

Craft Project

Italian Cantina



What is a cantina?

A cantina is a cold room used for storing various products, especially preserves, wine, sausage, and homemade cheese. It's also where people store vegetables grown in their gardens during the summer season.



An example of a cantina

Material

Salt Dough

½ cup of salt

1 cup of flour

½ cup of tepid water

Other Material

Empty tissue box or shoebox

Construction paper

White glue

Scissors

Corrugated cardboard

Acrylic paint or gouache

Paintbrush

Water

Felt markers

Instructions

Salt Dough (Part 1)

1. Mix together the ingredients for the salt dough, forming a pliable paste. If the mixture is too wet, add some flour. If the mixture is too dry, add some water.



2. Shape the various cantina items out of salt dough and place them on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Here is a list of items you can make with the dough: tomatoes, potatoes, mushrooms, prosciutto, wine bottles, jars of preserves, cheese, carrots, eggplants, salami, a damigiana*, beans.



Tip: to stick various elements together, simply dab a little water between the pieces.

*A damigiana (or demijohn) is a large, short-necked bottle made of thick glass, usually covered in wicker for protection. It is used to store wine, spirits, and brandy (see photo).



3. Let the pieces of dough dry out for at least 12 hours. Then, put them in a 200°F oven for about 3 hours or until they are dry and hard. If some of the pieces break apart, you can easily reassemble them with some white glue and let them dry.

While drying out the salt dough shapes, you can prepare the box that will serve as the backdrop for your cantina.

Cantina Box Decor

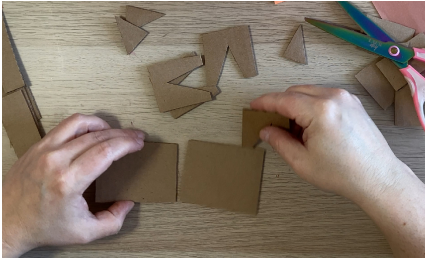
1. Cut off the top of the box.



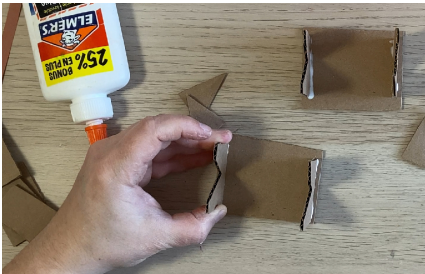
2. Using construction paper in the colour of your choice (or another type of paper), cover the inside and outside of your box. You can print the pasta design on the last page of this document to use as a background in the box. Use white glue to stick the paper to the box.



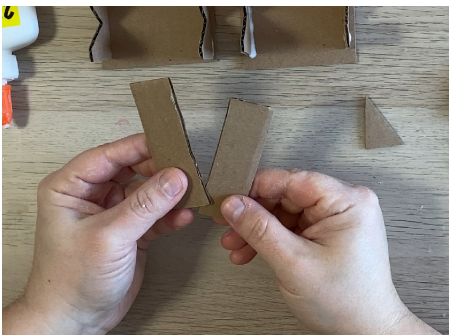
3. Cut out two rectangles of corrugated cardboard. Make sure they fit inside your box (measure the depth of your box). Cut out 4 smaller rectangles to use as table legs, cutting a small triangle out of each of them (see photo). Using a brown felt marker, draw lines on the rectangles to simulate the look of wood.



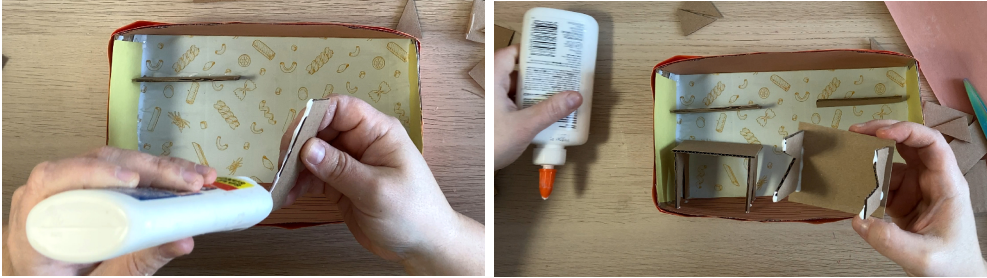
4. Using white glue, stick the legs to the two rectangle tabletops, one at a time. Hold the pieces together for about 10 seconds before letting them go, making sure the glue holds well.



5. Cut out two long rectangles to use as shelves. Using a brown felt marker, draw lines on the rectangles to simulate the look of wood.



6. Glue these elements into the box. One table at each end, with shelves on the wall above them. Don't forget to hold the pieces for about 10 seconds before letting them go to make sure the glue holds well.

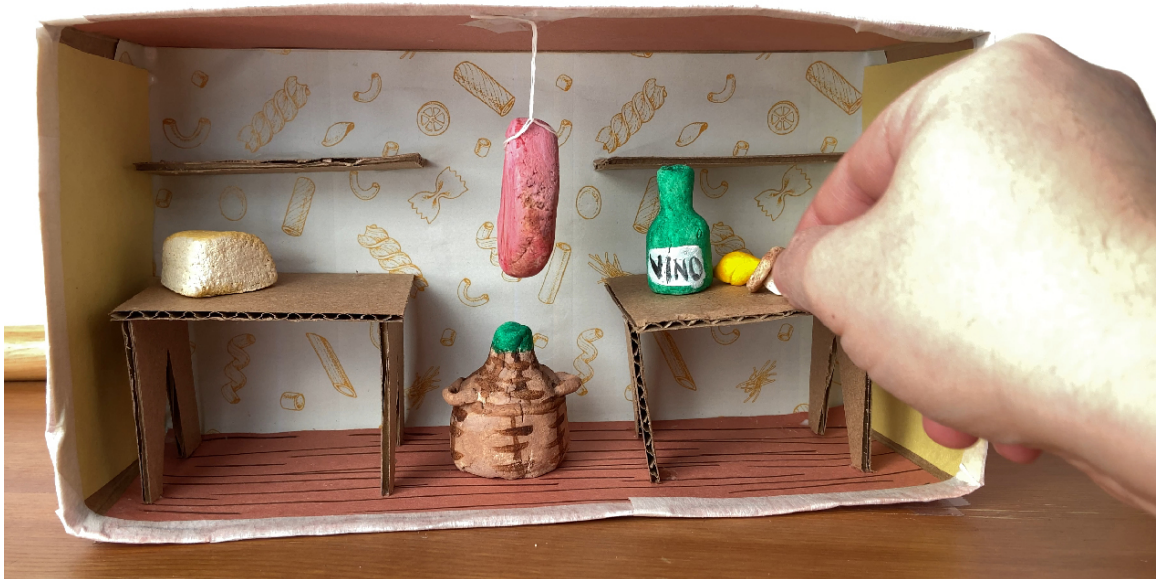


Salt Dough (Part 2)

1. Using acrylic paint or gouache, paint all of the salt dough elements. Let them dry well.



2. When all of the pieces are dry, all that's left to do is place them into your cantina box. You can glue them in place with white glue if you want everything to be permanent. Otherwise, have fun moving things around as you like. You can also hang your prosciutto using a string glued to the ceiling of your cantina.



Happy crafting!

