

HOW TO MAKE A PAPER LANTERN

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Introduction

Paper Lanterns come in a variety of shapes, colors, sizes, and designs. Paper lanterns give your home or wherever you plan to use them a new feel and look. What sets apart paper lanterns from other typical light sources is the ability to make it your own. You can customize them to go with any room, and you can even put your personal touch on them to give them some essence. You can hang your paper lanterns from the ceiling or even place them on a nightstand like you would a lamp. Anyone from the age of 10 and up can make them, and it only takes about 20-30 minutes to complete in one sitting.

This tutorial will instruct you on how to make three different shaped paper lanterns; a cylinder, sphere, and box based paper lantern. Keep in mind, you can customize the paper lanterns to suit your taste and this tutorial only shows only a three ways to make three different shaped lanterns.

Materials

Paper Lanterns require few materials; however, you may choose to include more. This tutorial uses a minimum amount of material, and those that are accessible, like the following:

Shape	Materials Needed
Cylinder	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Coffee can (or any cylindrical shape mold)➤ Wire➤ Hot glue/ hot glue gun (your preference of glue)➤ Paper/cloth of preference➤ Scissors➤ Pliers
Sphere	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Medium- sized inflatable beach ball➤ Wire➤ Hot glue/ hot glue gun (your preference of glue)➤ Paper/cloth of preference➤ Scissors➤ Pliers
Box	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Cubed box (the size desired)➤ Wire➤ Hot glue/ hot glue gun (your preference of glue)

- | | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Paper/cloth of preference➤ Scissors➤ Pliers |
|--|---|

*A light bulb of some sort will complete your finished product.

How to Make a Cylinder-Shaped Paper Lantern

Before you begin to make your paper lantern, you want to make sure you have cleared a work space that will accommodate all of the materials needed to complete this craft and also ensure that nothing can cause trouble during the process. You can complete your paper lantern either standing up or sitting down.

Making the Cylinder Mold

1. If using a hot glue gun, turn it on now. You want to make sure that the glue has time to warm up so that it allows the material to stick.
2. Place your coffee can, or preferred cylinder object, on your workspace.
3. Using enough wire to fit object and have some left over, Wrap the wire directly from the top of the object to the bottom in a spiral pattern. (Do this loosely so you can remove the shape from the wire mold).



Figure 1: A sample of the wire wrapped around the cylinder object (coffee can).

4. Leave the top and the bottom of the cylinder mold open so when it comes time to place the lighting in the wire molding formed to place the bulb, it will light the entire lantern.
5. Link together each level of spirals on the wire, tying a loop around each level.



Figure 2: An example of how to link each level together.

6. Leave the extra wire at the ends of both the top and bottom of the mold.
7. Remove the cylinder shape so that all that is remaining is the wire mold.
8. Take the extra wire at the top and bottom of the mold and twist it around the uppermost/bottommost part of spiral to complete the mold. Using the excess wire and twisting it gives room to place a light source of your preference.
9. Make sure to check your mold for stability.



Figure 3: The cylinder mold.

Attaching the Cloth to the Cylinder Mold

1. Cut the cloth (or material you choose) into strips the length of the mold.
2. Repeat the previous step until enough strips cover the circumference of the cylinder.
3. Fold the top edge of the cloth around the top spiral/ wire to cover it



Figure 4: How to fold the cloth to glue together.

WARNING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

USING GLUE GUN???

CAREFUL!!!!

**BECAUSE GLUE WILL BE
EXTREMELY HOT!!!!!!!!!!!!**

- completely.
4. Glue the top end of the cloth to the inside of the cloth, securing the wire inside the mold.
 5. Pull the cloth tight so that the lantern gives shape and firmness.
 6. Wrap the bottom edge of the cloth around the bottom spiral/wire to cover it completely.
 7. Glue the bottom end of the cloth to the bottom inside part of the mold, securing the wire inside of the cloth and outside.
 8. Repeat steps 3-7 until the cylinder mold is covered completely with cloth and satisfies you before moving to the next mold.



Figure 5: An example of the final product.

How to Make a Sphere-Shaped Paper Lantern

Now, you will begin your second molding. Here, nothing changes except the shape of your molding and this could be of any shape that you like. Once again, before getting started on your next lantern, make sure you have a clear workspace free of any scraps, clippings, and glue from the previous lantern that may interfere with this one. Be sure that you can access all needed materials before you begin.

