

# How to make a Makower UK fabric Advent Calendar new designs for 2016

Make a pretty advent calendar that will hold treats and surprises year after year as it becomes part of your family's Christmas traditions.

Watch our free instructional video on You Tube <http://www.youtube.com/user/makoweruk>



1595/1 SCANDI ADVENT PANEL



1612/1 WRAP IT UP ADVENT PANEL

## What you need:

- Makower Advent Panel
- Backing fabric and wadding  
70 cm x 112cm / 27.5" x 45"
- Thread to match
- Iron and board
- Dressmaking shears
- Pins
- Optional: Rotary cutter, mat and ruler



1586/1 FROSTY ADVENT PANEL

118 Grey's Road, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1QW  
[www.makoweruk.com](http://www.makoweruk.com) Email: [info@makoweruk.com](mailto:info@makoweruk.com)  
+44(0)1491 579727

**makower uk**  
*The Henley Studio*

## SEWING INSTRUCTIONS FOR ADVENT CALENDAR

Make this easy to construct calendar and fill it with your own choice of sweets and treats for Christmas. Wendy Gardiner provides some simple steps and tips to make up the panel easily and quickly.

1. Cut out the panel around the border. Next cut out the pockets, cutting along the solid lines only. Note some pockets are cut out individually, others are in groups, divided by dotted/dashed lines. Only cut along the solid lines.
2. On each pocket piece, fold under the top edge to the wrong side and press in place. On the individual pockets you can save some time by turning under the bottom edge and pressing this too.
3. Using the edge of the presser foot as a guide for the edge of the fabric, move the needle across to the right with the stitch width button so you can top stitch the turned pocket tops in place. Just go from one pocket to the next, with a few stitches on nothing in between. This is so much quicker and saves on thread! Continue like this until you have sewn all the pocket tops and you end up with something looking like a string of bunting. Once you have sewn them all, cut the threads between the pocket pieces to separate them again.
4. Press the stitched tops and then turn in the side edges on the individual pockets so that all edges are now pressed under and the pockets are ready to stitch on the panel.
5. For the grouped pockets, pinch a fold in the pocket edge and fold it towards the blue dotted line and press in place. Repeat for the other side, and pin in place so that the folds at the bottom of the pockets are butted against each other. To hold the folds in place, stitch just inside the seam allowance.
6. Working from the wrong side, turn up the bottom edge and press. Finish the grouped pockets by pressing in the side edges.
7. Pin the pockets to the panel over their printed counterparts. Note how the printed pattern all lines up beautifully.
8. Sewing on pockets: Line up the edge of the pocket with the inner edge of the right toe on the presser foot to edge stitch the pocket in place down the sides and across the bottom. At the corners, stop with needle down, raise presser foot, pivot fabric, lower the presser foot and continue. Back stitch at the start and the end to secure the stitches.
9. On the group pockets you then need to stitch along the blue dotted line, keeping the pocket folded out of the way. Don't try and start at the very bottom, just about 6mm. (1/4") from then end and then stitch to the pocket top. Reverse stitch to secure.
10. Cut the backing and wadding slightly larger than the pocket panel. Also cut a casing for the batten, 8cm (3") wide by the width of the panel less 8cm (3"). Turn the short ends of the casing under twice to form narrow hems and stitch in place. Turn under the long edges by 1 cm (3/8") and press.
11. Position the casing on the backing fabric 5cm (2") from the top and centred widthways. Stitch along the top long edge.
12. Gently push the bottom edge of the casing up a little creating a tunnel, pin and stitch in place. This helps the panel stay flat when the batten is inserted.
13. Working on a flat surface, layer the wadding, then backing fabric right way up and panel right side down, smoothing out each layer. Pin around the edges. Leave a turning gap in the bottom edge, TIP: Mark the turning gap with double pins to remind yourself to stop.
14. If you have one, attach a walking foot – making sure the side bar goes over the needle bar on the right which engages the feed dogs on the foot to work in line with those on the machine. Increase stitch length to 3mm and sew around the outer edge of the panels, starting midway along the bottom of the panel, pivot at the corners.
15. Trim the seam allowances and cut corners at an angle, leaving the turning gap untrimmed. Turn the panel through the right side, pushing out the corners with a point turner or knitting needle. Press, tucking in the raw edges of the turning gap. Slip stitch the opening closed.
16. The last step, which is optional is to top stitch around the inner edge of the red border.

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