

Instructions of Bird Cage



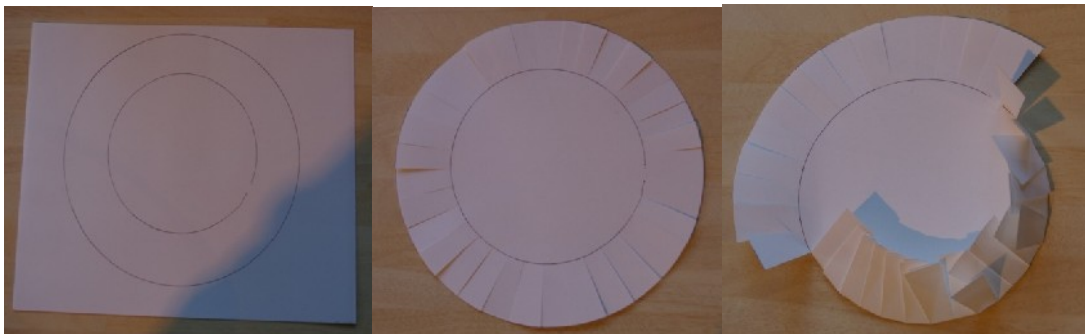
You will need:-

Two sheets double sided 12x12 paper
Scissors
Double sided sticky tape or adhesive of your choice
Edge punch or edging scissors
Ruler
Paper Trimmer
Black cotton
A small saucer
Two brads
Pokey tool or a needle

How to make it:-

1. Cut out two strips of paper from your 12x12 sheet; one measuring 6cm and the other measuring 4cm. Punch or cut along one long edge of each strip to give a fancy edge. The wider strip is for the bottom of the bird cage and the narrower for the top. Now glue the short edges of each strip together so that you have two hoop shapes.

2. Next cut a further 9 strips from the longest side of your 12x12 paper but measuring 1cm width.
3. You now need to cut two circles to fit snugly inside the top and bottom "hoops". Measure the diameter of the circle you need and draw 2 circles with your compass. Now draw a circle round the outside of each of your original circles so that you have about 1 inch extra round the edge of each circle. Cut around the larger circles with your scissors and then snip from the edge of the circle to the line of the smaller circle all the way around at regular intervals so that you've got a sort of rough sunflower type shape. Now fold the "petals" into the centre as shown in the picture



Stick these two pieces into the two hoops to make a base and a lid for the cage.



4. Glue one end of each of the nine strips at regular intervals round the inside of the bottom piece and then glue the other end of each strip into the top piece or lid to make bars. Obviously they will need to be as straight and even as possible. I suggest using something like photo glue for this so that you have some "slippage" for adjustment. Leave for a few minutes to dry



5. Pierce a hole in the centre of each circle using a pokey tool or needle.



6. Now draw, print, or die cut two bird shapes so that it will be double sided and you can run your cotton through the centre. The easiest way to do it is to cut out two fairly plain bird shapes from patterned paper. I cut mine out on my Sizzix Big Shot but you could print some off the computer or draw them freehand. I added some faux stitching for contrast.
7. Take a fairly long piece of cotton (about 12 inches long just to be sure). Lay one bird face down, then put the cotton so the centre of the cotton runs through the centre of the bird and glue the second bird image so that it faces up and the cotton is sandwiched between the two images.



8. This bit is slightly fiddly but not difficult. You need to thread the top end of cotton onto a needle, put the bird carefully through the bars of the cage and bring the cotton through the hole in the top of the cage. Now do the same for the bottom piece of cotton. Pull the ends of the cotton until the bird is roughly where you want it and you have taken up the slack in the cotton. Now push one brad through each hole so that you can still pull the cotton. Holding one end of cotton at a time, push the top of the bird cage down the cotton for about two centimetres and secure the cotton by wrapping it round the brad a few times. Now do the same for the bottom of the cage and you will notice you start to get some bend and a nice curve in the bars of the cage. When you are happy with it and the bird is roughly in the middle, secure the bottom piece of cotton by winding it round the brad and trim the ends.



9. Finally, cut out another circle, slightly larger than the one you used to make the base piece and mark the centre. Cut from the edge of the circle to the centre and make a cone shape for a roof of the cage. Make a loop with a piece of ribbon or cord and knot the two ends together. Pass the loop up through the centre of this cone piece to hang the bird cage from. Stick the roof to the top of the bird cage. You want some overhang if possible.



10. Now you can decorate your bird cage using ribbon, paper holly leaves, or anything else you fancy to make it look festive. I found it easier to hang my bird cage from a door handle while I did this.



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