

PHOTOGRAPHY: PHILIP SOWELS; STYLING: KIT CHEUNG AND MATILDA SMITH



HOW MANY DAYS?

Count down to Christmas with Anna Alicia's
Scandi-style advent calendar

HOW TO MAKE... AN ADVENT CALENDAR 

MATERIALS

- 1m (39 $\frac{3}{8}$ ") cotton canvas fabric in cream
- 50cm (19 $\frac{3}{4}$ ") patterned fabric, (we used Sevenberry Lightweight Canvas in Poco Black)
- Felt in blue, green, orange, pink and yellow
- Matching sewing thread
- Transfer paper
- Tailor's chalk
- Fabric glue
- Webbing, 1m (39 $\frac{3}{8}$ "), 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ ") wide
- Dowel, 60cm (23 $\frac{5}{8}$ "), 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ ") wide

This year, ditch the shop-bought advent calendar and replace it with this easy-sew version instead. Combining Scandi-looking clean lines and monochrome prints with a pop of colour, not only will it look good hung in your home, but filling its pockets each year creates a lovely tradition, too.

Choose the treats as a family, or surprise little 'uns with a selection of mini toys, candy canes, and heartfelt festive messages. We love that these pockets are big enough to fit in plenty of goodies, but if you prefer, you can easily scale it down to make a smaller version.

01 Using the templates on page 98, cut out the numbers for each day – 1 through to 24 – from **different coloured felt**. We printed the templates onto transfer paper (visit www.molliemakes.com to download), ironed the

transfers onto the felt, then cut out each shape. But, you can just draw around the templates if you prefer.

02 Cut out a 56 x 93cm (22 $\frac{1}{8}$ x 36 $\frac{5}{8}$ ") piece of cotton canvas. Cut a 56 x 14cm (22 $\frac{1}{8}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ") piece of **patterned fabric** for the bottom trim, and a 56 x 16cm (22 $\frac{1}{8}$ x 6 $\frac{3}{8}$ ") piece for the top trim. On both pieces of patterned fabric, fold one long edge to the wrong side (WS) by 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ ") and press.

03 Lay the cotton canvas right side (RS) up, with the short edges at the top and bottom. Mark a horizontal line 13cm (5 $\frac{1}{4}$ ") up from the bottom edge, then place the bottom trim on top, RS up, and aligning the **long raw edges**. Fold up the bottom trim so the fabrics are RS together, then pin along the crease, making sure it stays in line with the chalk mark. Sew along the crease, then fold the fabric back down, aligning the long raw edges.

04 Repeat Step 3 with the top trim, this time **drawing the line** 15cm (6") down from the top edge.

05 Turn over the main fabric so the WS is facing up. Fold the two long side edges and the bottom edge to the WS by 1.5cm ($\frac{5}{8}$ "), then again by 1.5cm ($\frac{5}{8}$ "), keeping the corners neat. Pin, then **sew in place**. Fold the top edge to the WS by 2.5cm (1"), then again by 2.5cm (1"). Pin, then sew 2cm ($\frac{3}{4}$ ") down from the top edge, creating a channel.

06 Cut six 43 x 23cm (17 x 9 $\frac{1}{8}$ ") pieces of cream canvas for the pockets and mark a 1.5cm ($\frac{5}{8}$ ") seam allowance along each edge. Fold one piece in half along the length, aligning the raw edges, then pin and sew one short edge and one long edge. Trim the excess seam allowance, and turn RS out. Fold the **open short edge** to the WS by 1.5cm ($\frac{5}{8}$ ") and press. Repeat with the remaining pieces.

07 With the main fabric RS up, mark several points 20.5cm (8 $\frac{1}{8}$ ") down from the top edge. Fold one pocket in half along the length and **mark the centre**. With RS up, and the folded long edge at the top, align the bottom of the pocket with the marks, matching the centre points, then pin in place. Repeat with the other pockets, lining up each one below the pocket above.

