

ALL ABOARD THE GINGERBREAD EXPRESS...

chugging nonstop from the North Pole, arriving under your tree come Christmas morn! You make it from our easy recipe, add sesame-candy ties, licorice tracks, then fill with a cargo of reindeer and gifts. What fun!

How-to's, page 241

Designed by Ollie Alpert
Photographed by Victor Scocozza





the remaining areas of wall; let dry. **To decorate mailboxes:** First, paint flags with red icing, holly leaves with green. Break off curved edges of candy canes; cut one candy cane to 4" for small mailbox; smooth ends of both candy canes with file. Using white icing, attach flags to candy canes. Attach canes with flags to side of each mailbox, holding until set. Attach three holly leaves to large mailbox as shown in photograph. Cut a small slice from three foil-covered chocolate balls to make ends flat; attach to mailbox as in photograph. Using white icing and medium writing tip, pipe on "Merry Christmas" on side of large box. Using a leaf tip and green icing, pipe on design around front edge of small mailbox and around front-door edge of large mailbox. Add dragées. Set boxes aside.

To decorate figures: Paint and decorate bunny and bird as in photograph. Use small writing tip to pipe on details, outlines. To decorate Christmas cards, paint one side with white icing; let dry. Pipe on names in red; using small artist's brush, paint on colorful Christmas stamps.

FINAL ASSEMBLY

Using a thick coat of ornamental icing, set small and large mailboxes on stone wall; tilt back slightly—place an extra "stone" under each to create desired angle. Spread some soft white frosting on mailbox roofs and on top layer of stones; set bird in place. When icing is partially dry, sprinkle mailbox roofs and wall with edible glitter or granulated sugar. Attach easel to back of bunny. Cover base completely with soft frosting. When partially dry, sprinkle with edible glitter or sugar; let dry completely. Set up bunny; arrange Christmas cards in large mailbox. ★

ALL ABOARD THE GINGERBREAD EXPRESS

pictured on pages 118-119

GINGERBREAD EXPRESS

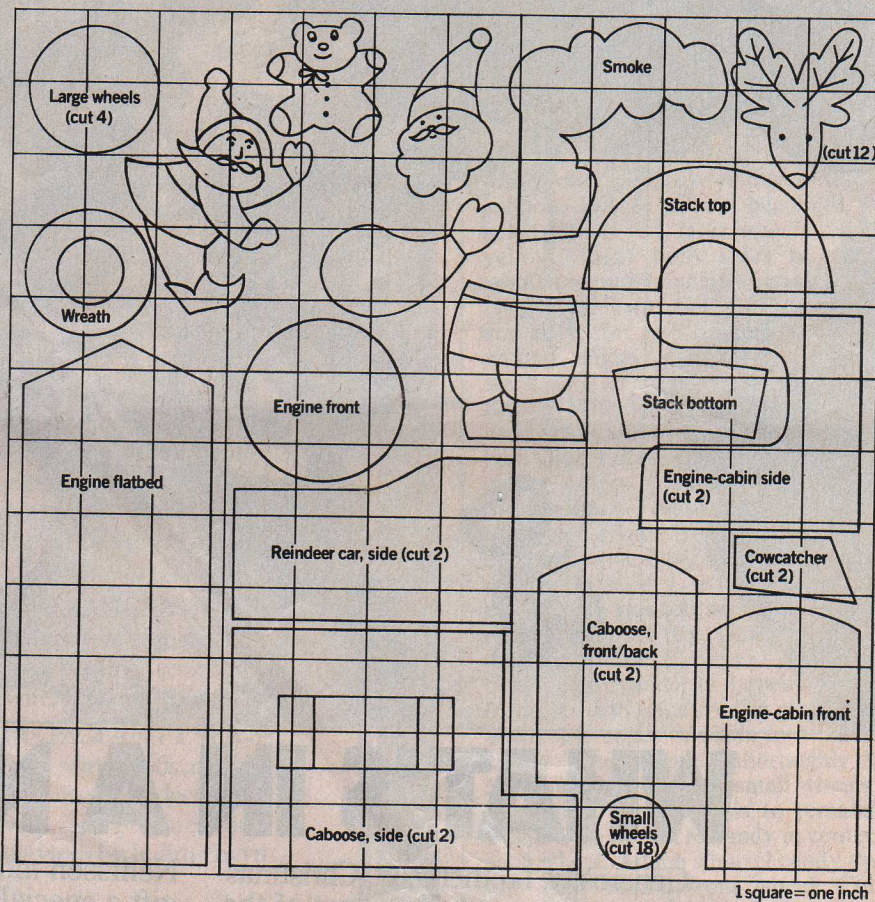
- 1 batch *Gingerbread Dough* (page 241)
- 2 batches *Ornamental Icing* (page 241)
- 2 batches *Soft Frosting* (page 241)
- 1 egg beaten with 1 tablespoon water
- 1 round salt box (1 lb. 10 oz. size)
- 1 empty 6-oz. frozen-juice can
- 1 aluminum funnel 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " high
- Styrofoam or other board for base*
- 25 to 30 yellow M&M candies
- 4 red raspberry candies
- 2 barrel-shaped candies
- one 1" gold-foil-covered chocolate balls
- 1 gold-foil-covered chocolate bell
- 2 dozen mini marshmallows
- 4 green gumdrops
- cinnamon red-hot candies
- gold and silver dragées

