

Find the Beauty... in Duct Tape!  
By Dennis May, Kirkland Town Library staff

Hobbies, from knitting and painting to building model trains and practicing calligraphy, enable us to get our creative juices flowing and to pass the time. Sometimes hobbies can even turn into a lucrative side hustle, but if you're like me, you're more interested in the creative outlet a hobby provides. During February and March, the Kirkland Town Library is offering a series of "Find the Beauty" challenges for patrons; ranging from watching a new movie to telling a friend they're beautiful. These challenges encourage us to see the bright side during the gloomy winter months. As part of the "Find the Beauty" challenge, patrons are invited to check out how-to books on display at the front desk, all of which include a starter bag with supplies to get them started learning a new skill. To kick start my own creativity, I decided to check out a kit to see just how easy and fun it would be to learn something new.

I wouldn't consider myself the greatest craftsman, but I can knit a decent scarf, paint a picture when I'm inspired, and follow directions pretty well. One thing I've never thought about doing, however, is using duct tape to do anything other than hold things together. So, when I saw the how-to book, *Duct Tape Discovery Workshop: Easy & Stylish Duct Tape Designs* by Tonia Jenny, I was immediately perplexed and curious. What could one possibly make with a roll of duct tape? Flipping through pages I came across keychains, phone cases, jewelry, and wallets among other everyday items that can be made out of duct tape. I was tempted to work on the most complicated item in the book, but decided that I should stick with the simplest, most straightforward, hope-to-get-it-done-in-an-hour project: a box.

The project, located on page 62, is titled "Masu Boxes." At first glance it looks easy: fold pieces of duct tape into a box and there you go. However, it's a little more complicated than that; for example, the required materials include more than just a roll of duct tape. Specifically, the masu boxes require a cutting mat, craft knife, paper, parchment paper, and a ruler, but every craft in this book calls for different materials, and you may need a quick trip to a craft store before you get started. Luckily, I had everything I needed, so I sat down and began to create (hopefully) the best duct tape box of all time.

The directions below are pulled directly from Tonia Jenny's *Duct Tape Discovery Workshop*:

**Step One:**

Create two perfect squares of fabric-paper one side, duct tape on the other- with one sheet of fabric  $\frac{1}{2}$ " smaller than the other. Fold the smaller fabric in half. Open the fabric and fold it in half the other direction.

**Step Two:**

Fold one corner to the next. Open the fabric and fold in the opposite direction.

**Step Three:**

Open the fabric and fold each corner to the center point of the fabric.

**Step Four:**

Open two flaps.

Find the Beauty... in Duct Tape!  
By Dennis May, Kirkland Town Library staff

Step Five:

Fold two flat sides into the center. Open it up and repeat with the other two corners.

Step Six:

At the V, fold the points backward to create a rectangle.

Step Seven:

Fold each of the four corners in.

Step Eight:

Spread the center apart and bring one side up to form the box side.

Step Nine:

Bring the flap point down into the box. Repeat for the other side. Burnish each edge so the folds stay.

Step Ten:

Repeat steps 1-9 on the other sheet of fabric to create the lid. Add embellishments to the lid of the box as desired.

If you have followed along, you should have a beautiful box that can be super useful. I plan on using mine to collect my loose change. While I enjoyed working on this little craft, I think next time I'll check out how to make paper airplanes, or how to draw my favorite cartoon characters.

Do you have the desire to take up a new hobby? The Kirkland Town Library has plenty of "how-to" books, including the ones on display at the front desk. Come visit us and check them out!