The Nativity Story

Turn the gold star on the side of the grotto to tell the Nativity story in twenty pictures, from the angel's visit to a quiet night in Bethlehem.



In the box

Check the parts on the next two pages. Keep the picture flaps in order and set the numbered loading stand aside for step 1.

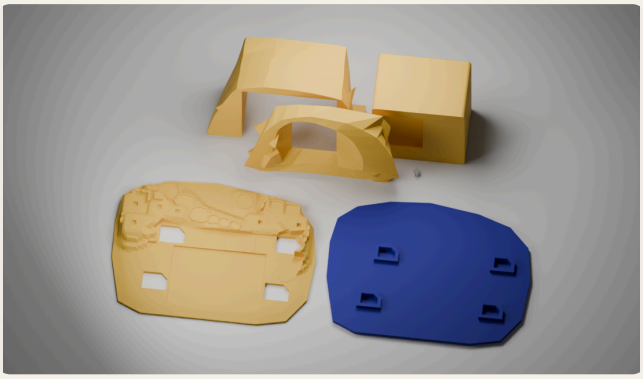
Tool you'll need

A small Phillips screwdriver for the crank screw.

BEFORE YOU BUILD

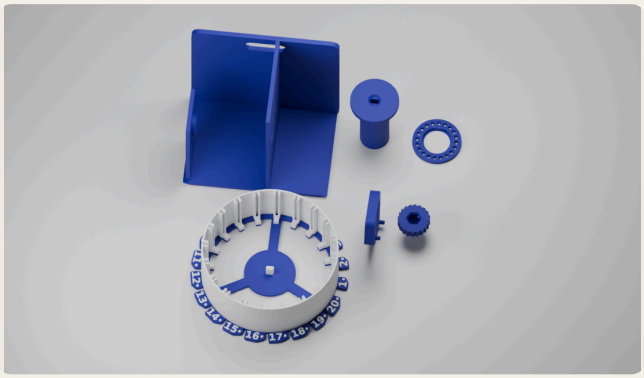
What is in the box

70 printed pieces, including the loading stand, plus one metal fastener. The parts are shown at different scales to help you identify them.



Grotto · 6

Navy base, gold terrain, sleeve, two rock sections and silver decorative star.



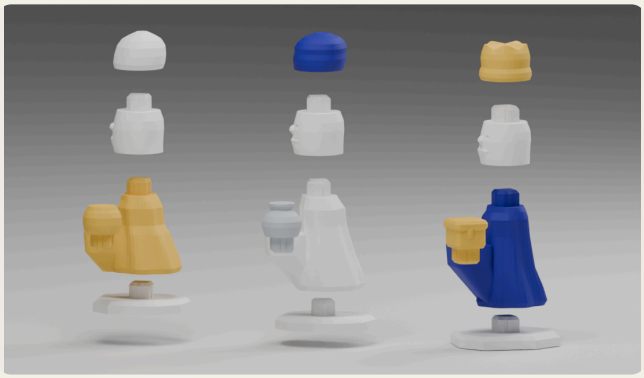
Picture mechanism · 6

Chassis, spool A, spool B, keyed axle, pawl bracket and numbered loading stand.



Picture flaps · 20

Twenty double-sided flaps. The final page gives their loading order.

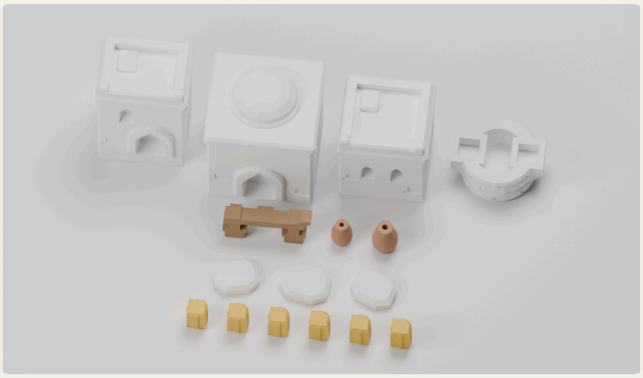


Wise Men · 15

Three sets of five pieces. Each has a robe, head, headdress, gift and paving base.