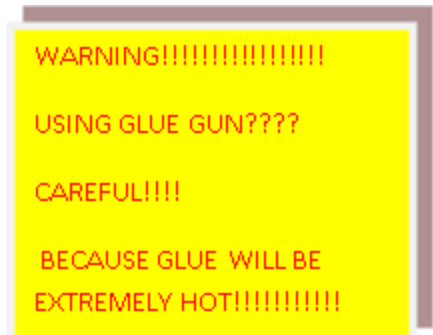
Making the Sphere Mold

1. If using a hot glue gun, turn it on now so that it is ready to go before use.
2. Inflate your beach ball if using one. If not, whatever object accessible to you will also work.

3. Place your beach ball on your workspace.
4. Wrap the wire directly from the top to the base of the ball in a spiral pattern as you did your first molding.
5. Leave the top and the bottom of the sphere mold open. Keeping the coiling loose at the bottom and top gives the light bulb placement and allows for the wrapping of cloth.
6. Deflate the beach ball and remove from the inside of the mold. (Note that in step 4, the wiring must be done loosely so that you can remove the ball)
7. Link together each level of spirals on the wire, tying a loop around each level.
8. Leave extra wire at the ends of both the top and bottom of the mold.
9. Take the extra wire at the ends of the mold and twist it around the uppermost/bottommost spiral to complete the mold.
10. Make sure to check your mold for stability.

Attaching the Cloth to the Sphere Mold

1. Cut the cloth (or material of your preference) into strips the height of the mold.
2. Repeat the previous step until you have enough cloth to cover the circumference of the sphere.
3. Fold the top edge of the cloth around the top spiral/ wire to cover it completely.
4. Glue the top end of the cloth to the inside of the cloth, securing the wire inside of the cloth. (This should be glued on the inside of the mold).
5. Wrap the bottom edge of the cloth around the bottom spiral/ wire to cover it completely.
6. Pull the cloth tight so that the lantern gives shape and firmness.
7. Wrap the bottom edge of the cloth around the bottom spiral/wire to cover it completely.
8. Glue the bottom end of the cloth to the inside of the cloth, securing the wire inside of the cloth. (Again, this should be done in the inside of the mold).
9. Repeat steps 3-7 until the sphere mold is covered completely with the cloth.



How to Make a Cube-Shaped Paper Lantern

Yes, two paper lanterns down and one to go! Here, the paper lantern will take on the shape of a cube. Once again, if you do not wish to do a cube-shaped paper

lantern, you can choose another shape you desire and just follow the instructions below to give you a fantastic lantern. Before you begin, make sure to clear your workspace to accommodate all of the materials need to complete this craft and make it a success.

Making the Cube Mold

1. If using a hot glue gun, turn it on now so that it is ready to go before use.
2. Place your cubed object, or whatever object you chose, on your workspace.
3. Wrap the wire directly from the top to the base of the cube in a spiral pattern as you did your previous moldings.
4. Leave the top and bottom of the cube mold open.
5. Remove the cubed object from the mold.
6. Link together each level of spirals on the wire, tying a loop around each level.
7. Leave extra wire at the ends of the mold and twist it around the uppermost/bottommost spiral of the mold for completion.
8. Make sure to check your mold for stability.

Attaching the Cloth to the Cube Mold

1. Cut the cloth (or material of your preference) into strips the height of the mold.
2. Repeat the previous step until you have enough cloth to cover the circumference of the cube.
3. Fold the top edge of the cloth around the top spiral/wire to cover it completely.
4. Glue the top end of the cloth to the inside of the cloth, securing the wire inside of the cloth. (This should be glued on the inside of the mold).
5. Pull the cloth taut.
6. Wrap the bottom edge of the cloth around the bottom spiral/wire to cover it completely.
7. Glue the bottom end of the cloth to the inside of the cloth, securing the wire inside of the cloth. (Again, this should be done in the inside of the mold).
8. Repeat steps 3-7 until the sphere mold is covered completely with the cloth.

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Conclusion

Now that you have completed, it is easier for you to see how to incorporate your own style and creativity. Now you can glue on rhinestones, beads, or anything that you wish! Hang them from your ceiling or leave them on a desk or nightstand. The possibilities are endless when you make paper lanterns!