

# **If You Don't Have a Mailbox**

## **More Advent Wreath Ideas**

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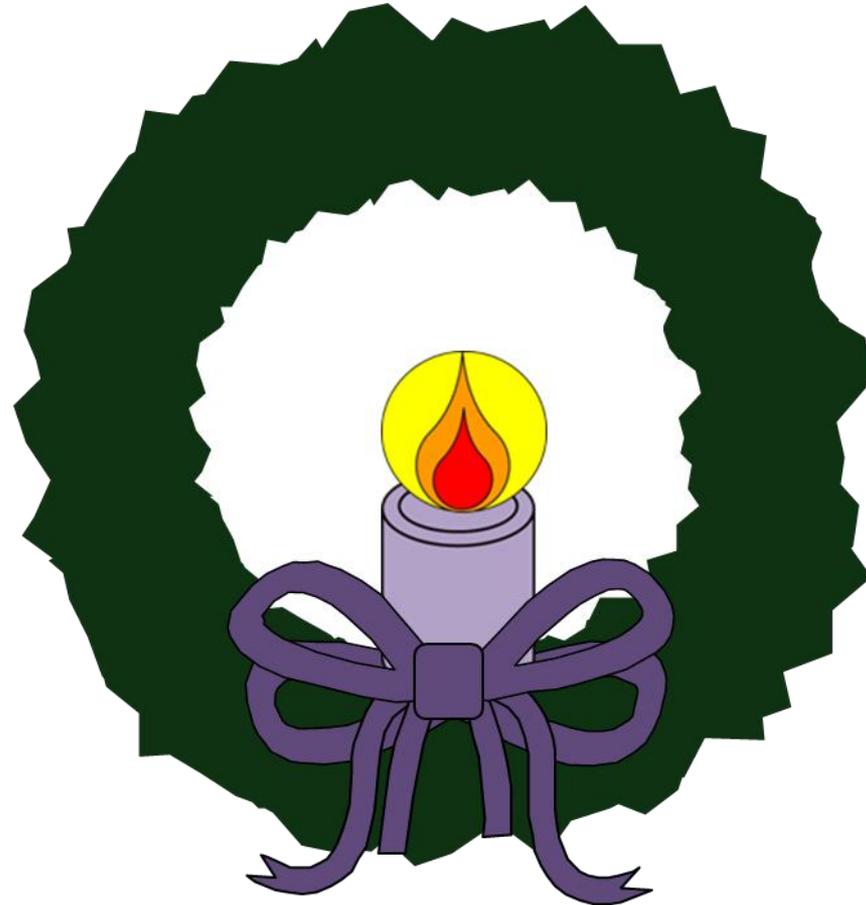
My best friend from grammar school emailed to complain that she's in an apartment and so has no mailbox on which to display an Advent wreath. And my cousin said her mailbox was too small for something like this.

That got the wheels turning again to more ideas for promoting Advent without something as elaborate as a mailbox wreath.

# This is all theory

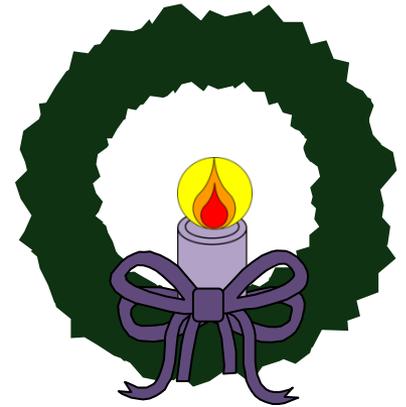
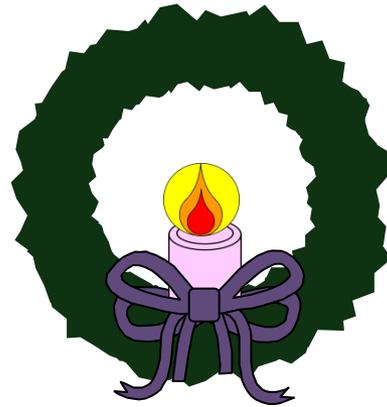
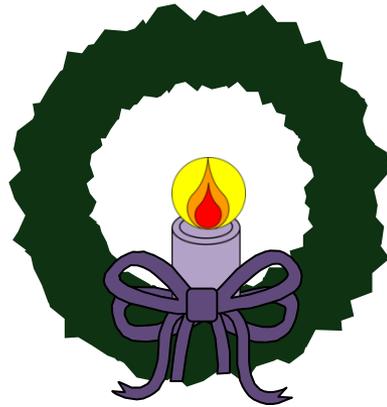
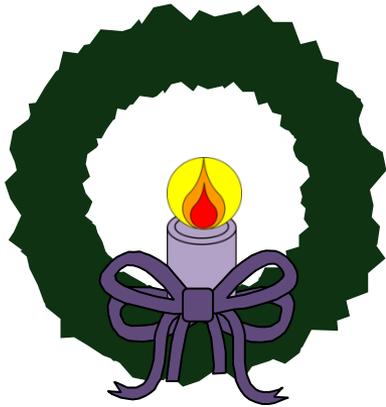
No time to hit the craft stores all over again and start experimenting with materials. I'll simply throw out some ideas/designs and see what you all think.