BEFORE YOU BUILD

Village, crank and fastener



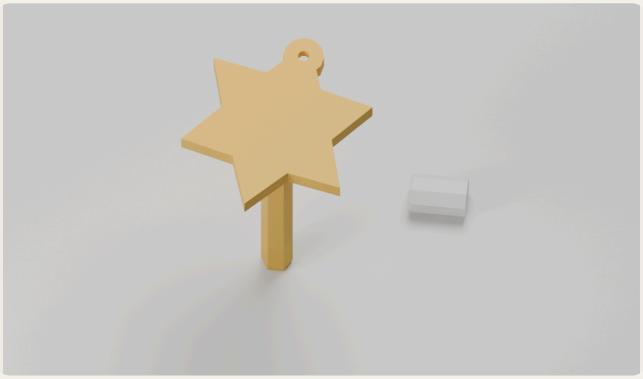
Village and paving · 16

Three houses, three paving stones, the well curb and timber frame, six short keyed pins and two jars.



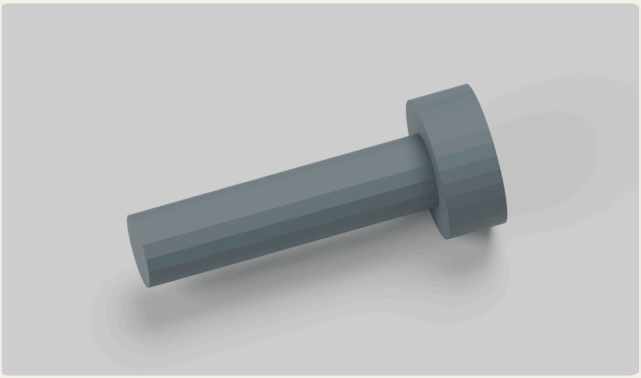
Trees and animals · 5

Two olive trees, an ewe, a lamb and a resting donkey.



Crank · 2

Gold star with keyed peg and a separate ivory grip.

