



Mastering Mixed Media Expo 2026

The Playful Bird Box - Pattern, Paint, Collage

By Collage Artist, Carrie Smith

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SUPPLY LIST

- 1 Sheet of Patterned Paper with a busy and/or very condensed pattern (avoid prints with large pattern elements). Your patterned paper should be large enough to trace a 6.5 X 6.5 square template on it. If you can find paper that is a bit heavier than regular copy paper, this will work best for your box, but avoid heavy cardstock. I am using a printable patterned paper and have printed it on 90 lb. Neenah brand cardstock. The patterned paper I am using in this lesson is available here.
- Pre-cut 6.5 x 6.5-inch square template (cut from cardstock) for tracing
- 1 sheet of 140 lb. watercolor paper (any brand, any size)
- Printable Bird Images PDF (provided)
- Scissors
- Glue stick (UHU brand highly recommended) or heavy-duty glue such as E6000. The thicker the glue, the better.
- 1 round #4 paint brush
- 1 fine-line paintbrush for painting fine details
- One piece of foam that is at least $\frac{3}{4}$ inches thick. I am using a recycled sheet of packing foam, but you can use a sponge, thick cardboard, or any other material that can be easily cut to different thicknesses and glued behind our collage elements to create varying heights within the bird box.
- Dot-making tool. If you don't have this or don't want to purchase this, you can use the tip of a pencil to make your dots.
- Round sponge brushes: 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch widths
- Assorted-sized cotton swabs. If you don't have these, you can use regular standard-sized cotton swabs.
- A jar of water for cleaning your brushes
- Paper towel
- Paint palette (I am using a large paper plate)
- Optional: Curved tip scissors for ease in placing collage pieces.
- Optional: Paper Creaser for creasing

PAINT

In this lesson, I'm using the following **acrylic** paint colors and brands based on the tones in my patterned paper. Feel free to choose paints that match your own paper and fit your budget.

PINKS

- Liquitex Quinacridone Magenta

- Craftsmart Rose

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YELLOWS

- Liquitex Indian Yellow

- Craftsmart Light Orange

GREENS

- Craftsmart Apple Tart

- Liquitex Vivid Lime Green

- Craftsmart Campground

BLUE

- Creamcoat Mediterranean

WHITE (**required**)

- Craftsmart White

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GOLD (**highly recommended**)

- Golden Iridescent Gold



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www.carriesmithcollageart.com
Instagram: [@carriesmithart](https://www.instagram.com/carriesmithart)

FREE RESOURCE:
Every Tool I Use | Why I Love It & Tips For Using It