- 2 large silver dragées
- multicolor nonpareils
- edible glitter
- 5 white French mints
- nine 6"-long candy canes
- rectangular foil-covered chocolates
- and foil-covered chocolate coins for gift packages
- 1 sugar ice-cream cone
- green Good 'n Fruity candy or other "capsule" shaped candies
- yellow string
- 8 to 9 dozen 1/2" by 1 1/2" sesame crunch logs
- licorice strings
- a few pieces of linguini
- red, green, yellow, and blue food-color pastes* or food colorings
- cocoa

and gift-car front and back, two 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " by 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ " gift-car sides, one 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ " by 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " tree car, one 4 $\frac{1}{8}$ " by 4 $\frac{1}{8}$ " caboose roof, one 2 $\frac{1}{8}$ " by 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " caboose base, one 3/8" by 2 $\frac{1}{8}$ " caboose-rail end, one 1/2" square headlight and four 1/4" by 3/4" car hookups.

To make curved pieces: Cut salt box in half lengthwise, making sure cuts are even and parallel. Cover both halves of the salt completely with foil; grease and lightly flour. With spatula, carefully lift engine roof and drape it over one salt-box half with long edges running the length of the box. Repeat with the caboose roof. For smokestack, check pattern pieces against funnel; adjust pattern if necessary. Grease and lightly flour funnel. Carefully drape stack top around funnel where it joins smaller

GINGERBREAD EXPRESS



Roll dough 1/2" thick; cut two 2 $\frac{1}{8}$ " by 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ " "false floors" for reindeer car and gift car; cut rectangles of various sizes for gift packages. Following General Directions (page 241), cut remaining pieces from 1/4"-thick dough, turning pattern piece over for second engine-cabin side, reindeer-car side, caboose side, and cowcatcher. In addition to those given in diagram, above, you will need: one 3 $\frac{5}{8}$ " by 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ " engine-cabin roof, two 2 $\frac{1}{8}$ " by 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ " bases for reindeer and gift cars, one 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " by 2 $\frac{1}{8}$ " reindeer-car front, three 2 $\frac{1}{8}$ " by 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " pieces for reindeer-car back

section. Dampen back edges and pinch them together. Wrap stack bottom around small section of funnel; match seam to seam of other piece. Dampen edges and carefully join the pieces. Place funnel on cookie sheet. For engine cylinder, cover juice can with foil, smoothing out all wrinkles; grease and flour. Cut a rectangle of dough the length of the can and slightly wider than the circumference. Carefully wrap the dough around the can; trim excess dough, then moisten seam and pinch together. Trim dough at ends of can. Place on cookie sheet, seam-side down.

*Where to buy, see footnote, page 241.

continued on page 254

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We'd like to hear comments from you and/or your child about Avon/Camelot books. If you're kind enough to write us, we'll send you a colorfully illustrated growth chart to hang on your child's wall. Avon Books, The Hearst Corporation, Room 307, 959 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10019.

GINGERBREAD EXPRESS

continued from page 250

Brush all pieces with egg mixture and bake. While gingerbread is still warm, carefully loosen edges of engine cylinder with a knife. Loosen edges of other curved pieces. Allow to cool completely and remove pieces from molds.

ASSEMBLING AND DECORATING

Add enough cocoa to about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Ornamental Icing to make it a light brown (for construction); make small amounts red, green, yellow, and blue icing; make a small amount of very dark green icing (almost black) for Santa's boots.

Following photograph, using a small artist's brush and icing thinned with a little water, paint all pieces before assembling. Using fine writing tip, pipe brown lines on engine cylinder, front and cabin front, smokestack, tree car, and caboose sides, front and back. Paint green trim on cowcatcher, engine-cabin sides, and sides, front and back of reindeer and gift cars; let dry. Pipe yellow trim around green on cars; pipe yellow lines on cowcatcher. Paint windows and vertical yellow lines on caboose pieces. Paint headlight and small wheels red, large wheels red and yellow. Paint both sides of smoke white; cut marshmallows in half and set into icing. Paint Santa, elf, reindeer, and gifts. Cut gold dragées in half; set around engine cylinder and smokestack.