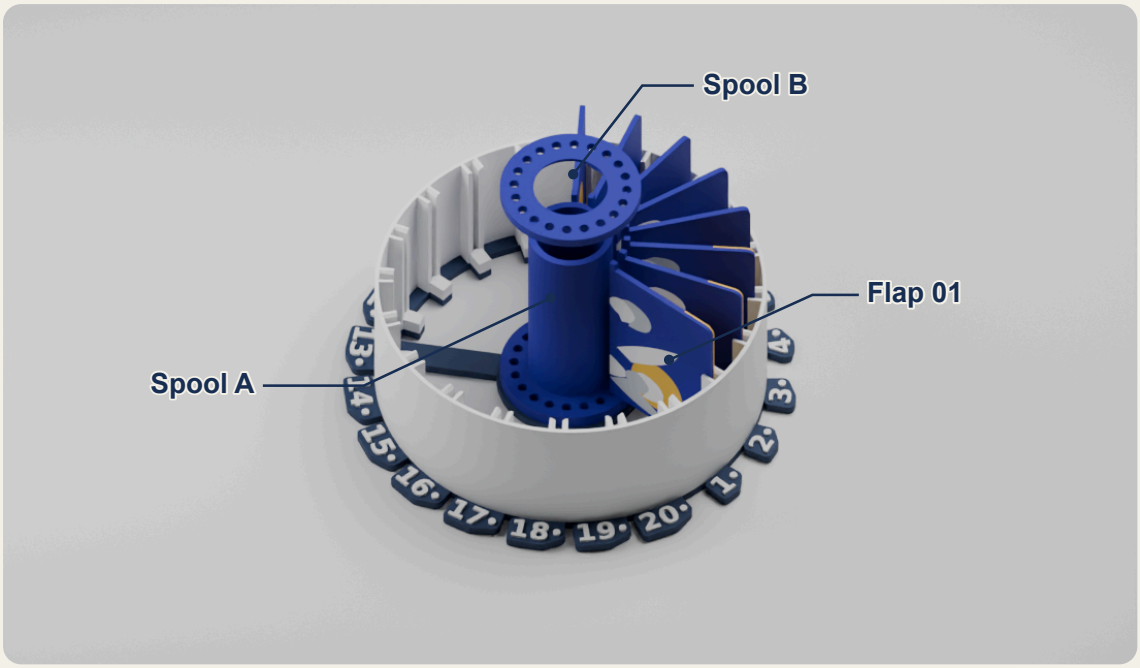


Fastener · 1

One M2 × 8 mm pan-head machine screw (ISO 7045). It fastens the ivory grip from the back of the gold star.

BUILD

Assemble



Spool A sits on the keyed pin. Spool B lowers over the upper tabs. Eight flaps are shown so the grooves stay visible.

1

Load the twenty flaps

Use the picture order on the final page to identify the twenty flaps. The angel visiting Mary is picture 1.

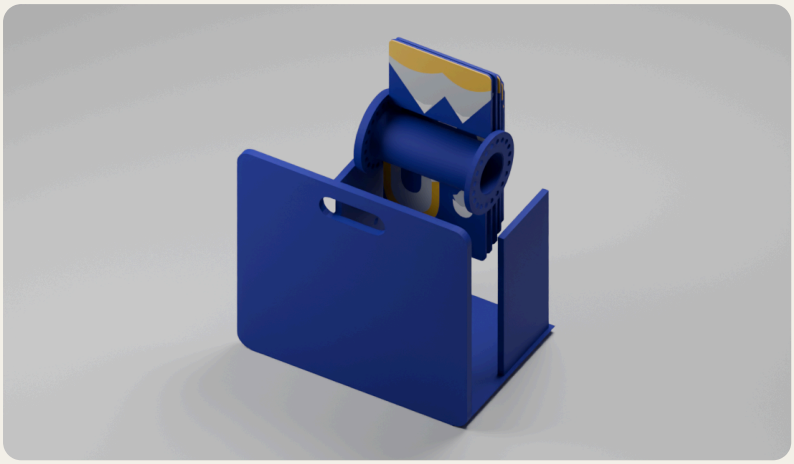
Place spool A disc-down on the stand with its D-shaped bore over the pin. Put each flap in the groove immediately right of its number, pivot tabs toward the centre and the face showing the upper half of its numbered picture toward the number.

Align the flats and press spool B down the centre tube, lip up. Guide all twenty tabs into its funnelled holes, press to the stop, then lift the reel out.

Check Each flap swings freely. Picture 1 pairs the front of flap 01 with the back of flap 20.

MECHANISM

Assemble the chassis



Reel tilted above the open chassis, with spool B toward the far wall.

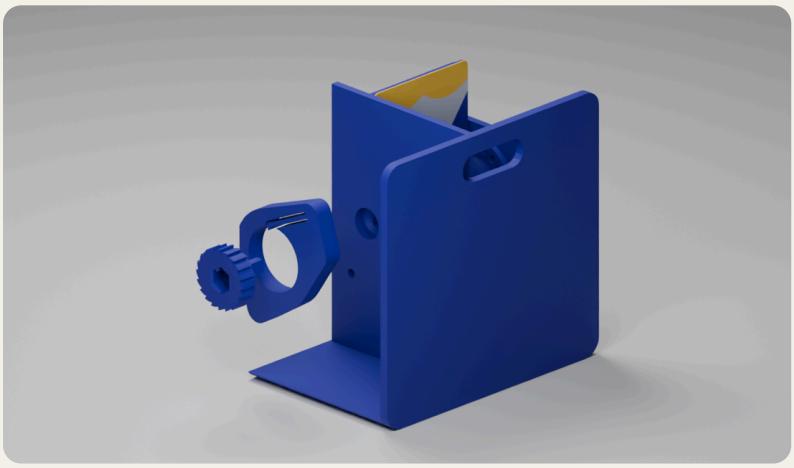
2

Seat the reel

Tilt the reel into the open side of the chassis, spool B first. Slip B’s tube over the round stub on the far wall. The wall can flex slightly during insertion.

