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1. Food Box Note Pads and Journals



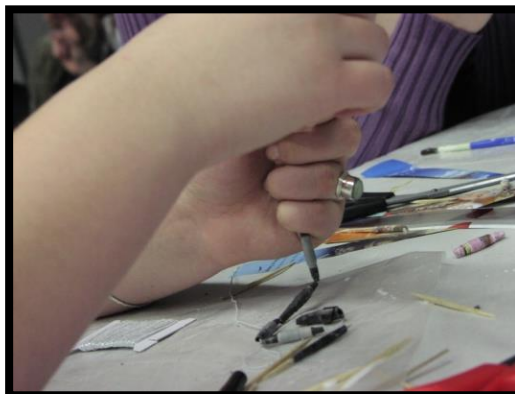
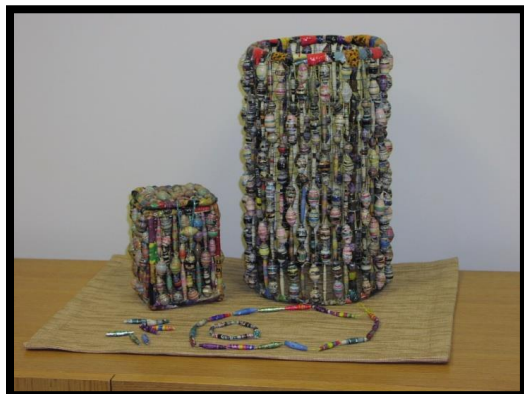
Materials:

- Chipboard
- Scrap paper for inside pages
- Yarn
- Decorative elements (markers, stampers, ink, brads, buttons, ribbon, etc.)
- Hole punch
- Scissors

Directions:

1. Select chipboard pieces for front and back of note pad.
2. Cut chipboard to desired size with blank sides facing in.
3. Punch holes in chipboard on one edge.
4. Cut inside pages to fit inside chipboard pieces.
5. Punch holes on one edge of paper to match location of chipboard holes.
6. Cut pieces of yarn to thread through holes and tie or knot yarn.
7. Decorate front cover of note pad.

2. Paper Beads



Materials:

- Magazines
- Gift Wrap
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Waxed Paper
- Craft Glue
- Paint Brush
- Toothpicks/Coffee stirrs
- Pencil

Directions:

1. For each bead, cut out a triangular strip of paper that measures about 1 ¼" across the base and 10 ½" from the base to the tip.
2. Lay the strip of paper color-side down on a piece of waxed paper.
3. Coat the surface of the paper with glue using a paint brush (add water to glue if too thick).
4. Stick the base of the strip to the side of a toothpick or a coffee stir (tiny straw).
5. Roll the paper, wrapping the paper repeatedly around the toothpick. Be careful not to roll the paper too tight so the toothpick can be removed later.
6. Coat the color-side of rolled paper with glue.
7. Gently remove the bead from the toothpick/stir and place on waxed paper to dry.
8. Once the glue dries, string the finished beads on leather, yarn, nylon cord or string.

Make the following gifts:

- Necklaces and bracelets
- Turn a tin can into a colorful desk organizer
- Accent a belt, bookmark or key chain
- Jazz up hair combs and barrettes
- Decorate a plastic headband or a dress pin

3. Blender Paper Ornaments



Materials:

- Open-ended cookie cutters (variety)
- Coffee cans, one for each person (cut out center of lid and keep rim to hold netting)
- Scraps of construction paper – lots of colors
- Plastic bowls
- Blender
- Large spoon
- Strainer
- Fabric netting – 24” x 24” and 12” x 12” pieces
- Newspaper
- Sink or large vat
- Scissors or object to make hole in ornament

Directions:

1. Tear scraps of construction paper into small pieces. Keep colors separate.
2. Put newspaper under blender.
3. Fill a blender half full with water – turn on.
4. Add torn up paper a few pieces at a time into the blender through the hole in the lid to make the slurry.
5. Once the mixture thickens and fibers are broken down, turn off the blender and pour the contents into a strainer with netting.
6. Let most of the water drain out of the slurry until it is an oatmeal-like consistency – moist but not drippy.
7. Make slurry in many colors – place each color in a separate bowl.
8. Take a scoop of slurry and gently press it in a cookie cutter mold that is positioned on netting over a coffee can. Colors can be layered while moist.
9. Carefully remove ornament from netting and place on newspaper. Gently poke a small hole on the top of the ornament with a pointed object – coffee stir, skewer, etc.
10. Allow ornaments to dry overnight before threading with ribbon for tree.

