

Take inspiration and creative ideas from some of the exquisite Georgian snuff and patch boxes in the Holburne Museum's collection. It's easy to make a simple box or simply decorate something you already have at home.

Fancy Goods!

Fashionable Georgian shoppers would buy Snuff boxes and Patch boxes in toyshops. However 18 century 'toyshops' didn't sell children's toys! Exclusively for adults, they sold expensive, fashionable objects such as shoe buckles, canes, scent bottles and cosmetics.

Snuff is a fine powder made from ground tobacco leaves and spices. In the eighteenth century it was very fashionable to carry a little snuff box. Queen Charlotte, the consort of George III, was known as 'snuffy Charlotte' because of her passion for the powder! Snuff boxes could be made out of precious metals, enamel, porcelain and even papiermâché. Some would have cost hundreds or even thousands of pounds.

Patch boxes were made to contain beauty spots or face patches. They often had a mirror inside. Beauty spots were all the rage in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. They were worn by fashionable people to cover marks left by a disease called 'the pox' or to highlight a pretty complexion! These enamel patch boxes were sold as souvenirs showing views of Bath.



Patch boxes, 'A Bath Toy' and 'View of Bath: Royal Crescent', enamelled copper, c.late eighteenth century, The Holburne Museum Collection

Snuffbox, gold and enamel, about c. 1770.
Snuffbox in the form of a shoe, enamel, c.1770.
Snuff box, two-colour gold and enamel, about c.1780
The Holburne Museum Collection



1 You need:-

- Print out a flat-box template OR Find a small box or tin you can decorate e.g. old cereal packet/ piece of card
- Pencil/ coloured pencils or pens
- Scissors
- Cellotape/ Pritt stick
- Plain paper/ collage materials
- Decorative bits and bobs —e.g. beads, ribbon, material

2 Design your patch box:-

Using the template provided (makes a square box)

- Cut around the solid lines and stick onto your flat card to strengthen
- Cut out, score and bend along dotted lines to make box with lid
- Cellotape or pritt stick flaps (inside box) so it holds together

Without a template (makes a round box)

- Draw 2 identical circles onto a piece of card (draw around a cup or round object)
- Cut out the circles making one slightly larger Leave tabs on smaller circle (bottom of box)
- Leave one tab on the larger circle (the lid)
- Cut out a card strip about 6cm wide and long enough to curve around the base circle
- Secure this card ring around the base circle and cellotape the outside and tabs inside



3 You're all set for a Georgian soiree!

The lowdown on face patches and how to place them...

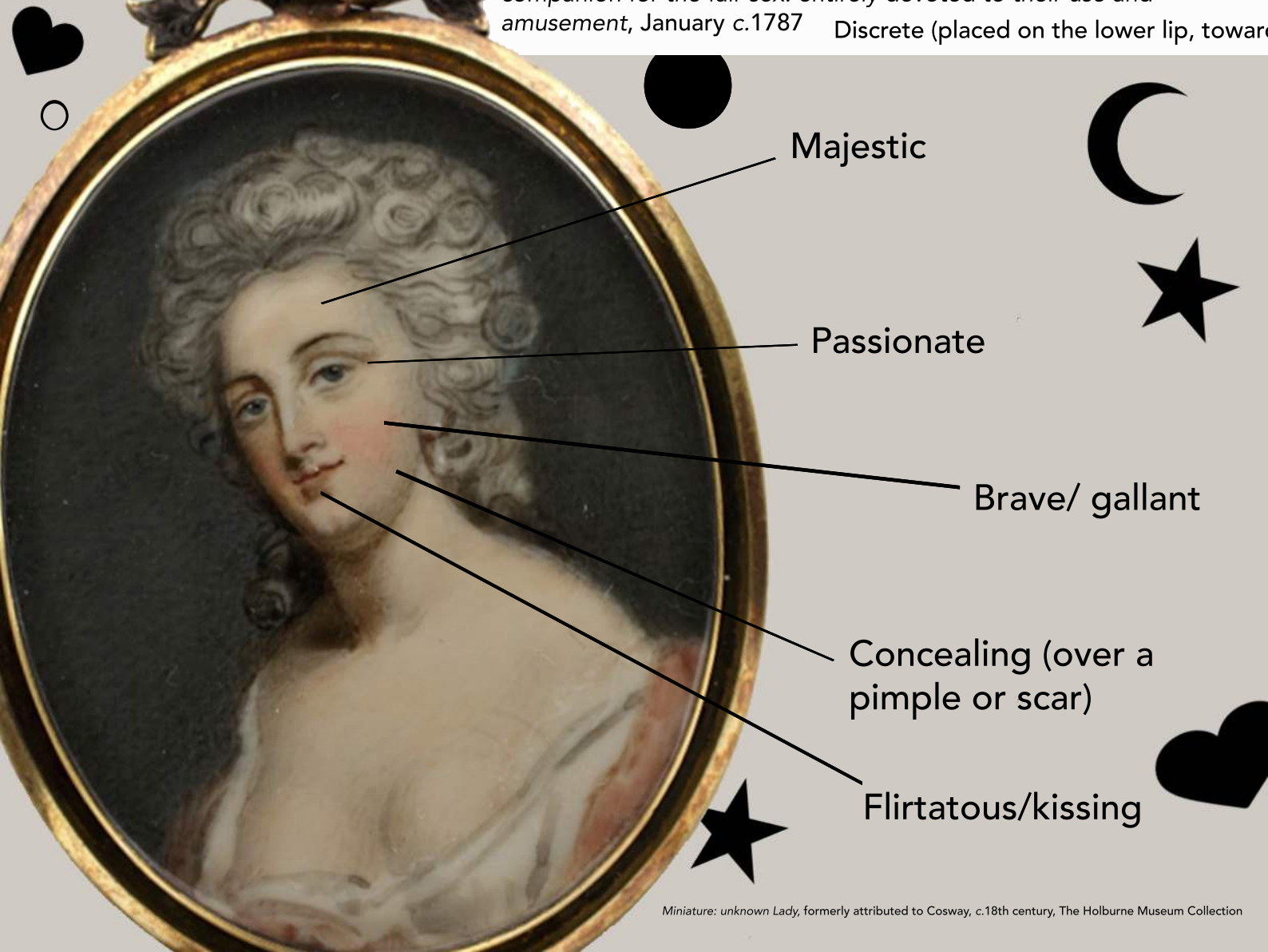


Morning, Gilles Edme Petit,
c.1694-1760, etching and
engraving, The Met Collection

PATCHES may be reduced to NINE sorts, which ought to be placed in the following manner:

1. The passionate, or smart patch at the corner of the eye
2. The majestic, almost in the middle of the forehead
3. The gay, on the brink of the dimple formed by a smile
4. The gallant, in the middle of the cheek
5. The kissing, at the corner of the mouth
6. The brisk, near the nose
7. The coquettish, upon the lips
8. The discreet, or prudish, under the lower lip, towards the chin
9. The concealing, upon a pimple

Extract from *The New Lady's magazine, or, Polite and entertaining companion for the fair sex: entirely devoted to their use and amusement*, January c.1787 Discrete (placed on the lower lip, toward



Miniature: unknown Lady, formerly attributed to Cosway, c.18th century, The Holburne Museum Collection

1. Cut out the outer black lines
2. Fold along the dotted lines
3. Decorate!
4. Glue tabs and fold together to make your box

Top tip - print this template onto card for a stronger patch box

