A eucalyptus shadow box with a removable backing

Shadow-box layout grid • Free, no signup or purchase.

Arrange faux eucalyptus off-center on a removable backing inside a shadow box, with enough depth that nothing presses on the glass. The free layout grid is drawn at half scale, so a box up to 12 × 15 inches inside fits on it, and page 2 records the internal depth and the thickest stem.

What you need

• A shadow box frame with a removable back and enough internal depth for the foliage
• Cardstock or foam board cut to the box's internal size, as a removable backing
• Small faux eucalyptus stems or a sprig you already own; check the actual optional item before buying
• Adhesive or small pins suited to the foliage and backing; tape measure and pencil
• Free shadow-box layout grid (PDF)

Steps

1. Measure the shadow box

Measure the internal width and height of the opening and the internal depth from the backing to the glass. Draw the opening on the half-scale layout grid, where one small square is half an inch and one large square is 2 inches, and record the depth on page 2.

2. Plan an off-center layout

Sketch the eucalyptus to one side, leaving open space. Note the thickest point of each stem and keep it less than the internal depth, so nothing presses on the glass. Use foliage only if its stems can be separated safely; check the selected option and current total before buying.

3. Build on a removable backing

Arrange a small section on the cut backing before fixing it. Use materials and adhesive suited to the actual artificial plant; test a small area and let adhesive cure as its label requires.

4. Close and display

Check the foliage fits without pressure on the glass. Secure the backing; use a stable surface or wall fixing rated for the combined frame and decoration, away from heat and small children.

Tips

• Artificial foliage is decorative. Use separate suitable supports and fixings where needed, rated for the actual surface and load. Keep small parts, cords and vines away from children and pets, and keep access, ventilation and heat clear. Never use an open flame near foliage.
• The free printable is available without signup or purchase. Optional Amazon links are affiliate links.
• Leave a little air between the deepest stem and the glass; foliage pressed flat against glass loses the depth a shadow box is for.

FigureNook design and planning guide. Visuals are original AI-generated concept illustrations; review manufacturer specifications, dimensions, and product instructions for final suitability.

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Internal width × height of the opening

Internal depth (backing to glass)

Thickest stem or leaf cluster

Space kept between the foliage and the glass

Backing material and size

Adhesive or pins (compatible with foliage and backing)

Display: stands on a surface, or hangs (fixing and rated load)

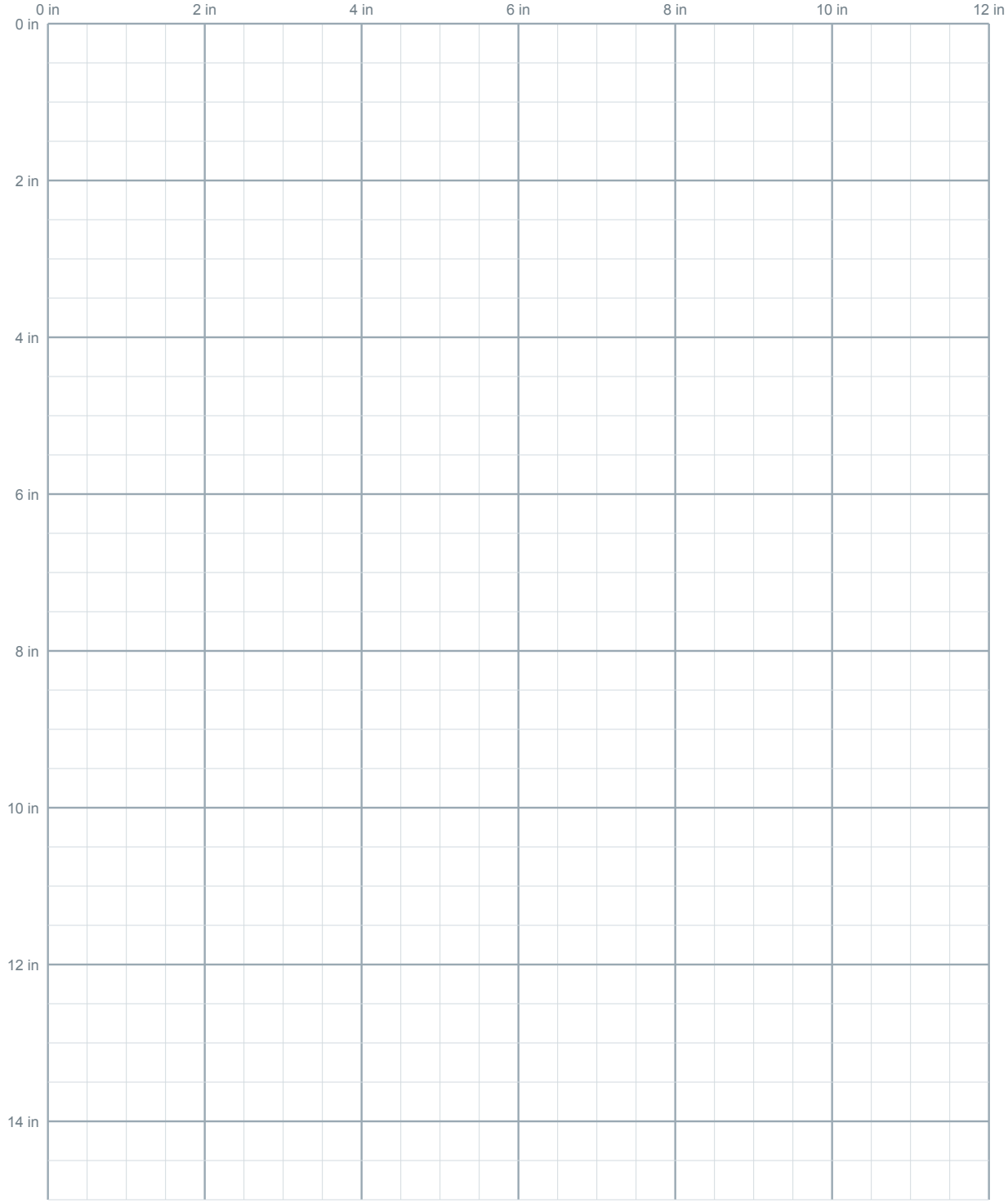
Before you finish

- [ ] No leaf touches the glass when the back is closed
- [ ] The backing comes out without tearing the foliage off
- [ ] Adhesive has cured for the time its label states
- [ ] The box stands or hangs on support rated for its weight

Half-scale shadow-box layout grid

Print at actual size (100%, not “fit to page”) on US Letter. Check the 1-inch box before using.

1 inch / 25.4 mm



Scale 1:2: each small square = 0.5 in, each large square = 2 in. Grid = 12 × 15 in inside the box.
Outline the box's internal opening, then sketch the stems off-center. Depth does not show on this grid: write the internal depth and the thickest stem on page 2 and keep the stem thinner than the depth.