Be creative – dried flowers, berries or sparkles can be added to ornaments while in mold.

4. Paper Roll Music Shaker

**Materials:**

- Toilet paper or paper towel roll
- Paint, colored tape, markers, or crayons
- Uncooked pasta/rice/beans
- Duct or masking tape

Directions:

- 1 - Decorate the roll by using paint (let dry), colored tape, markers, or crayons.
- 2 - Put the pasta/rice/beans inside the roll and tape the ends.
- 3 - You have an instant music shaker! Cha Cha Cha – enjoy!



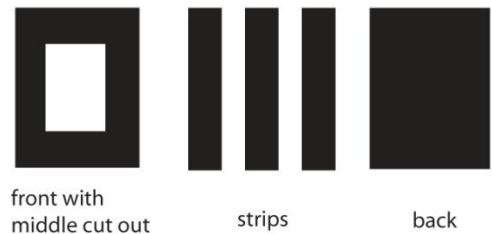
5. Picture Frames from Cardboard



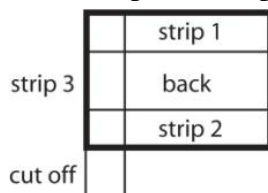
Materials:

- Chipboard or cardboard from boxes
- Scissors
- Glue
- Decorative materials (buttons, colored pasta, misc pieces of parts, etc.)

Directions:



1. Cut open and lay chipboard flat.
2. Trace the patterns on the light gray box interior.
3. Carefully cut out all the pieces, especially the strips, so that there are three equal strips.
4. Glue a strip to the top and bottom of the frame back.



backside view

5. Glue the remaining strip on the left side of the frame back and cut off any extra.
6. Set the back aside to dry.

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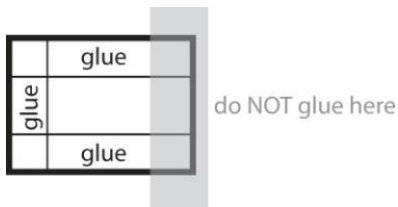
7. Make sure the frame front has the center cut out.

front to decorate



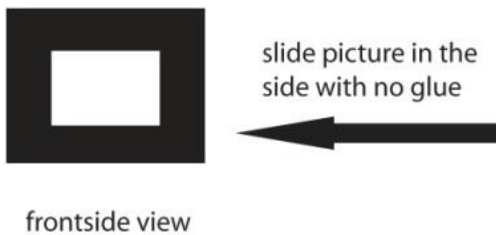
frontside view

8. Glue decorations around the front frame – overlap so the cardboard doesn't show.
9. Place glue on the back frame strips, being careful not to get glue on the open end, where the picture will slide into the frame.



backside view

10. Place the decorated front frame on the top of the freshly glued strips and press down firmly.
11. Allow everything to dry before placing picture inside of the frame.



frontside view

Note: Tacky glue, although white, will dry clear. Liquid glue does not work as well.



6. Checker Board Game



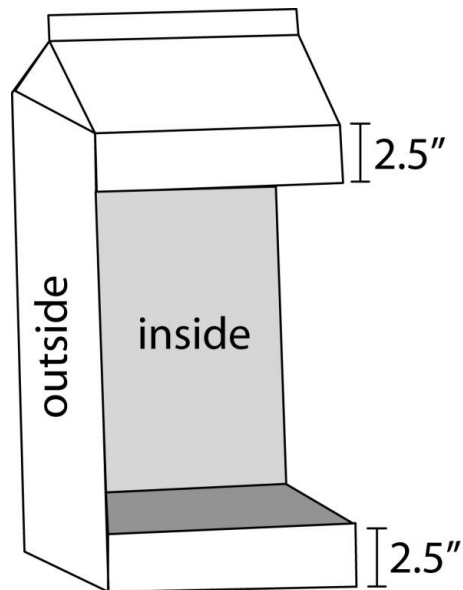
Materials:

- Two – 9” x 12” pieces of felt (two different colors – four pieces total. Scraps of fabric can be used instead of felt)
- Two small bottles of acrylic paint to match felt colors
- One 16” x 16” piece of corrugated cardboard or poster board
- Paint brush
- Two lids (from spaghetti sauce)
- Twenty-four bottle caps from plastic milk jugs (checkers)
- Ten caps from salad dressings (“King Me” pieces)
- Two plastic containers with lids (from deli)
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Pen/Pencil/Marker
- Elmer’s Glue
- Newspaper

Directions:

1. On the 16” x 16” board, use a ruler to mark a one-inch border around the entire surface. Painting the border is optional.
2. Draw a grid inside the border by making eight rows of eight 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ” squares. (See photo)
3. Using a ruler and pen, measure thirty-two 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ” squares on the felt. You will need 32 squares of each color felt. Cut out the squares.
4. Glue the 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ” square pieces onto the grid, alternating colors.
5. Put a little of each color paint into a clean lid. Dip the tops of milk caps (12 of each color) and salad dressing lids (5 of each color). Let dry on newspaper. Store the caps in the deli containers.

