

## Independence Day Décor

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*US Flag Shadow Box Insert*  
Our colors are Crumb Cake, Whisper White, Night of Navy, and Cherry Cobbler, with accents of Cherry Cobbler Baker's Twine and Linen Thread. Stripes are die cut from the Tasteful Trim die and the Dotted Scallop Ribbon Border punch.

Cut and notch your 8" x 10" base layer in Whisper White. Then cut the Night of Navy layer at 8 ½" x 6 ¾", a Crumb Cake layer at 8 ¾" x 6 ¼", and a Cherry Cobbler layer at 8 ¼" x 6 1/8". Also cut a Night of Navy piece for the star field at 4" x 3".

Apply your white stripes to the red BEFORE assembling the layers: measure up from the bottom (or down from the top, it's symmetrical) edge ½" on both short ends, and mark, then every 1" all the way up (or down!) These little tick marks will be your guides for gluing down the white stripes. Glue them down, alternating stripe style as shown, and trim off any ends as needed. If you have "shorter" stripes, just make sure that those get tacked down towards the top of the page, so that the short ends can be hidden under the blue field.

Assemble Night of Navy, Crumb Cake and Cherry Cobbler Layers. Pop dot Night of Navy "star field" rectangle at upper left corner. Punch three each large and small stars from Whisper White CS, and emboss with Perfect Polka Dots embossing folder. Sponge edges of each star with Night of Navy for added effect. Arrange stars as shown on blue field, gluing down large stars, and pop-dotting small stars. Double pop-dot assembled layers over Whisper White base layer.

Stamp sentiment onto ½" Whisper White strip in Night of Navy, using either the Calendar Alphabet (retired) or the new Simply Serif Alphabet set, and flag trim one end. Roll and glue other end onto trimmed toothpick, and add Baker's Twine accent as shown. Sponge edges of sentiment in Cherry Cobbler for added effect. Distress sentiment flag to add some curl, and adhere as shown with glue dots.

To create firecrackers, cut a strip of each color CS 1 ¾" wide. Adhere a small strip of Crumb Cake CS along one edge so that a tiny edge shows. Cut these cross-wise into ¼" firecracker sticks, 3 each of each color. Apply a small amount of tape runner to top end of each firecracker, and apply a short single ply of the linen thread to hang off the end for a "fuse." Assemble each firecracker "bundle" as shown with tape runner, and tie together with linen thread. I tried to make each of my bundles have a different color firecracker on top. Pop dot assembled bundles as shown.

### *Let Freedom Ring Wreath*

Paint a particle board 12" décor wreath with a wash of red or blue craft paint. If you plan to hang the finished wreath, run a craft wire loop through one of the pre-drilled holes so that you can add a hanging ribbon after you're done assembling the wreath. Keep in mind that wherever you place the wire becomes your ring's "top."

Die cut 6 each in Whisper White, Cherry Cobbler and Night of Navy CS in the Candy Wrapper die – you will have 18 total. Assemble each candy wrapper shape, then wrap the blue and red ones with coordinating DSP strips. The strips are cut to 1 3/4" x 6", trim off any excess if required. Stamp white ones in Cherry Cobbler and Night of Navy star stamps or other small print background stamp.



Now assemble your décor elements:

Die-cut sentiment letters "Let freedom ring!" using the Timeless Type Junior alphabet dies, in Silver Glitter paper. Trim up as needed.

Punch 8 small stars from silver glitter paper.

Cut 6 pieces of 1/4" grosgrain ribbon in Night of Navy at about 10" long.

Prepare 3 blue buttons by tying with red string, 3 white buttons tied with blue string and 2 red buttons tied with white strings.

Lay out assembled Candy Wrappers in color order red-blue-white along your work space. I aimed to have one of each color wrapper be a "space marker" box, so rearrange the order towards the end accordingly. Tie ribbon around each white box, but don't use adhesive, so that you can slide the ribbon up or down as needed. Blue boxes get silver star decorations, red boxes get buttons. Adhere letters first, in order, then add the extra elements as shown. It's easier to vary placement of the extras when they are laid out horizontally in front of you. When you're satisfied with your placements, glue, pop-dot or otherwise adhere all elements in place.

Once box assembly is complete, lay out but don't yet adhere boxes around your ring. If the gaps between boxes seem to wide, scotch the boxes closer towards the center of the ring to tighten them up. Once you're happy with THAT placement, hot-glove them down.

Add your ribbon hanger to your already placed wire loop. I have some 1 1/4" wide striped grosgrain for your use on this, but you could also use any red-white-blue themed ribbon to create the hanger and perhaps a bow.