

HOW TO MAKE YOUR WINDOW DESIGN

As with all things creative, there are many different ways of producing your window design. These instructions will not cover everything and if you have your own ideas, please go for it. This simply aims to give you a few pointers to help you get started. We also hope you will be able to make it to one of our workshops or our on-line coffee mornings!



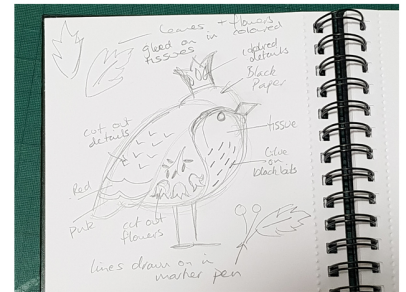
You will need:
wet strength tissue-paper or tracing paper
coloured tissue paper
black paper or thin card
scissors
a craft knife
chalk or a white pencil
PVA glue or
a glue stick
clear sticky tape
a good idea



Begin by measuring up the window/s that you will be decorating. It's a good idea to add 1cm to your measurements in each direction to avoid cracks of light spilling at the edges when you fix your artwork in place.



In order to maintain your privacy whilst the trail is on, you may wish to make up a background using white wet strength tissue paper. Just glue the sheets together (with a small overlap), to fit your window dimensions. Use a gluestick or PVA glue.



Plan how you will make your design. Remember that it will be seen from the outside, so you will need the black paper closest to the glass, followed by the coloured papers. With the white wet strength paper furthest from the glass, on the inside.



Sketch out your design on to the black paper. Chalk lines can be rubbed out with an eraser if necessary. If you struggle to draw you could cut out print-outs or draw around objects. You can also use a grid to scale-up your images. If you can attend a workshop we have an OHP you can use to scale up.



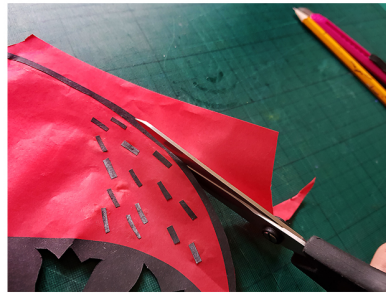
Start by cutting the outline of your shape. A snap-off craft knife is ideal for this. Always keep a sharp blade and it will be much easier. Ensure that the hand that is holding the paper is always **behind** the blade. If working with kids you may wish to do this when they are in bed or alternatively use scissors.



You can keep your image as a simple silhouette, which can look really great, or you may wish to add more detail by cutting out simple patterns or details. These can be filled in with tissue paper in different colours.



You can now fill in any cut-outs by sticking coloured tissue paper shapes to the rear of your design. You don't have to be super tidy as the edges can be trimmed afterwards. A glue stick is useful for this, but diluted PVA (50:50 glue:water) is fine.



The edges can then be trimmed by cutting around the edge with scissors. Extra detail can be added by sticking on black paper shapes or by layering shapes on top using different colours of tissue paper.



The design can then be stuck onto your window sized sheet of wet- strength tissue paper. A glue stick is good for this, but PVA is fine, just try not to get the coloured tissue too wet as the colours can sometimes run and fade if they get damp.



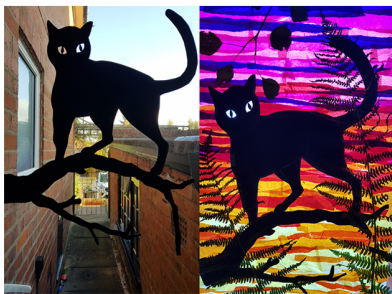
The area around your design can be filled with cut out tissue paper shapes. These can be layered if you want, just bear in mind that when the light shows through, the colours will mix ie. red on top of blue will appear to be purple.



You can also use a marker pen directly onto the wet strength tissue paper to add detail. But remember that the window will be viewed from a distance and the overall effect is more important than small details that may not be visible from far away.



Another way that you can make an interesting background is to stick torn tissue paper onto the wet strength tissue. Dilute the glue 50:50 with water and paint it directly onto the wet-strength tissue. Paste the coloured tissue on top and allow it to dry.



A torn tissue background can make a really great backdrop to a simple black paper silhouette. By cutting a hole out for the eyes it gives them greater impact. Real leaves and ferns can also be used to give more atmosphere. If you plan to use plants it is a good idea to press them under a book first, try and prevent curling.



Plain white areas can be made more interesting by adding simple cut outs cut from ordinary white printer paper. You could use stars, clouds or any other shapes. Likewise you can add shapes cut from coloured tissue, or you could use a plain coloured background. Install your window using sellotape along the edges.



When you install your window design, have a good look at it from outside. Hopefully your everyday lighting will be enough, but you may wish to bring extra lamps into the room. Don't worry about your design looking professional, the important thing is join in - and to have fun doing it! 😊