



On A Roll...Home Environment Projects for Everyone 2011 Winter 4-H Warm Up

Most everyone has old magazines lying around. Why not put them to use in your next 4-H Club activity? Magazine Art is fun, economical, entrepreneurial, and the possibilities of projects created from magazines are endless. Youth do have fun making projects where they use their creativity to make a one-of-a-kind piece of art!

No matter what your experience or comfort level is as a 4-H volunteer or what type of club you have, everyone can have fun leading youth through a rolled magazine activity.

Once youth get “rolling” with creating special works of art, they may want to keep going!

Rolled Art Supply List

- A Base (frame, cardboard, shoe box lid, glass vase, etc)
- Magazines
- Glue Stick or other Adhesive
- Wooden Skewer or Pencil
- Hot Glue Gun or other Glue Product (glue dots, E6000, etc)
- Sharp Scissors

Process

1. To increase the learning of the activity and apply skills directly from 4-H projects, start the activity out by talking youth through the Elements and Principles of Design. The Elements and Principles can be found in the new Design Decisions manual on pages 9-12. No matter the project, youth will always want to keep in mind the elements and principles of design.
2. Start by selecting a base for your project. In this example we will use a shoebox lid. Set project base aside.
3. Tear pages out of old magazines. Depending on the size of your base, you can cut the magazine pages into strips of equal width. You will want to cut several strips. Youth can use this step to create a unified theme by only cutting strips in certain colors, strips with white borders, or multi-colored strips.
4. Once you have cut your strips, the next step is to begin rolling. You will want to start by placing a wooden skewer across one corner of a strip and roll as tightly as you can across the strip diagonally. Once the strip has been successfully started, you will want to remove the skewer or it may become stuck inside the rolled straw.
5. When you have rolled across $\frac{3}{4}$ of the strip, you will want to use a glue stick or other adhesive and place adhesive on the remaining $\frac{1}{4}$ triangle. If your straw needs to be tightened up, you can do so by twisting it in your hands before applying adhesive.

6. Use your fingers to tack down and smooth out the edges of the straw. Be sure to not use too much glue.
7. Once you have enough straws to complete your project you can begin to layout your shoebox lid photo frame. Take a pencil and trace a square that is approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ inch smaller all the way around the photo you plan to use.
8. Take a craft knife and very carefully cut out the square from the box lid.
9. Depending on the effect you'd like to achieve you can pre-cut all of your straws to the same length using a sharp pair of scissors or you can glue the straws on to the box top first and then trim.
10. Before gluing, you can layout some of the straws and decide what design you will use for your project.
11. To glue the strips to the box lid, you can choose which glue method will work the best for your group. The simplest and less messy option is to use glue dots, however a glue gun or other adhesives can work too. To use glue dots, place a single row of dots on each end of your base.
12. Gently place the straw onto the lid. Repeat this step until the entire lid is covered. Be sure to place the straws of rolled magazine flush against each other and be sure not to press too hard on the straw when adhering it to the box top.
13. Once your entire lid is covered, it is time to secure a photo behind the window you cut out in Step 8.
14. The final step is to prepare the frame for display. If you plan to hang your new creation, be sure to have a hanger affixed to the back of the box lid. Buying an inexpensive easel to display your frame on a nightstand would work as well.

Fair Projects

There are a few different 4-H project areas where rolled magazine art would be appropriate for fair entries. It really depends on the project and how the youth intends to use it. If the plan is to use the project in a room in their home whether it's a surface accessory or an item made for a bedroom, the best project area would be Design Decisions.

If some youth enjoyed this activity and would like to start a business making and selling products using magazines, then Entrepreneurship would be the best project fit.

If you are unsure of what project area your club activity fits in, please consult with an extension staff member in your county.

Additional Resources

A simple search of the internet can yield several websites where youth can gather ideas for inspirations for their projects. Not only can youth roll magazines for simple home environment projects, they can also use magazine pages to make bows, ornaments, wreaths, and even paper beads!

Websites for other magazine projects

<http://www.cutoutandkeep.net/projects/recycled-magazine-ornaments>

<http://www.cutoutandkeep.net/projects/recycled-magazine-necklace>

<http://howaboutorange.blogspot.com/2009/10/make-gift-bow-from-magazine-page.html>

<http://howaboutorange.blogspot.com/2009/06/recycled-magazine-coasters.html>

<http://www.ggcaa.com/2009/10/recycled-magazine-frames.html>