Lantern Making Guide
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www.festiveroad.org.uk

Materials: withies, latex glue, wet strength tissue, masking tape
You will also need: gaffa tape, wire, bamboo canes, sponges to spread the glue

Traditional lanterns

1. Cut 4 withies the same length for the base. (30-40cm each)

2. Join them at the corners with masking tape

3. Add diagonals

4. Measure & cut 4 verticals to the height you want and tape them into a pyramid

5. Decorate and strengthen the sides by taping in more withies. Remember your designs will show up in silhouette.

6. Make a door, the same shape as one of your sections low down on the side of the frame. Use masking tape to make it hinged

7. Fix your candle into the wire holder and tape it securely to the base of the frame.

8. Cut the tissue paper into manageable pieces. Working on a table, spread glue over the whole piece of paper with the sponge.
9. Apply the wet tissue to the lantern, overlapping each piece as you go. Cover the base and the sides. And cover the door separately so it still opens giving you access to light your candle.

10. Add the wire loop. At the event, you’ll be given a pole with a hook for carrying your lantern.

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Making Shaped lanterns

Lanterns don’t have to be restricted to the old style pyramids which were designed originally to hold candles. Using withies and masking tape you can create pretty much any kind of 3D shape. Here’s some simple tried and tested shapes.

- **Lighting options**

  Candles look beautiful and are the cheapest option but the lanterns must be shaped to allow enough space around the flame so that the sides don’t catch and have a gap at the top to let the heat out. Live flame lit lanterns should always be carried at arm’s length, ideally on a cane.

  LED’s — battery operated sets of LED strings come in all sorts of colours and last a long time. Think about whether the light sets need to be removed to be used again for other events before you decided where to mount them in a lantern though.

  Glow sticks — a very cheap safe option but only go for the chunky sticks, the ones that are individually packaged — they more reliably, brighter and are better quality. They can only be snapped and placed in a lantern just before the event starts so you need to think about the time that takes multiplied by the number of lanterns and also easy installation.
Angels

A circle base

A cone shape built up from the base

Doubled up withies, one long and one shorter to make wings

A sphere for a head

Flowers

Tear shaped petals

Put them together
Flat shapes

Use hula hoops or doubled up withies

Start with a hoop of doubled up withies on a bamboo cane

Create a star shaped

Or a heart shape

Using other materials

Making plastic bottle lanterns

Wire handle

Using A3 laminators

Make sparkly designs and laminate them

Use coloured acetate, glitter etc

Celotape the A3 laminate into a tube

Punch holes and add wire or tinsel handle