

Home truths

Do-it-yourself projects look great on paper — but are they really as simple as they look? We tried a few interesting ones and tell you how they turned out

CHOCOLATE BALLOON BOWLS

You'll need:

- 1 packet of medium size balloons
- 1 bowl with melted or tempered chocolate
- 1 sheet of greaseproof paper
- 1 large tray (make sure it fits in your refrigerator)

Preparation:

- Blow the balloons up to the size of a small bowl.
- Swirl them around in the bowl of melted chocolate till half coated.
- Place on greaseproof paper on a tray and refrigerate for 10 minutes.
- Take out and coat again.
- Refrigerate for ten minutes or till set and then pop the balloon.

Our verdict:

These were surprisingly easy to make! Unlike other balloon crafts, chocolate coats the balloon really well, making it easy to cover. The heaviness of the chocolate allows the

balloons to stand on the tray without rolling over. The one problem with mine was a lack of space — make sure you have a clear, open space to make these, otherwise they come out a little messy. Also, towards the second coat, the remaining chocolate began to harden. So, instead of being lazy like I was, make sure you coat it when the chocolate is in a runny state. Thicker might seem like a safer option, but the bowls won't come out smooth. Clean the balloons before blowing them up. I suggest a tiny drop of essence or oil on a tissue and a quick swipe over with a tissue, otherwise your chocolate will not stay on. Some of them are hard to pop and we recommend making more than you require because while most come out clean, some of the balloons (especially if they were moist) tend to stick to the chocolate.

— Rhea Dhanbhoora



>> The chocolate bowls make great party desserts. Fill them with ice cream, mousse or even nuts and sweets

Jaina Kumar | HRM

>> We think you should wait till after the rains to make this lamp!



TISSUE PAPER LAMP

You'll need:

- 1 balloon
- A tube of Fevicol glue
- A little water
- A bowl and brush
- Tissue roll
- Paints
- Decorative items such as thread, lace and flowers.
- 1 light bulb

Preparation:

- Blow the balloon up to the size you want.
- Make a mixture of three parts glue and two parts water.
- Apply this mixture on the balloon and stick tissue on it.
- Cover the balloon entirely

with 3-4 layers of tissue to get the required thickness. Leave the area around the knotted section of balloon uncovered.

- Let it dry overnight. In the morning, you'll find that the balloon has deflated and the tissues have taken the shape of the balloon.
- Tie a metal wire to make a hoop over the open section.
- You can paint the lamp with any colours or designs of your choice or paint it in a base colour and stick various decorative pieces such as thread, lace or flowers on it.
- Hang it on a hook and connect a light bulb through it, your lamp is ready.

Our verdict:

Making this lamp was simple and inexpensive. You don't need much material, just a bit of patience. The first time you do it, the end result might be a little sloppy, but keep trying. They are a great way to jazz up your balcony or room. However, avoid making these lamps during the monsoons as the moisture in the air might cause the balloon to burst before the tissues have dried up leaving your lamp shapeless. Also, before you paint or decorate the lamp, make sure that the tissues have dried completely.

— Gargi Bansod

HOMEMADE SPARKLY LIPGLOSS

You'll need:

- Mini jam jars or small pots
- A tub of beeswax or petroleum jelly
- A little olive oil
- Food colours
- Flavouring (cordial or essence)
- Edible glitter (optional)
- Plastic spoon and bowl
- Toothpicks

Preparation:

- Mix petroleum jelly or beeswax with 1 tsp of olive oil and melt it on a stove, stirring gently.
- If it looks stiff, add more oil. If it is runny, add more petroleum jelly.
- Take it off the stove and let it cool for at least three hours.
- Add in colour (we went wild with blue!) and flavour with a toothpick and swirl till it is blended.
- Add glitter and swirl.
- Place the mixture in jars and let it

set in the fridge overnight.

Our verdict:

While it's really messy to work with colour, petroleum jelly and oil the lipgloss was easy to make. It's a no-fail recipe, but there are a few things that worked better for me the second time around. While mixing in the oil, just add enough to give your lips a bit of shine. Too much will make it greasy. Don't mix the colour vigorously with a spoon (just turn over and fold) or it will start to get too soft and the colour will not blend in (which is what happened with my first pot) — this will end up staining your lips and not in a good way. Spoon it into the jars after putting it in the fridge for around an hour as it is easier and much less messy that way. Vanilla essence adds a delicious smell for those not fond of too much flavour.

— Rhea Dhanbhoora



>> Add sparkle and food colour to make your lipgloss look pretty