Engine: With hot knife, cut 3 sections of candy cane the width of the engine flatbed. Glue 1 across bottom of flatbed at center, others 2" either side of center to form axles. Following Construction Tips, glue engine front into front opening of cylinder, filing down front to fit, if necessary; let dry. With back and side edges even, glue left side of engine cabin to flatbed; let dry. Glue cabin front, then right side in place. With seam down, glue cylinder to flatbed and cabin front; let dry. Glue roof in place, filing down side edges of cabin to fit, if necessary. When engine is thoroughly dry, lay it on its side. Glue small wheels to front axle, large wheels to remaining axles. Glue an M&M candy in center of each wheel. Attach a barrel candy "piston" just behind front wheel. Cut a green Good 'n Fruity candy in half; glue to rear wheel; let dry. Repeat on other side. Attach cow-catcher to front. File base of smokestack to fit top of engine cylinder. With seam in back, glue in place. Set bell between stack and cabin. Glue a length of string from bell to underneath side of engine roof. Glue large silver dragée to top of bell. Glue wreath to engine front; cut foil-covered ball in half and glue inside wreath. Using leaf tip, pipe green around wreath; set dragées and pipe a red bow. Glue headlight above wreath; glue M&M to front, silver dragée to top. Cut a piece of linguini to fit from piston to

middle wheel and one to fit from middle to rear wheel. Paint yellow and glue in place. Glue half of a Good 'n Fruity candy over joining. Repeat on other side. Glue Santa's arm into left window; glue head to arm and roof edge. Hold until set. Glue legs inside cabin. Using #47 decorator tip (wide, with serrations), pipe red icing across roof; let dry. With spatula, add white snow; sprinkle with edible glitter.

Reindeer Car: Glue false floor to top of base. With lower edges even, glue front and back to base and platform. Glue sides in place. Attach two candy-cane axles to bottom as for engine. Glue a red raspberry candy to front and back. Glue cinnamon candy "holly berries" to sides; cut gumdrop leaves and glue in place. Add gold dragées. Crumple a small piece of foil; arrange 3 reindeer around it to form a triangle and glue them together. When dry, remove foil and glue the triangle into the center of the car. Glue additional reindeer into car, a few to outside edge (see photograph). Glue on small wheels; add an M&M to center of each wheel.

Gift Car: Assemble as for reindeer car; glue gifts and candies in place.

Tree Car: Attach axles and wheels as for other cars. Starting at bottom of ice-cream cone, using leaf tip and green icing, cover cone completely. Sprinkle with nonpareils; set with dragées. Glue French mint to top. Let dry. Spread

white icing on car; set tree in place. Cut four 1/2" pieces of candy cane and glue one to each corner of car. Drape string from post to post. Glue a French mint to top of each post.

Caboose: Attach axles. With bottom edges even, glue sides to side edges of base; let dry. Glue front and back in place; let dry. Glue back rail in place; let dry. Attach and decorate wheels. Attach and decorate roof as for engine. Set a 3/4"-long piece of candy cane at rear of roof for chimney; top with a green gumdrop. Place snow on roof and chimney; sprinkle with edible glitter. Attach elf at corner of back rail.

Base: Cut base to desired shape; spread with soft-frosting snow. Set train in place and mark placement of cars and width of wheels. Remove cars. Mark track lines on base. For each rail tie, set 3 sesame logs across track lines; glue down. Keep ties perpendicular to rails and evenly spaced. To support, cut approximately 20 candies in half lengthwise; glue along track lines between ties, breaking as needed. Glue licorice string rails onto ties and supports; let dry. Glue cars in place; glue car hook-ups between cars, gluing to underside of bases. ★

MAKE SANTA'S TUGBOAT

pictured on page 66

SANTA'S TUGBOAT

- 1 batch Gingerbread Dough (page 241)
- 2 batches Ornamental Icing (page 241)
- 1 egg beaten with 1 tablespoon water
- 1 empty 12-oz. frozen-juice can
- 2 clay flowerpot saucers, 6 1/2" in diameter
- medium-weight cardboard for mold
- masking tape
- scrap of light blue foil or 1"-wide ribbon
- 1 sugar ice-cream cone
- cocoa
- red, yellow and green food-color pastes* or food colorings
- decorations:
 - small gold and silver dragées
 - cinnamon red-hot candies
 - 1 large peppermint stick
 - 1 small candy cane
 - 1 gold-foil-covered chocolate bell
 - multicolored nonpareils
 - colored sprinkles
 - blue sugar crystals
 - assorted foil-covered candies
 - red and green Good 'n Fruity candy or other "capsule" shaped candies

Cut 2 hull sides, 1 hull base, 1 deck, and 1 seat from medium-weight cardboard. Cut hull support from lightweight card-

*Where to buy, see footnote, page 241.

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