



MINIATURE NICHOS

SUPPLIES

- Matchboxes (at least one complete set plus an extra box or sheath)
- Glue (both craft glue and hot glue)
- Scissors, regular and/or craft
- Paint
- Paint Brushes
- Glitter
- Craft gems
- An image of your choice, no larger than the inside of the matchbox

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut your nicho image to size. Glue it to the inside of your matchbox box. Once dry, apply glue to the inside of the box around the image and add glitter. Allow the box dry.
2. While the box dries, we will create the base and frame with the sheath and the extra box or sheath. Cut into desired shapes and paint.
3. Once the box with the image and glitter is dry, use hot glue to attach it to your base and frame.
4. Add finishing touches like gems to the top part of your frame.

Nichos are a type of folk art popular throughout Central and South America, often devotional but sometimes merely quirky. Resembling dioramas, they are made from common household objects and craft material and traditionally combine elements from mestizo spirituality and popular culture.

In South America it is common to see decorative boxes called "nichos" set upon tables and pedestals. These boxes may serve as an altar (to mark a significant event) or to honor a patron saint. Common structural conventions include hinged doors, carved borders, and multiple panels. Within the box there is a central figure or object for whose honor the nicho has been created. They are usually painted with striking colors, often contrasting bright and dark, and tend towards garish.

