Keystone Clock Frame Instructions

30.75” Clock Frame

(Compatible with 19.75” Clock Face)

This clock frame made from cardboard and tissue paper will make for an impressive focal point for any DIY’ers home. Be sure to check out the coordinating clock face designs also available on Etsy in Craft Remedy’s Store.

This instruction packet contains:

Compass template- needed for drawing the circles

Decorative Template- for marking the location of the decorative details

Tool/Supply List

Step by Step Instructions

Before you begin, collect cardboard that is large enough to trace the largest circle on. Depending on the thickness of the cardboard (this can range anywhere from 1/8” to 3/8”) you will need 6-7 pieces of cardboard large enough to fit the outside measurement of the clock frame.

Most furniture stores and large grocery/big box stores recycle all of their cardboard, but a great place to find large pieces is by giving a shout out to friends and neighbors, through social media, who have just bought furniture packaged in cardboard. Large furniture boxes are the most ideal to work with.

Tool/Supply List:

Tools/Supplies To Keep On Hand:

Exacto knife

2-3 New Exacto Blades

Cutting Mat- Larger is better

Hot Glue Gun

Elmers glue or even the dollar store stuff

Tissue Paper (previously used, and a bit wrinkled works fine and saves on cost)

1 regular Pencil, newly sharpened
1 Mechanical Pencil
Box Cutter
Scotch Tape
1” Foam Brush
3+” Nail or Piercing tool
ATG Tape Or Spray Glue

**Tools/Supplies you need to get:**

Brush on Primer Paint
Acrylic Paint (or Spray Paint)
Satin Finish Sealer

**Instructions:**

**Part 1: Cardboard**

1. Print instruction packet. *Be sure that your printer settings ARE NOT set to shrink to fit paper; this will distort your templates.*

2. Piece and tape together the two sheets of paper the compass is printed on by matching up the stars. (The easiest way to do this is to tape one sheet up on a window during the day and match the stars up.) Trim away excess paper.

a. Do the same for the quarter round Decorative Template. Trim away excess paper and trim out solid black triangles.

**Note the picture to the left is a different template but demonstrates the process of using a window to match up the various pieces of a template.**

3. Cut 3 pieces of cardboard to the same size of the compass rectangle. Hot glue 3 pieces of cardboard together by gluing .25” from the edge (don’t put glue in the middle or it will be hard to poke holes through cardboard) and layer one on top of the other.
4. Tape or glue the compass template to the surface of the layered cardboard. Make sure it doesn’t get bunched or warped. Spray glue or ATG Tape is preferred but you can make it work with scotch tape if necessary.

(You may wonder why there are marks to the sides of the center line. This is because the points are too close to each other and would cause the cardboard to tear through.)

5. Take your piercing tool and insert it into the center of each mark. Be sure to keep the piercing tool or nail perpendicular to the surface so you are piercing straight down.

6. Next I like to use a cheap mechanical pencil to help make the hole a little bit bigger. (Do not make the center point hole any bigger for the nail or piercing tool). Only pierce through the first 2 layers with the mechanical pencil. Now you are ready to get started on tracing the rings that make up the frame.

Put the nail or piercing tool in the center point hole of the compass. This is what the compass will pivot around. Place your pencil at point “G”.

7. Poke Piercing tool into cardboard far enough from edge that the circle will fit. Pivot and draw circle on to card board. Move Pencil to point “B” and trace an inner circle inside the “Circle G”. Repeat this step 4 times or depending on the thickness of your cardboard, the combine total thickness of these rings and the A&G rings should be 1.25 inches.

8. Ring Sizes and Quantities: (Note: Be sure to label each ring with the letters on ring portion you will keep so you don’t mix the different ring sizes up.)

   4 Rings - Points B&G Ring

   Plus 1 Inside Leftover disc from B&G Ring – This will be your Clock Face Base.

   2 Rings - Points A&G Ring, on one of the A/G rings also trace the lines for Rings C/F to use as a guide for gluing the rings in place.

   1 Ring - Points C&F Ring - (Before creating this ring draw a vertical line down the center of where you ring will be cut out. Mark the middle and draw a perpendicular line creating and “X”. Then
proceed with drawing the circles centered on the “x” intersection. You will match up the Decorative detail template with these lines).