If you have 4 windows



This is most along the lines of what I've already done with the mailbox wreath. It could be done fairly inexpensively and quickly.

Hang one wreath in each window, and “light” a new candle with each Sunday of Advent.



# Shopping List

- 4 faux Christmas wreaths
- 4 Styrofoam wreaths (green floral—NOT for wet arrangements)
- Twine and/or craft wire
- T-pins
- Purple bows or flowers
- 3 purple can cozies, 1 pink
- Craft foam sheets in orange, yellow, red
- Craft foam glue
- Large popsicle sticks (tongue depressor size)
- Clothesline or other thick white rope
- 4 suction cup hangers

- Attach the Styrofoam wreath to the back of the Christmas wreath with twine. Add bow or flower to bottom of wreath.
- Make candles and flames as explained earlier. Would be easiest to pop a piece of clothesline in the holes to act as the wicks. Remove and replace with flame-on-a-stick when necessary. (Not sure that the zip-tie idea would work with Styrofoam.)
- Place candle half on Christmas wreath and half on Styrofoam wreath and secure with t-pins into the Styrofoam.
- Fluff wreath so it hides the bottom of the candle.
- Hang with suction cup hooks.

# If you have 2 windows



Not sure if this would work, but perhaps you could squeeze 2 can cozies into each wreath—you may have to buy larger wreaths. Otherwise, you could make smaller tubes of craft foam.

If you have 1 window or door



Make tubes of craft foam. Not sure if tubes will hold together with glue. May be necessary to staple or even use thin strips of duct tape (unless you'll be able to see it from inside the house).

# Other ideas

Children could make construction paper wreaths along the same idea: one candle per wreath if you have 4 windows (attach on the inside, of course), or up to 4 candles for one window or door.

This page provides a template for a holly leaf:

<http://www.allkidsnetwork.com/crafts/christmas/holly-leaf-wreath.asp>

Same thing for craft foam. You may be able to find pre-cut wreath shapes at craft stores. (I thought I saw a small one—about 8-9 inches around—at Michael's).

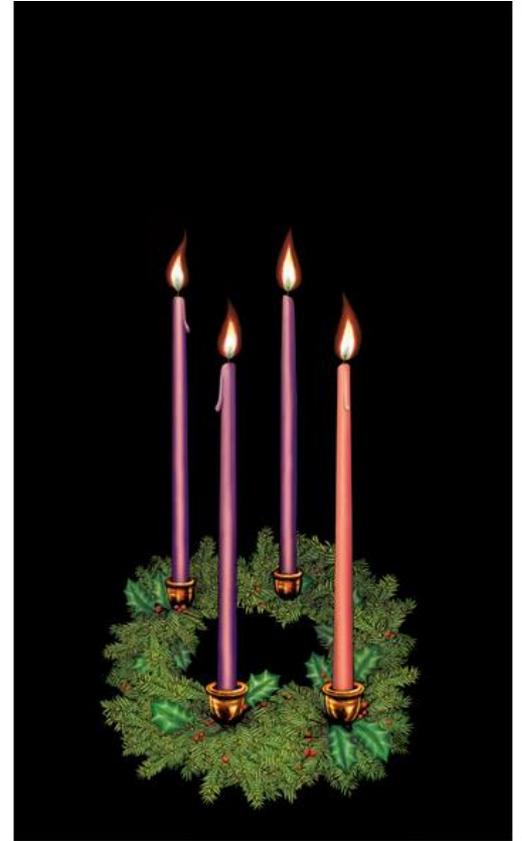
# Other ideas

And then there's this from Leaflet Missal Company. My jaw dropped when I got their catalog in the mail yesterday and this was on the cover. It's a poster you hang in your window, and it glows from the light inside the house. It's not terribly showy, but if I had seen this one month ago, I probably wouldn't have created the Mailbox Advent Wreath!

You can order it here:

<http://www.leafletonline.com/Advent-Poster-for-Window-Illuminated/productinfo/24412/ADVENT/>

They also have similar Christmas and Epiphany posters, but they are out of stock already.



# Other ideas

Leaflet Missal Company also sells a Child's Fabric Advent Wreath. If someone could make this using waterproof nylon, this could be a great mailbox Advent wreath, too!

I would sew 7 candles—4 with flames, 3 without\*—so all you would have to do is switch out the candles when it's time to “light” them.



\*Putting it outside on the First Sunday of Advent would mean you wouldn't need a 4<sup>th</sup> unlighted candle.

## And last but not least...

I'm even thinking of designing some Advent wreath pins out of craft foam or other materials. Thought a set of 4 would be good to have 1, 2, 3, and then 4 candles. Haven't worked out the details, but I'm going to work on this for next year. Maybe some of you will have ideas on this.

God bless you all!

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