

one material, five projects

COLOR YOUR WORLD

Easy to cut, tear, and glue, crepe paper streamers make vibrant, cheery crafts.



2

1



1 | swish sticks

These fluttery wands call for a backyard parade. Cut 3-foot lengths from several streamer colors, then cut them in half lengthwise. Gather the pieces at one end. Place a drop of **glue** on the end of a painted **dowel**, stack the streamers on top, then securely attach them with a **thumbtack**. Glue a **toy jewel** on top of the tack.

2 | trunk show

Dress up a tree or two for your next party. Start by wrapping a streamer around the trunk once and securing it to its end, not the tree, with **double-sided tape**. Continue wrapping until a few inches are covered, then secure the end with tape. Repeat with more colors.

3 | have a ball

Create 3-D textured artwork with balled-up bits of crepe paper. Cut a rectangle from a **cereal box** and draw a simple image on the unprinted side.

Crumple and roll 1½-inch-long pieces of streamer into balls. Working on a section at a time, spread **tacky glue** onto the cardboard, then press the balls in place.

4 | pencil pals

Our spiky-haired pencil topper is a welcome homework helper. Stack three 4½-inch lengths of streamer, then cut fringe into one long edge. Sandwich **double-sided tape** between the layers. Place tape on the bottom layer and roll the stack around the end of a **pencil**. Glue on **googly eyes** and a **paper** mouth.

5 | cool shades

Match your lamp shade to your decor, for cheap. Starting at the bottom of a **plain shade**, simply wrap lengths of streamer around it, securing the ends with **double-sided tape**.



For a sophisticated look, choose streamers in the same color family.

SHOW US WHAT YOU MADE!

Has your family made something from the magazine? Post a photo on social media with #familyfunsocute, and you could earn \$100. See page 78 for details.



FamilyFun
AUGUST 2015



Rearrange and switch out the bottles to change the sound of your xylophone.

recycling craft

MELODY MAKER

There's music hiding in your recycling bin!

Tap empty **glass bottles** with a **stick** (or homemade mallet; see below) until you find six that produce a nice sound. Lay the bottles on an 8- by 24-inch piece of 2-inch-thick **foam rubber** (available at fabric shops), leaving an inch of space between them. Trace the outline of each bottle on the foam, then use scissors to cut a ¾-inch furrow in the middle of each outline. Nestle the bottles in the furrows. Play them by tapping them with a mallet.

MAKE A MALLET Start with a sturdy **wooden dowel** or chopstick, then add a head by wrapping one end with **rubber bands** or narrow strips of duct tape until you've made a ½- to ¾-inch ball. Or use a **drill** (an adult's job) with a bit that's the same diameter as the dowel and make a hole halfway through a **cork**, a wood ball, or a super ball. Attach the ball or cork to the dowel with **wood glue**.



EASY PEASY

FLAG IT

Washi tape turns plain **paper clips** into fun bookmarks in a flash. To make one, cut a 2-inch length of tape. Thread it through the smaller end of a paper clip. Fold the tape onto itself, sticky sides together. Trim the end with scissors.



plastic power

Melt Friendly Plastic Pellets in hot water, and they'll fuse into a lump of putty you can shape by hand. Once the material cools, it becomes hard and durable—so it's great for making doll house furniture and action-figure armor. Don't like what you created? Just reheat and start over. *Ages 8 and up, 4.4-oz. jar \$16.95, amaco.com*



MUSICIAN WE LOVE

This xylophone idea is from Donald Knaack, aka the Junkman. Discover his music, performed with 100 percent recycled materials, at junkmusic.org.



featured artist

ANA DZIENGEL

Ana is the magic-maker behind the kids-and-crafts blog Babble Dabble Do. Her training as an industrial designer shows through in her projects (drinking-straw geodesic domes, D.I.Y. mosaic magnets), which inspire kids to explore color, design, and engineering. She lives in the San Fernando Valley with her husband, JR, and kids, Alonzo, age 8, Clara, 6, and Leon, 2.

HER FAVORITE MATERIAL

"Liquid watercolors, because the color is so concentrated. It's like food coloring, but better."

ON CREATIVITY AND KIDS

"Don't solve your children's problems for them. I want my kids to be able to rely on their imaginations, to dream up their own solutions, and to have the confidence that comes from making stuff—seeing what works and being comfortable with things not working."

PREFERRED PROJECTS

"I like activities that cross art with engineering; that's essentially what design is. And as long as the kids are asking Why? and How does it work?, it's an educational experience."

A KEY TO CRAFTING HARMONY

"I do the projects alongside my kids so that I can make one of my own without pressuring them to make theirs look a certain way."

project she loves

easy wire sculpture

Ana likes how wire allows children to "draw" in three dimensions. The beads add color and help children follow the lines they've made.

- 1** | Choose the placement of your holes on a **hardwood block** (ours is 1½ inches tall).
- 2** | Cut **plastic-coated craft wire** into several lengths, from 12 to 18 inches long.
- 3** | With a **drill bit** the same diameter as the craft wire, drill holes about ½ inch deep into the block (adults only). Sand any rough edges.
- 4** | Have your child place one end of a wire into the block with a dab of **glue** and thread on a few **wood beads**. She can shape the wire as she likes, then insert the other end in another hole with more glue. Repeat until the holes are filled.





CLEVER COLLAGES

Give your child an imagination workout with an open-ended activity that blends drawing and cool cutouts.

the setup

From a **magazine**, cut out images—half of a person or an object (such as a piece of fruit, as we show) or entire vehicles or buildings—and **glue** them to sheets of **drawing paper**. Put out **colored pencils** or markers.

the project

Encourage your little artist to complete the half images by adding legs, for instance, or a fish tail, or doors and windows. Suggest drawing a landscape for the cars and buildings. Your child can glue on more images and add a title, if desired.

bonus fun

Cut word balloons and text boxes from white paper. Use them to turn the collage into a comic book-style story.



ABOUT THIS IDEA

This project is from Rachele Doorley, who shares her creativity-sparking ideas on tinkerlab.com and in the book *TinkerLab: A Hands-on Guide for Little Inventors*.