape/squares/dots		
<input type="checkbox"/> Liquid glue		
<input type="checkbox"/> Scratch paper		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fine point black pen		
<input type="checkbox"/> All pre-cut papers, and die cut pieces (see cutting guides). Choose ONE critter to prep—we will assemble LIVE		

Continued next page...

For Day of

Alternative

My Supplies

General Tools		
<input type="checkbox"/> Stem Die from worm set, Day 14		
<input type="checkbox"/> "Rubber" piece (tiered rectangle) from Day 4 (stamper)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Die cut machine		
<input type="checkbox"/> Detail blending brush for your ink color		
<input type="checkbox"/> Silicone mat, optional		
<input type="checkbox"/> Jewel picker tool	tweezers	

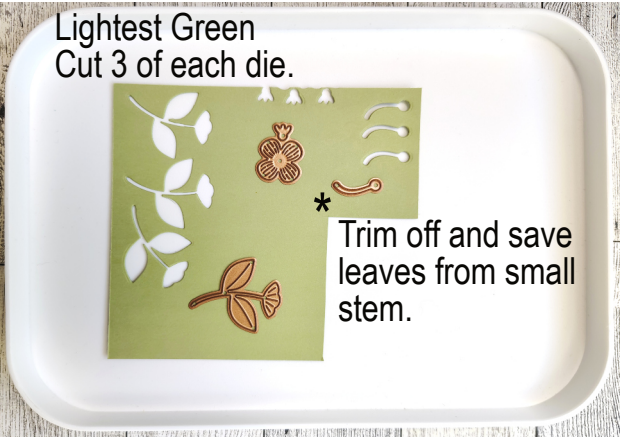
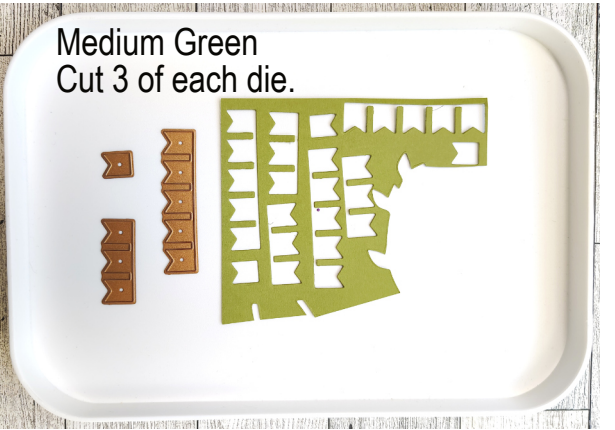
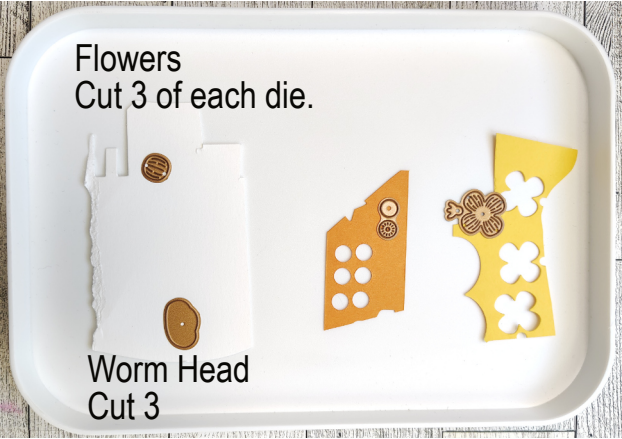
Project Prep

Alternative

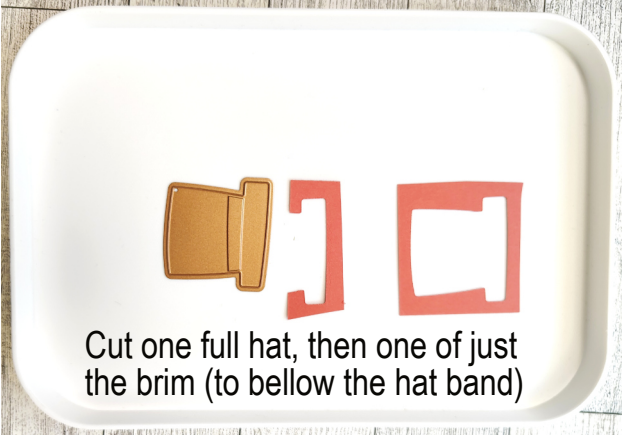
My Supplies

<input type="checkbox"/> Card base, horizontal/landscape orientation	Color of choice	I used white
<input type="checkbox"/> Kraft cardstock, cut to 1" by 4.5"		C9– Wheat
<input type="checkbox"/> Sky blue cardstock, cut to 4.25" by 4.5"		C9– Powder
<input type="checkbox"/> Medium to dark brown cardstock, 3" by 3"		
<input type="checkbox"/> Cut the "Happy Day" banner (day 8) from white. Back letters with color scraps after die cutting all else.		
Die cut the following according to the photo guides (you will need 3 of most things)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Cardstock: Yellow, orange, and 2 purple shades	Or floral colors of choice	C9– Buttercup, Clementine, Lilac, Fig
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 shades of green cardstock, see cutting guides		C9–Artichoke, Avocado, Pistachio
<input type="checkbox"/> White cardstock		
<input type="checkbox"/> Reddish-orange cardstock		Spellbinders Sicily
<input type="checkbox"/> Cardstock color of choice for your critter plus pictured scraps for details.		

