

Stratford *Lantern Parade* October 14, 2017

How to make a **PLASTIC BOTTLE LANTERN**:

SUPPLIES:

- straight-sided, clear plastic bottle (2 c → 2 l)
- Goo-Gone or equivalent
- marker
- knife
- LED light source
- paper
- colourful tape
- permanent markers
- hole punch
- string or cord
- 2 pony beads
- bamboo garden stake
- cup hook

METHOD:

Rinse your bottle and remove the label. Use hot water, dish soap, a plastic scrubber or an adhesive remover like Goo Gone to dissolve any remaining glue.

Cut the top off your bottle. You can use a marker to create a cutting line that indicates the height of your finished lantern. A serrated bread knife works well for cutting through the plastic.

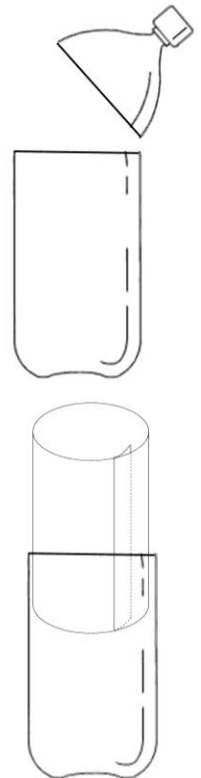
The next step depends on which decorating method you'll be using:

- If you're decorating your lantern "freehand" you may want to line the bottle with white paper: this will make it easier to see your design as you colour. Roll the paper into a cylinder and insert it into the bottle. Cut the paper down, if necessary, so it doesn't overlap on itself too much: otherwise, you'll have a shadow down the side of your lantern.
- If you're using a printed template to create your design, roll that and insert it into the bottle.
- If you're using glue and tissue paper to decorate your bottle you can skip this step altogether!

Decorate your plastic bottle with permanent markers: when used on the plastic bottle these are permanent and waterproof! Either draw your own design freehand, or follow the outline of your printed template.

Note: The more of the bottle's surface that you colour, the more impact your lantern will have!

If you're using tissue paper papier-maché to decorate your bottle it's best to glue the pieces on the inside. Mix school glue and water 50/50 and use a sponge brush to apply to the inside of the bottle. Add darker-coloured tissue pieces first to create your design. Finish with a layer of white (or other pale colour) behind your design to make the colours POP!



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TO FINISH THE LANTERN:

LINING YOUR LANTERN:

Your tissue papier-maché lantern won't need a lining paper. But if you've used markers to decorate your lantern you'll need to add a paper lining in place inside the bottle. Remove the printed template (if you used one) and replace it with plain white paper (or tissue paper).

Secure the paper cylinder with a bit of decorative tape folded over the top edge of the bottle. You may want to apply the tape edge even if you used the tissue papier-maché method: it makes the top of the bottle less sharp and it looks cool.

ADD A HANGING LOOP:

Punch a hole in either side of the top of the lantern (just below the tape edge).

Cut a length of string about 3x the width of the lantern opening. Tie a pony bead to one end of the string. Push the other end out through one of the holes in the lantern lip. Take the string up and over the lantern and push it back through the other hold, to the inside of the lantern. Secure this end of the string by tying on another pony bead. This will make a loop for hanging your lantern from its carry pole.

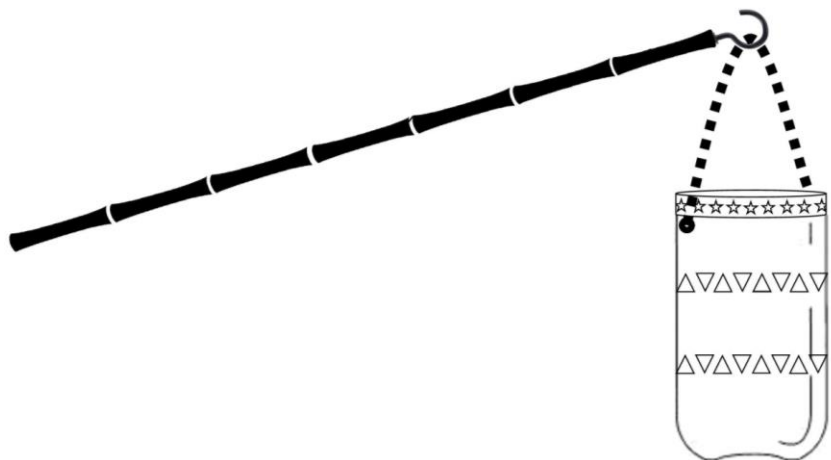
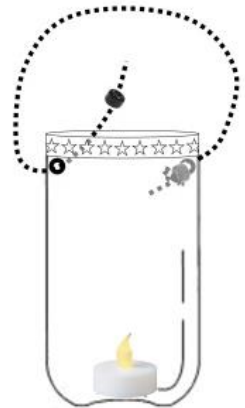
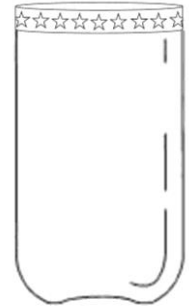
ADD A LIGHT:

Drop a battery tealight – or LED light string – into the lantern through the open top.

MAKE A CARRY POLE:

Add wood glue to the threads of a "cup hook" and gently screw it into the end of a bamboo garden stake. You may need to wind tissue paper around the threads to get a tight fit. Let it dry completely before hanging your lantern!

**AND NOW YOU'RE
ALL READY TO
JOIN THE
LANTERN
PARADE!**



THIS LANTERN CAN TAKE AS LITTLE AS ONE HOUR TO CONSTRUCT & DECORATE WITH PERMANENT MARKERS. IF TISSUE PAPER DECORATION IS APPLIED, AN ADDITIONAL HOUR OR TWO OF DRYING TIME MAY BE REQUIRED.