

Stratford *Lantern Parade*

How to make a **BALLOON LANTERN**:

SUPPLIES:

- balloon
- tissue paper
- wood (carpenter's) glue
- water
- bowl
- sponge brushes
- large mouth jar or cup
- LED light source
- paper punch
- string
- 2 pony beads
- bamboo garden stake
- cup hook

METHOD:

Inflate the balloon to the desired size and tie it shut.

Secure the balloon (knot down) in a jar or cup to stabilize it while you work.

Cover the balloon with **at least 4** layers of tissue paper. Tissue paper can be torn (or cut) into narrow strips OR entire sheets can be used and draped over the balloon.

- Place tissue paper (strips or sheets) onto a protected (plastic-covered) surface.
- Brush dilute glue onto one side of the waxed tissue paper.
- Carefully lift the glued strip off the table and lay it over the balloon. Try to get an equal number of layers of paper all over the balloon's surface.

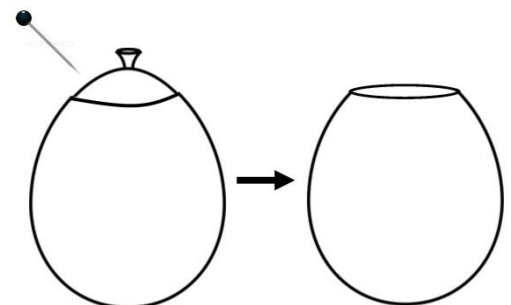
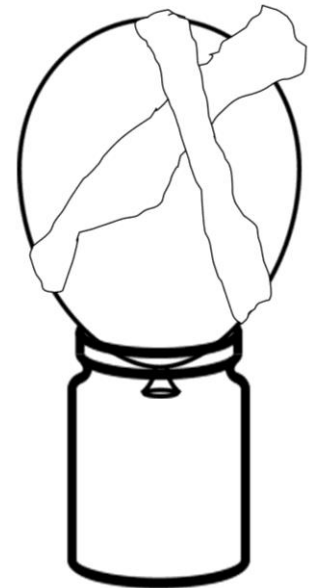
Note: While the paper is wet, excess tissue (hanging down over the cup) can be folded or pressed back to strengthen what will become the opening of the lantern.

Lightweight decorations (string, yarn, paper ribbon, tissue shapes, glitter) can be pressed down into the tissue paper while the lantern is still wet.

Leave the tissue-covered balloon in the support (jar or cup) to dry completely.

TO FINISH THE LANTERN:

When the tissue paper has dried completely, remove the lantern from the cup. Pop the balloon and peel it away from the tissue paper.



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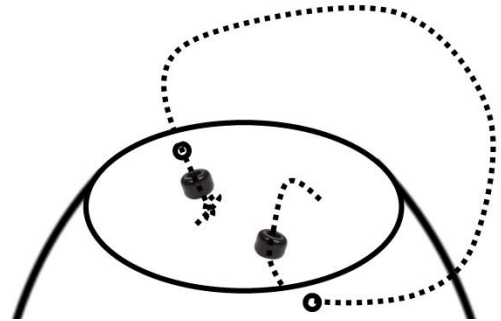
DECORATE:

You can decorate your lantern with a wide variety of materials! Remember that decorations that are more opaque will be seen as silhouettes. Light will shine through decorations that are more transparent.

ADD A HANGING LOOP:

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

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.



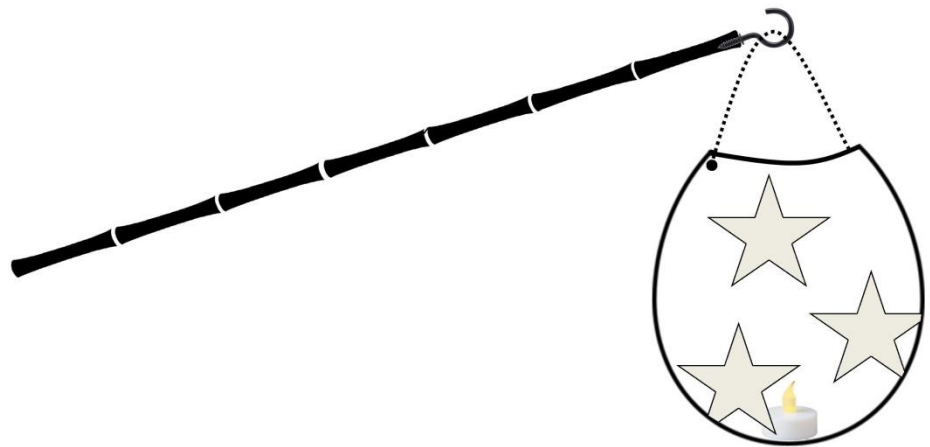
ADD A LIGHT:

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 TAKES APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES TO CONSTRUCT AND 4-5 HOURS TO DRY, DEPENDING ON HUMIDITY. DECORATING CAN TAKE AS LITTLE – OR AS MUCH – TIME AS YOU LIKE!