

Chinese Shadowboxes

By Cecilia Swatton, Red Bank, New Jersey



Images used:
SC-010-M, Asian Child & Text Collage: FA-412-E, Asian Butterfly



Image used:
SC 009-M, Asian Child & Butterfly Collage



Other Supplies:

- computer with scanner, image-editing software & printer (optional)
- ivory mulberry paper (optional)
- two sheets white printer paper (optional)
- temporary 2-sided tape (Scotch)
- scissors
- small glass square (source unknown)
- small round Chinese beads, mask & mini-drum ([Oriental Trading Company](#))
- large red Chinese beads of assorted shapes (source unknown)
- Chinese metal medallion ([SkyBluePink](#))
- bamboo (Michael's)
- [Crafters Pick](#) Ultimate Glue
- permanent glue stick
- brown shoe polish and any brown or rust-color ink (not dye) stamp pad
- old book printed in Chinese and large, flat yellow beads (flea market)
- [Jet Black Archival Ink stamp pad \(Ranger Industries\)](#)
- Chinese woman clipart ([Dover Publications](#))
- shadowbox frames (Sharp Trading and Wholesale)

Directions:

(Optional first step: Stamp Asian Butterfly on white printer paper, scan it into computer, and reduce its size using image-editing software. Print it on thin mulberry paper, attached with temporary 2-sided tape to a "carrier sheet" of printer paper. Tear out the butterfly.)

1. Cut clip-art to match size of small square of glass. Run glue stick across face of image; place under glass and press. Age glass with shoe polish and brown or rust stamp pad.
2. Tear pages from old book; stamp them, using Jet Black Archival Ink with the Asian stamps. Attach them to back walls with glue stick.
3. Age edges of shadowboxes by gently rubbing with brown dye ink pad.
4. Cut bamboo to size. Using Ultimate Glue, add to it to the outer frames along with medallion, aged glass square and small round beads.
5. Likewise, glue mini-drum, remaining beads and mask inside the frames.
6. Use glue stick to add small butterfly to one shadowbox.

Note One: Any assortment of Asian embellishments can be used. Two excellent, inexpensive sources: [Oriental Trading Company](#) & [SkyBluePink](#)

Note Two: Shadowbox frames similar to those I used are available at [Wholesalers USA](#).