7. Milk Carton Bird Feeder



Materials:

- Half gallon cardboard milk carton
- Ruler
- Pen or Marker
- Scissors
- Hole Punch
- String or Yarn
- Bird seed or Suet

Directions:

1. Wash and dry a half gallon cardboard milk carton.
2. Using a ruler, measure and mark a line 2 ½" up from the bottom of the carton on two adjoining sides. See illustration.
3. Using a ruler, measure and mark a line 2 ½" from the top edges of the carton on two adjoining sides. See illustration.
4. Cut the sides off between the marked lines on the two adjoining sides.
5. Using a small hole punch, make two small holes in the very top edge of the carton.
6. Put the string through the holes.
7. Hang the feeder from a branch or post. Fill with seeds or suet.
8. Watch the birds enjoy the feast!

8. Crayon Recycling Activity



Materials:

- Small Crock Pot (1-quart size or less)
- Small plastic ladles
- Plastic molds with various shapes (e.g. the type used for candy making)
- Used Crayons
- Pot holders or oven mits (for handling crock pot)
- Paper towels

Directions:

1. Prepare the crayons:
 - a) Sort crayons by color (blues in one pile, yellows and oranges in another, etc.)
 - b) Remove any paper from crayons
 - c) Break crayons into small pieces (~ ½ inch size)
2. Cover bottom of crock pot with like-colored crayons in an even layer (approx. 1 inch thick). Turn on crock pot (low setting if applicable) and wait approx. 30 minutes for crayons to melt. Periodically check crayons and wait until melted. Wait at least 20 minutes before stirring mixture.
3. While crayon mixture is melting, discuss the importance of recycling and waste reduction in general terms. Then discuss the properties and states of matter and energy, using the crayons as examples. (A worksheet is provided with this activity - use it "as is" or modify it for your class.)
4. After the crayons have completely melted, use the ladles to carefully pour melted crayon mixture into molds.
5. Cool crayons thoroughly (in refrigerator or freezer if available for ~10 minutes). Turn molds over to release crayons.
6. Students should turn in completed worksheet in order to receive a "new" crayon.

Helpful Suggestions:

- Caution: Melted crayon mixture can be very hot so adult supervision is required for this activity.
- Do NOT use black/gray/white crayons in a mix with other colors.
- It's OK for small lumps of crayon to remain in the mixture, as long as they will fit into the mold.
- It is easier to clean the crock pot and ladles with a paper towel while the mixture is still warm.
- Recycled crayons are easiest to remove from molds when cooled in a freezer.
- Work on one color group at a time – as one group melts, another group can be sorted and prepared.
- If you have more than one crock pot, you can form an "assembly line" of different colors and make production more efficient.

9. Aluminum Earrings



Materials:

- Aluminum cans
- Paper punches in different shapes
- Scissors
- Pin
- Earring hardware
- Jewelry wire/fishing line
- Beads or other decorative elements

Directions: (An adult should be present at all times)

1. Wash out aluminum cans.
2. Cut off the top and bottom with a blade. *Caution: Only an adult should do this step.*
3. Cut aluminum cylinder open along the printed seam by the UPC symbol.
4. Use paper punches or scissors to cut out shapes for earrings. Unless you want variations, cut two sets of each shape.
5. Poke a small hole where you want the shape(s) to dangle with a pin on a cutting mat or piece of cardboard so the pin will go all the way through the aluminum.
6. You can use beads, additional aluminum shapes or other items to decorate earrings.
7. Use jewelry wire or fishing line to string the pieces together.
8. Attach your artwork to the earring hardware and viola, an awesome pair of earrings.

10. T-shirt Necklace



Materials:

- T-shirt
- Scissors
- Decorational accessories if desired (beads, thread, scraps, buttons, ribbon, etc.)

Directions:

1. Cut off hem at bottom
2. Cut a long continuous strip (going around and around) the t-shirt
3. Stop cutting at armpits
4. Take long strip and tug firmly section by section so it folds in on itself
5. Make a loop long enough to wrap around your head twice with the t-shirt string
6. Continue looping for desired fullness
7. Use ends (half the loop) to wrap a closure