



Project Idea: Make a Paper Basket

Recommended for Step 4: Discover Form and Fit, Choice 1: Focus on Function

Setup: People have been making and using baskets for thousands of years. Makers choose the form, or shape and size, of the basket so it will be useful. Think about the big basket under a hot air balloon. Its shape and size are different from a basket holding berries at the grocery store. For a basket to be useful, its pieces need to fit together correctly, too. This paper basket is perfect for party favors or a small gift.

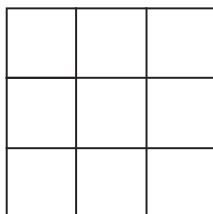
Materials needed:

- 9" x 9" or 6" x 6" card stock or thin cardboard (like a cereal box)
- Pipe cleaners
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Safety scissors
- Hole punch
- Tape or stapler
- Markers, stickers, or other materials to decorate the basket

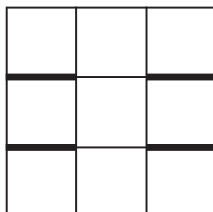
Activity:

1. If needed, measure and cut the card stock to be either a 9" x 9" or 6" x 6" square.

2. Measure and mark a 3x3 grid on the card stock, like a tic-tac-toe board.

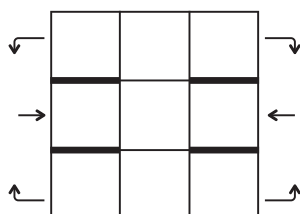


3. Cut the two horizontal lines on each side of the grid toward the center square, but not into the center square. You'll make a flap on either side of the grid.



4. Use a ruler to help crease the remaining lines. If needed, the ruler can guide you to gently run the edge of the safety scissors along the lines. This can make folding easier, especially if you're using cardboard.

5. Fold the long top and bottom edges up and in, overlapping and taping (or stapling) the three squares to make one even square on each side.



6. Make a handle from pipe cleaners. You might twist or braid several colors or choose to use just one color. Consider how many you'll need to make a sturdy handle.
7. Use the hole punch to make two holes across from each other and bend the pipe cleaner(s) to attach the ends of the handle.
8. Decorate your basket.

