



How To Make A Lantern

YOU WILL NEED:

1. **Sticks** - Any strong, straight material: willow, thin bamboo, garden cane, etc. about the width of your little finger.
 - 4 x 40cm for the base
 - 4 x 55cm for the upright sections
 - 2 x 60cm for the diagonal of the base
 - 4 x 15cm for the 'window'
2. **Gaffer Tape** (or very similar strong tape - sticky tape will not do!) - cut into 20cm x 1cm strips (30 pieces) and stick one end to a table edge or similar smooth surface so they don't get all squished up.
3. **1 x tealight candle**
4. **Wire** (1.25mm thick) - about 6 pieces 4 x 30cm for the hook and 2 x 50cm for the candle.
5. **Paper** - greaseproof paper from the supermarket works a treat. You can also use tissue paper (two layers for tissue paper) or rice paper. The cheapest greaseproof paper from the supermarket tightens when dry and looks like rice paper.
6. **white PVA glue,**
7. **water** to dilute the glue
8. a **sheet of black plastic** (or something similar) so you won't dirty the floor (or yourselves)
9. a **sponge**

Important Safety message:

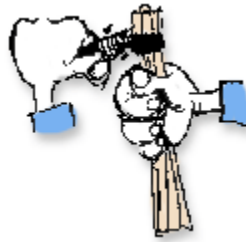
- Be very careful when working with wire so as not to poke anybody's eye out!
- NEVER use matches or a lighter without adult supervision.
- NEVER leave a burning candle unattended.

The Frame

Join the four base pieces into a square with gaffa tape. Make sure you leave a small angle (about 2.5 cm) on each corner

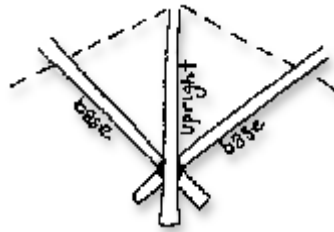
When you wrap the sticks together with the gaffer tape pull the tape tight and press it down as you go. The tighter the wrap and the harder you press, the better the sticking power.

Take the four uprights (55cm sticks) and hold them in a bunch in one hand, wrap tape around the top of the bunch, about 2.5cm down from the top.



Slowly and gently pull the end of the sticks outwards to create an even pyramid shape.

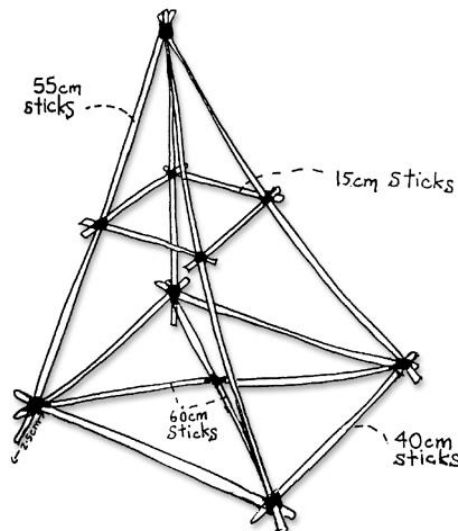
Join the legs of the uprights to the base square, on the outside of the angles, leaving about 2.5 cm for the feet (so the base of the lantern is off the ground)



Attach the diagonal pieces across the bottom (like an x shape) attach to the upper part of the base sticks - this process can also straighten out any warping or wobbly bits...

Join the 15cm sticks in place about half-way up the frame of the pyramid. This is to let the hot air of the candle escape.

It is best if they are joined to the outside of the pyramid (it is easier when sticking the paper to the frame).



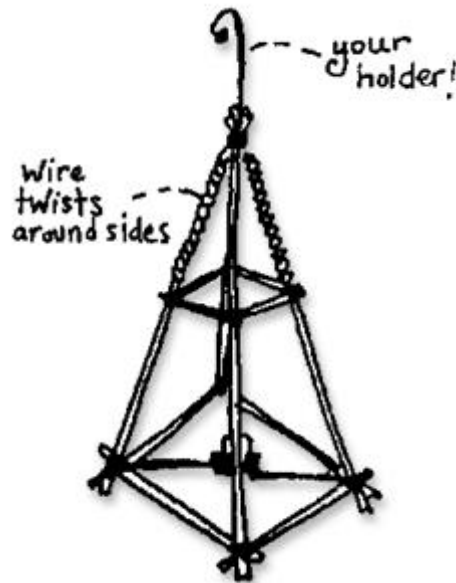
The Lantern Holder



Fold a 30cm length of wire in two, twist for about 8cm down from the bend and form a hook.

Divide the two ends and thread them through the top of the pyramid frame and twist each one down around opposite upright sticks.

Wrap in tape to cover any sharp edges



The Candle

Take the candle out of its metal cup.

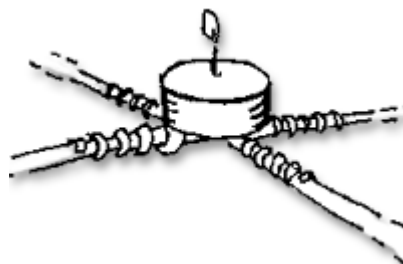
Poke one wire through the inside base of the metal candle holder on the edge as shown in the illustration.



Thread it through on the opposite edge and out again.

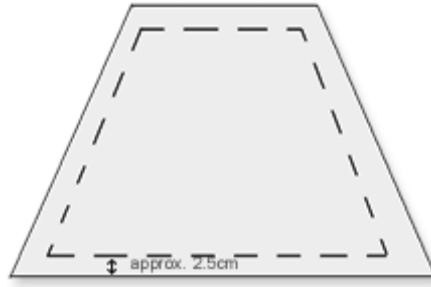
You should have the wire centred so that there is extra length on either end. Twist these ends around the crosspiece.

Now do the same to attach the candle holder to the other diagonal stick, ie. poke the wire through the inside base of the candle holder and out again on the other edge, and wrap wire that is hanging out on either side around the 10cm stick. Wrap gaffer tape around the wrapped wire so there are no sharp ends of wire for anyone to cut themselves on. Replace the candle in the metal cup



NB. THE CANDLE MUST BE IN THE CENTRE AND NOT WOBBLY

The Paper



Cut the shapes of the triangle sides, leaving at least a 2cm-seam allowance

Mix the glue and water (about 2/3 glue), to a consistency of pouring cream. (Too thin and the glue won't stick, too thick and it won't smooth over the surfaces).

Sponge the black plastic with diluted glue over an area big enough to cover the paper triangles.

Lay the paper on the glued area and wipe over with more glue. Make sure all the paper is dampened. Do not rub or over-do the gluing. (If you are using tissue paper, repeat with another layer of paper).

Place the first triangle piece on a side of the frame, dab the edges down with the sponge so that they fold over the sticks. You **MUST** make sure that all these seams are well stuck down, otherwise they are a fire hazard. Repeat for all four sides.

Cut the tops off the triangles to fit the air holes (this can be done before the gluing if you wish)

Leave to dry.

Decorating the Lantern

After the lantern has dried, decorate it with images keeping in mind that the lanterns when lit at night have a soft glow and so look best with bold colours on the paper.

The colours that seemed to work best for us were blacks, deep reds, purples and blues. You may want to experiment beforehand to see what looks best for you