

Cindy Schmid

## Christmas in a box

What a cool idea to share these Christmas ideas!! I am not a "submitter" but when I saw your category 3 for something that would fit in a flat rate mailing box, I laughed out loud. My son and daughter in law are living in Australia on a two-year work assignment and have been there for almost a year now. I put together a "care" package this past summer and spent \$120 on postage! I sure learned the importance of those flat rate boxes the hard way!!

The project I'm submitting is called "Christmas in a Box". It came about when my son in law was stationed in Korea several years ago. I felt bad that he wouldn't be with family for Christmas and decided to send him the first version of this so he could have at least some reminder of home during the holidays and how much we all loved and missed him.

He and my daughter came across the original this summer when they were moving and he gave it to me, saying he thought it could be a cool family tradition if we re-worked it and sent it to our kids in Australia. I thought it was a wonderful idea, took the original apart and cut it down so it would fit the box.

I didn't make any plans for it--really it's a very simple box with doors. I made the Christmas tree from scraps and then cut a middle section out so the proportions would look right once you assemble it. Had I not been so indecisive about it, I could easily have built it in a weekend. I used spray paint so the drying time would be short and kept the painting detail very simple.

At any rate, it's going in the mail tomorrow--hooray! It'll take a few weeks to arrive and I'm sure the kids will really enjoy it.

Especially given that there was enough extra space inside, I stuffed it full of their favorite candies.



