

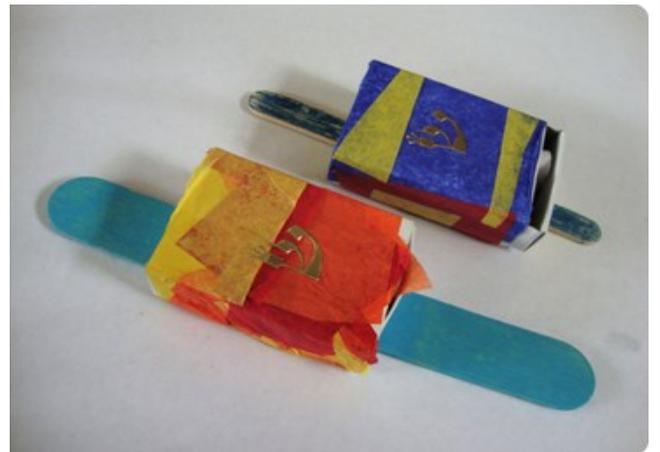
# Make a Mezuzah

Ritual art objects, or Judaica, are a very important part of Jewish practice. These are items like kiddush cups, Havdalah candles, mezuzot, sukkot, and seder plates that are used while celebrating rituals for Jewish holidays, Shabbat, or in everyday life. Making and collecting beautiful Judaica is a way to practice hiddur mitzvah, which means elevating a commandment by using beautiful materials to perform the task. You can make rituals and holidays special by making the objects connected to the ritual or holiday as beautiful as possible.

Create your own mezuzah, a small case attached to the right doorpost of Jewish homes and businesses, by reusing materials you have in your home. But take the extra time to decorate it and make it beautiful to practice hiddur mitzvah.

## What you will need:

- Matchbox or other small container
- Masking tape
- Popsicle stick
- Pen or marker
- Glue
- Craft supplies and decorations
- Paper



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## What to do:

- Tape the popsicle stick to the back of the matchbox lengthwise, make sure not to tape the box shut.
- Decorate your box with craft supplies. Make sure to take the extra time to make it beautiful.
- Many mezuzot are marked with the Hebrew letter shin. Add the letter to your box using a pen or marker. Use the image to the right for help writing it.
- Inside every mezuzah case, there is a parchment scroll with the central prayer of Judaism, the Shema, on it. Often it is a kosher scroll which is a beautiful work of art itself. For this homemade mezuzah, you can make your own scroll. You can print out an online version of the Shema or write the first line of the prayer “Shema Yisrael: Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echad: Hear, O Israel: the Lord is our God, the Lord is One” on a piece of paper. Roll your paper left to right and place it inside the box.
- Attach your mezuzah to the right side of a doorpost at a height that is easy to reach. Let the top lean slightly towards the room it leads to.



**Bonus Challenge:** Make a mezuzah out of a different material such as a glue stick or marker. Decorate it in a different style than your first mezuzah.