

Making a pyramid willow lantern

Equipment

Secateurs

Masking tape

PVA glue

A sponge

A paintbrush

Two small trays- one to hold the diluted PVA; the other to paste the paper. A small round cake tin or foil/plastic tray would be ideal, provided there are no holes.

An LED Stick and Click light from Poundland, plus 3 AAA batteries

5/6 willow rods/withies*

Paper to cover the structure*

Tissue paper to decorate*

(*in kit)

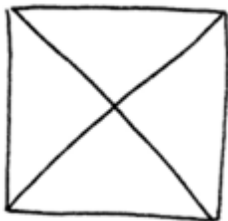
Instructions

The day before you want to make your lantern you need to soak the rods in the bath for two hours or so in cold water. Drain the bath and wrap the rods in an old towel overnight. In the morning they will be pliable and ready to work with.

Cover your table.

Tear strips of masking tape ready to use.

Choose the longest rod and make a square base with cross struts to strengthen. Tape the joins.



Cut 4 rods the height of the pyramid. The thicker end will go at the bottom. Fix them all together at the top with tape

Bend the thicker ends and tape the bottom of the 4 withies evenly on to the base.

Use the pieces you've cut off to strengthen the sides.



To make a carrying loop, bend a piece of willow into a hoop shape and attach with tape to the top.

Squeeze all the taped joints so they hold firm.

Cut the paper provided along the folds so you have small rectangles. Dilute PVA 50:50 with water and pour some into the shallow tray. It's a good idea to mix it up in an empty washing up bottle so you can keep topping it up as you work.

Now you're ready to cover the lantern!

Brush undiluted PVA glue on all the willow rods. You don't need lots, but this will help it stick when you're covering the lantern.

Place one of the rectangles of paper in the baking tray (**not** the one with the diluted PVA in), soak your sponge and rub the dilute PVA over the paper. Turn the paper over and coat the other side.

Lift the paper out of the tray and keeping it as taut as you can, place it on the lantern structure. Keep on covering the lantern overlapping edges of the paper as you go. Cover the whole lantern, including the base. Try to get two layers on the structure. Sponge the paper to smooth any bits that are sticking up.

Use a brush and the dilute PVA to stick the tissue paper on. The tissue paper may bleed, but this adds to the overall effect. You can, of course, decorate it when it's dry.

Leave it to dry overnight on a covered area. The tissue paper may stain surfaces.

Once it's dry, cut a small flap on one side close to the base. Place your light inside sticking it down where you can. You can put some tape around the flap to strengthen it and then close it up. A small piece of tape can be put at the bottom of the flap to secure it.

If anything's not clear, google "willow lanterns" and there are lots of instructions and videos about making lanterns.

Good luck!