1 Ring - Points D&E Ring - (Before creating this ring draw a vertical line down the center of where you ring will be cut out. Mark the middle and draw a perpendicular line creating and “X”. Then proceed with drawing the circles centered on the “x” intersection. You will match up the Decorative detail template with these lines).

9. Before cutting out Rings, use the quarter round **Decorative Template** to mark placement of the raised key stone pieces on Ring C/F. Also mark the shapes on Ring D/E.

a. Once the black triangles have been cut out, then trace the outer two edges of the triangle shapes onto Ring C/F as shown with the blue lines above. For Ring D/E you will need to connect the triangles to create the keystone shape, as shown with the red line. Cut out keystone shapes from Ring D/E.
**Tip:** There is a trick to cutting both cardboard and foam core board. The first pass of the knife should just score the surface but should NOT be focused on cutting all the way through. Focus on following the traced outline with the first pass then retrace the route with the knife till its cut through. Patience will be rewarded with a better finished edge. Using a sawing action is not recommended. If you are resorting to that, your blade is too dull and you need to put in a new one.

10. Using hot glue, adhere the key stone shapes onto Ring C/F. Make sure to place each piece inside the marked guidelines.

12. Glue Ring C/F onto the

**Part 2: Tissue Paper and Glue**

Cut your tissue paper into 1.5 inch stripes. Then cut the strips down into 3” in tall rectangles.

Mix 1 Part Elmers glue to XX parts water to thin it down. (Your elevation, humidity and temperature in your area can affect this ratio. You want your glue to still be “gluey” but be thinned down enough to brush on easily).

I like to start the tissue covering in the detailed tile area to get that over with first. I work my way between the tiles and then the tops and bottoms. Brush a little bit of glue onto the edge of the tiles side by side tiles and between them. Place a piece of tissue paper down and brush over the top to smooth into place. Don’t over brush and don’t over moisten the tissue paper or it will tear. If it does tear remove the piece or place another piece over the top. Work your way around the clock first covering the edges and then all of the surfaces. You will get into a rhythm and will get quicker as you go.

Let dry overnight till it is completely dry. Clean your brush thoroughly with warm water and pat it dry with paper towel. You can use this tomorrow for your paint and sealer.

**Part 3: Paint and Seal It:**

Starting in the tight spaces between the tiles, paint the entire surface of the clock. Remember the tissue paper is still fairly delicate so don’t over work any one area. Let it dry thoroughly between coats. Rinse brush out after each coat to increase the life of the brush.

Once your base color is down and dry you can add a little extra something special by dry brushing a metallic paint over the top. You do this by tapping the bristles into a small amount of paint and distributing it evenly. If you got too much paint on the bristles, you can always remove some with a paper towel. Brush the edges and the details of the frame to high light the features. Let it dry thoroughly and clean your brush immediately so you have it for another project.

Once the paint has dried, it is best to seal it with a clear satin sealer. This will preserve all your hard word for years to come.
Part 4: Finishing

1. All you need to do to finish is attach your clock face by gluing it in from the back. Spray mount works best for attaching clock face print to the cardboard disc (See our options on Craft Remedy’s Etsy Shop). Spray mount clock face to your left over inside piece of circle B&G. Note that the clock face is smaller around the edges than your circle. Poke hole in center of clock face print and align it with the center of the B&G circle. Follow the directions on can of spray mount to adhere.

(Most directions for spray mount are as follows: Use in a well-ventilated area. Place the clock face, face down on a remnant piece of cardboard, and also place B&G Circle on a piece of scrap cardboard. Using a slow and steady motion coat the surfaces with a mist of spray glue. Do not over wet surfaces, but evenly coat them. Let dry for 1-3 min. only enough to let glue go from being wet to tacky. Align clock face over cardboard and attach starting in the center and work your way out to the sides.)

2. To attach this to your wall, the best option is to use a large screw (with a drywall mount for support) and rest the frame on the lip on the backside that was created by the inset for the clock.

Lastly, Soak up the many compliments your will receive and the surprised looks you get when you tell people it’s just cardboard. They won’t believe it till they see it.

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30.75" CARDBOARD CLOCK INSTRUCTIONS
KEYSTONE STYLE

30.75 INCH CLOCK FRAME COMPASS
(COMpatible with 19.75" CLOCK FACE)

CENTER POINT

COMPASS TEMPLATE
DECORATIVE TEMPLATE PIECE 2
DECORATIVE TEMPLATE PIECE 3