

Here's a simple easel to hold your jigsaw puzzle box top

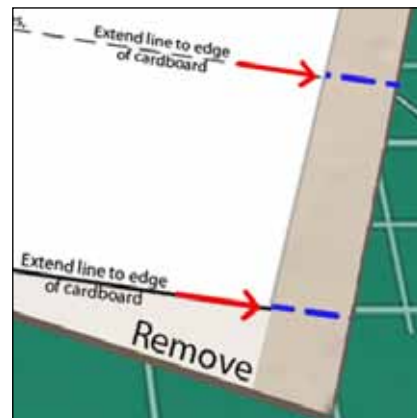
I've designed a simple new easel for my puzzle box lids. I like to have the picture be upright and take up as little space as possible on the table. It's similar to the tissue box easel I made before, but more sturdy.

I've made it using corrugated cardboard, but got the best results using the cardboard back of a letter-size (or A4) writing tablet. You could use any card stock that's at least the thickness of the tissue box cardboard. You might use spray adhesive to double up a couple of pieces of lighter stock.

The template I made for you is designed to fit within the printable area of most printers, but you can extend the lines to use the entire letter-size (or A4) shape of your cardboard, as shown below.

Use an X-Acto or craft knife to cut the card stock following the template.

To fold cardboard or card stock, it's vital to score it well on both sides of the intended fold lines prior to folding. The rounded handle of a spoon or the back of a sturdy hair comb could work. A butter knife might be too sharp. Following a straight-edge ruler, etc., press down firmly on the cardboard as you firmly drag the scoring tool along the line. You don't want to cut the surface, just compress the fibers along that line. The cardboard is then "willing" to fold accurately along this line.



When you've assembled your easel, just slide the side of the puzzle box into the slot.

When taping the sides of the base together, I found it was easiest to adhere half the width of the tape (I like to use packing tape) to the inside surface of one flap, then put the easel base-down on a table and bring the sides together until the two bottom flaps meet perfectly, then push the free side of the tape onto the other flap. Then I also tape the outside of the base. Finally, I put one edge of a piece of tape on the front edge of the base, then hold the base firmly down on the table and wrap that tape onto the front of the easel. Done!

This easel can be used as is, but I suspect crafty people will cover theirs with wrapping paper or other personalization.

To flatten it for storage or shipping (inside the puzzle box as a gift?) just slice along the taped joints and spread it flat. You'll have to let the recipient know to tape them back together.

Also, here's how to make a replacement for a missing puzzle piece:
<http://brucephilpott.com/photos/puzzle-part.htm>