Line up spool A with the large round hole in the divider.

Check Turn the reel by hand. The tabs stay seated as the flaps fall.



Keyed axle and pawl bracket aligned with the divider.

3

Fit the axle and pawl

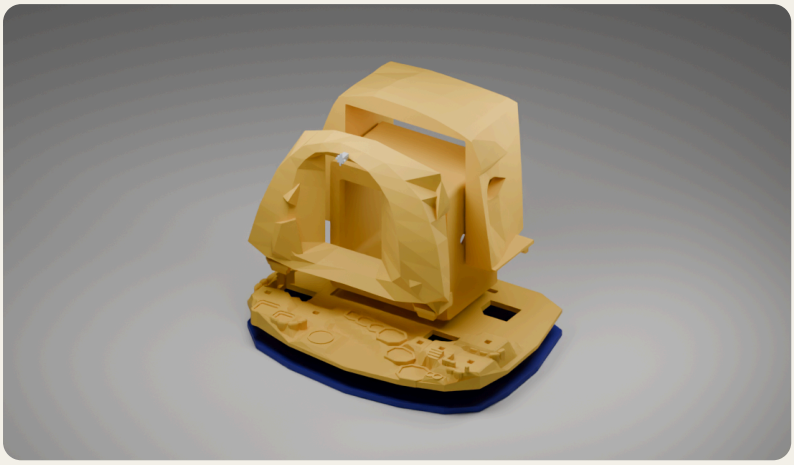
Push the keyed axle into the pawl bracket, turning gently until the teeth slip past the pawl.

Line up the D-shaped tip with spool A. Feed it through the divider and into the spool, then push the bracket’s two pegs into the two small holes in the divider.

Check The bracket sits flat. The pawl clicks as the top of the reel moves toward the picture window and stops reverse rotation.

GROTTO

Seat the grotto and fit the crank



Exploded grotto showing the two rock sections above the gold terrain, sleeve and navy base.

4

Seat the grotto

Set the navy base flat and lower the gold hillside onto its four receiver blocks. Put the gold sleeve in the pocket, with its window toward the path and its open back accessible.

Slide the loaded chassis into the sleeve from behind, reel toward the window. Push it straight in until it clicks over the floor ridge.

Lower the cave mouth and rear cowl straight down into their keyed seats. Fit the small silver star into the socket above the window.

Check Both rock shoulders sit flush and the reel faces the window.



The screw approaches the recess from the back. The ivory grip sits against the opposite face.

5

Assemble and fit the gold crank

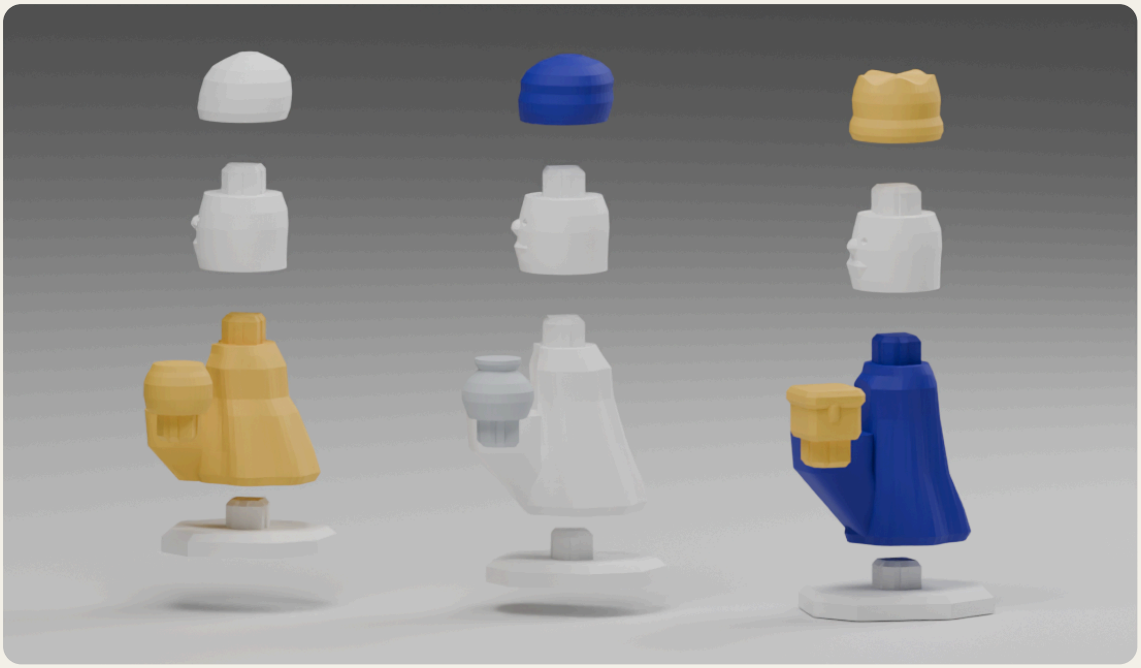
Hold the ivory grip against the outward face of the gold crank. Feed the M2 × 8 mm screw through the recess in the back of the star. Tighten it gently into the grip until seated.