08 Sew along the bottom and side edges of **each pocket strip**, 0.25mm ($\frac{1}{8}$ ") in from the edge.

09 Next, measure and pin a line vertically down the centre of each strip. **Repeat 10cm (4")** out from the centre on either side to make four equal-sized pockets. Sew along the pinned lines, then press.

10 Use the **fabric glue** to stick the numbers centrally onto each pocket, then leave to dry.

11 Thread the **dowel** through the channel **at the top** of the calendar. Wrap one end of the webbing around a dowel end, sew to secure, then repeat at the other end.



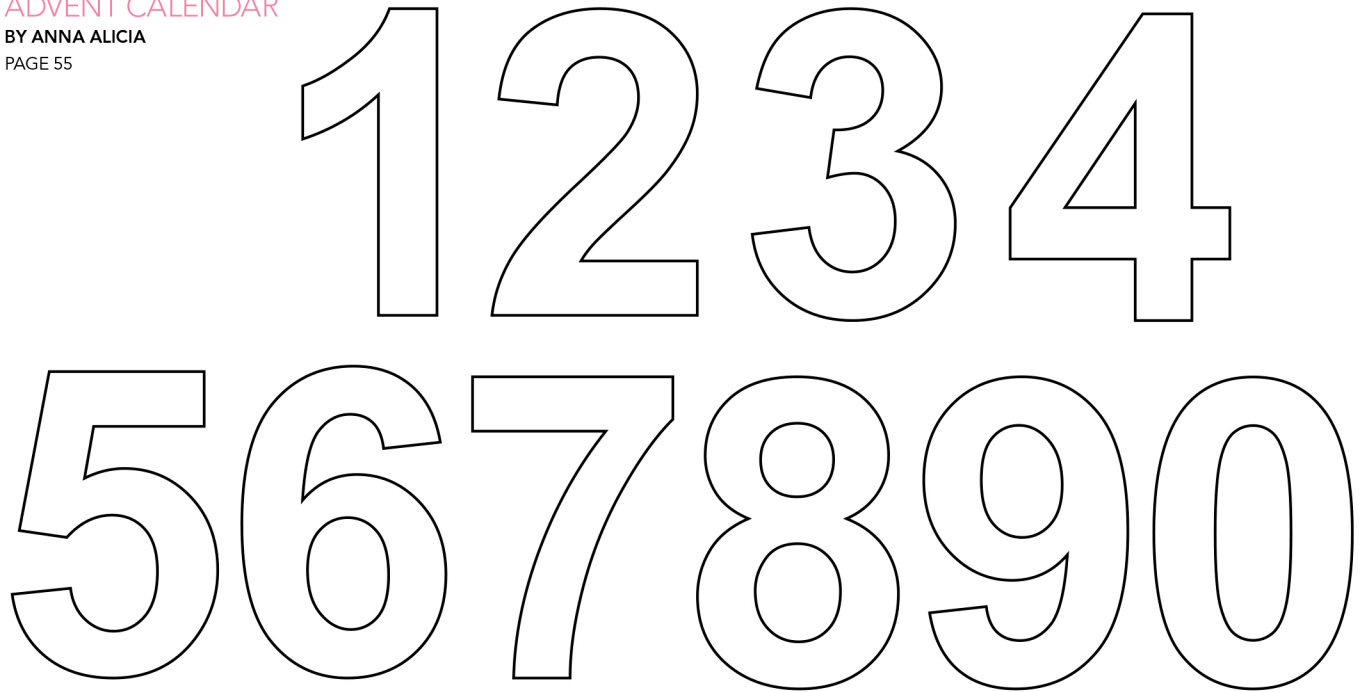
Anna Alicia

Anna is the designer-maker behind ethical jewellery and homeware label A Alicia, and lives in East London with her artist husband, and their bonny toddler. She has a passion for eco-ethical and handmade products, and is also the author of *Make it Your Own: 25 Stylish Projects for Your Home*. www.aalicia.bigcartel.com

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