

Crafty Time

By Dave Pierik
Shelton-Mason County Journal



Office Supply Store Penholder

Wouldn't a cool penholder be fun to make, and nice to have? Let's do this!

Tools: Ruler & marker, scissors, paint & brushes, rubber band.

Materials: Plastic containers & lids, masking tape, white glue, sand, 3-4 toothpicks, bendy straw.

Difficulty: Easy Cost: About \$1, including paint and glue. Time: Two to five hours (can vary).

1. Measure



2. Assemble



1. Measure and mark a flat-bottomed plastic container using a rubber band, a ruler and a permanent marker. The low side will be 3.75" tall and the taller end will be 4 1/2" tall. Carefully cut along the line.

2. Plastic lids with glue and sand form the base. The bendy straw will be a downspout. Cut down another plastic lid and support it with toothpicks for the awning. Glue everything together and add masking tape to hold it all in place. Set aside a full day to dry, then remove masking tape.



3. Prime



3. Examine the structure and make any changes now, for example adding the top portion of another container to the top. Mix white glue with white paint. Paint the entire structure, inside and out. Including the glue with the paint will help strengthen it.

4. Basecoat



4. Paint the building yellow, the awning blue or purple, and the roof black. Use washes, grays and earth tones to bring out the high and low parts of the sand for the street &/or sidewalk. Add a second coat. For windows, base coat in black, then add metallic or glitter paint. Add details of your choice.

5. Office Supply



5. Imagine shopping here for your school supplies!

What fresh ideas would you like to see next in Crafty Time? Visit www.craftytimewithdave.com for more photos and project ideas. Please email your photos and feedback to dave@masoncounty.com or call 360-426-4412. Visit our office to see the display!



All ages how-to by Dave Pierik
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You will need:

Tools: Ruler, pencil & markers, scissors, paintbrushes. Craft knife (optional, use with care).

Materials: Cardboard, masking tape, school glue, paper sign designs, clear plastic sheets & tube, rubber bands, plastic canvas, clear packaging, toothpicks, bamboo skewers, craft foam sheet and acrylic paint.

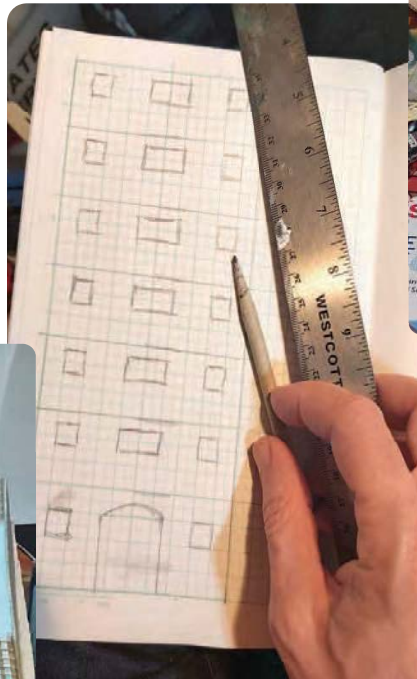
Let's make a hotel!

Happy Tree City is thriving with cars and people
A hotel feels like what we need next..

1. Templates

Think of hotels you like, look at some photos and draw ideas. With a ruler, draw a template. From that, trace and cut cardboard.

Make four walls. Glue together on a base (example is 5" square) and reinforce corners with bamboo skewers. Add masking tape until dry. Add rubber bands for floor divider detail. Paint white.



2. Pool

Paint a 5" square base of corrugated cardboard white and set aside. Cut craft foam to 4 1/4" x 2" then draw a kidney-shaped pool on it and cut carefully, glue to base. Align, mark and cut plastic canvas for fencing, about 1" tall. Paint it silver, along with six toothpicks the same height. Test fit. Glue around the outside edge. Paint bottom of pool metallic blue. Pour school glue to top edge for water.



3. Mask (above)

Shown: removing masking tape to reveal parking lot stripes. For this effect, cut 1" masking tape down to 1/4" widths, tape over the white, then paint black over the top. Test fit your cars first. The pool floaties are beads, the silver arch was part of a cottage cheese lid.



4. Elevator

Cut a clear tubular container to size. Paint the floor and lid black. Add occupants before gluing the lid. Paint doors for all floors silver, add black edging for detail. Paint bamboo skewers and toothpicks black for elevator guides & cables, and awning supports. Cut and fold thin cardboard for the awning. Sheet protectors make windows; glue them from the inside before adding roof.

For more tips and scratch-building information (including the Happy Tree signs art featured here), email dave@masoncounty.com with your feedback. You may also visit www.CraftyTime-WithDave.com for more tutorials and photos. Happy crafting!

5. Play

Bring, paint or buy a few little figures, cars and maybe a helicopter. The Rogers & Rockwell Hotel is now open and ready for guests. Sound effects not included.