Save your scraps as you cut. We will need some of these for other steps.



* NOTE: My 2nd flower stem was missing from my advent. I have substituted with the stem from Day 24 (clover stem)



One "happy day" banner + scraps to fill behind letters. See Assembly section.

* Embossing folder note

The embossing is optional. If you skip the embossing, simply cut a piece 4.25" tall by 1.5" wide.

To get nice even embossing I like to cut my cardstock larger than the design, emboss, and then trim down to size. To trim, line up the very edge of the long side of the pattern along trimmer's cut line. Trim right up to the edge of the design. Repeat on the opposite side. Now trim the length by cutting off one end just over the edge of the design. Trim the rest to 4.25" long.

More photos in the Tips section.

Critter Options. Choose ONE



There are pieces on the right edges that are scraps for our critter assembly. I will demonstrate the assembly of all the critters during the event. That way you can make more, or others, later.



Along with your critter pieces, you should also have all of these pieces once you have finished cutting and die cutting. The bottom tray has 3 of each element. Assemble pieces as show next.

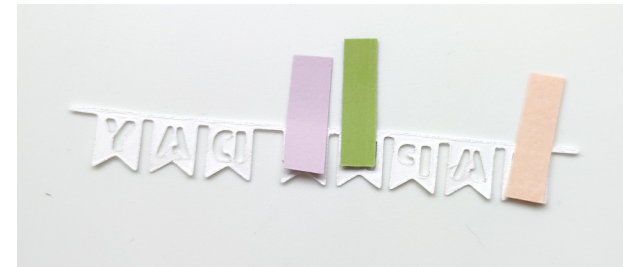
Assemble Pieces



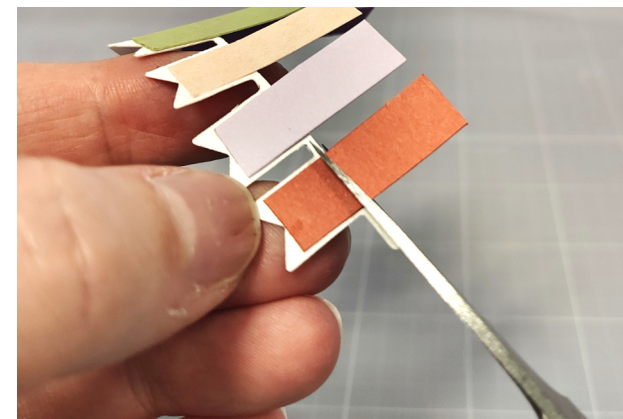
Assemble the Happy Day banner. I have tips below on how I like to back my banner with cardstock colors.



I prefer cutting strips of cardstock to the width of each banner piece. That will leave me a “handle” at the top to move and glue the pieces down.

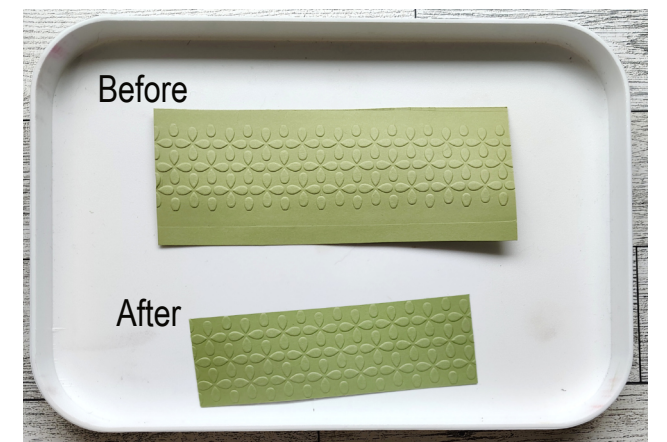


Don't glue at the very top. This will make trimming easier.
Once glue is dry, slip scissors under the top edge and trim.



Tips

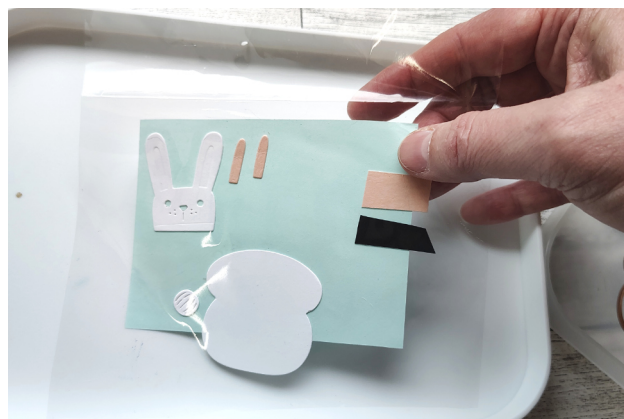
Embossing folder trim tip.



To make the most of my die cutting I like to load up my mat with multiple pieces. All of these dies will need to be cut three times. I can run all these through the cutter once. Set aside all my pieces in a tray, reposition my pieces on the cardstock and repeat the process two more times.



To store my die cut pieces I use this method. I will place all the pieces that work together on a sheet of low tack tape. Then I cover the tape with a piece of scrap plastic from packaging. This nicely holds everything together. I'm less likely to lose pieces that are taped in place! This is especially useful for very small die cuts.



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