Insert the crank through the side opening. Rotate it gently until the groove in the peg aligns with the rib in the axle socket.

Check The peg slides into the socket by hand. The crank turns without rubbing the shell or base.

HILLSIDE VILLAGE

Assemble the figures



Exploded view of the five pieces in each Wise Man.

6

Assemble the three Wise Men

Fit each robe onto its paving base, then place its gift in the hands. Fit the head onto the neck, facing the gift. Add the headdress last. Line up the clipped corner of each peg with its socket.

The navy robe takes the gold crown and chest. The ivory robe takes the navy turban and silver vessel. The gold robe takes the ivory cap and gold jar.

Check Each base sits flat. Hold the base or robe when handling the figures.

HILLSIDE VILLAGE

Seat the village parts



The village parts and figures hover over their fitted places on the hillside.

7

Place the village and figures

Seat the Wise Men, ewe, lamb and three loose paving stones in their matching outlines. Press on the stone bases.

Use the six short keyed pins for the three houses, two trees and donkey. Line up the clipped corners, seat one end in the terrain and lower the piece over the exposed end. Hold each tree near its foot as you seat it.

Set the ivory well curb and two jars in their shallow rims. Line up both legs of the brown well frame with their sockets and press them in evenly.

Check The scene sits flat and all the pieces are fully seated.

OPERATION

Run the reel



Assembled grotto viewed from the crank side.

8

Turn through the story

Facing the crank from its side, turn it anticlockwise. Keep the space in front of the window clear so the flaps can swing.

Advance one click at a time through all twenty pictures and back to the start. Stop if a flap catches, the grip loosens or the crank binds.

To reach the reel, pull the crank straight out. Lift the rear cowl if needed, then support the reel as you withdraw the chassis by its rear finger slot.

Check Each click shows one picture. The grip stays snug through the full turn.

OPERATION

The twenty pictures



1. The angel visits Mary
2. Preparing to leave
3. On the road
4. Bethlehem
5. Seeking shelter
6. A place to rest
7. The manger
8. Jesus is born
9. Mary and Jesus
10. The Holy Family
11. Shepherds at night
12. Good news
13. The shepherds set out
14. At the manger
15. A star in the east
16. The wise men depart
17. Following the star
18. A later arrival
19. Gifts for Jesus
20. A peaceful night

If something is off

The crank will not slide in	Rotate it until the groove on the peg aligns with the rib inside the axle socket.
The reel will not turn	Face the crank and turn it anticlockwise. If it still resists, check that every flap tab is seated.
Picture halves are mismatched	Check the loading order. Picture 1 uses the front of flap 01 and back of flap 20.
A figure or house will not seat	Check that the clipped corner matches its socket. Support the part near the joint and press straight in.

If a piece is missing, damaged or still will not fit after you check its alignment, contact filamenting.com.