

WORKSHOP: “CELLOPHANE WINDOW FILTER”



Summary: Participants create small cellophane light filters for windows, designing the imagery and putting it together. Participants cut up the cellophane for design elements and spray glue and heat adhere layers of coloured cellophane together to take home. Bristol board edges keep the colourful hangings flat and provide a frame type border. These can be taped to a window with clear tape or held up with a suction cup hanger.

Materials and Equipment:

cellophane – assorted colours
spray adhesive E6000 low odor
bristol board
ruler
scissors
large bowl
clear tape
reusable gloves
safety glasses
instructions/ideas sheet

pencil, eraser, sharpener
sketch paper
cardboard to work on
roll of foil
iron
ironing board
extension cord
glitter – assorted colours and shapes
sample artwork

Class Plan:

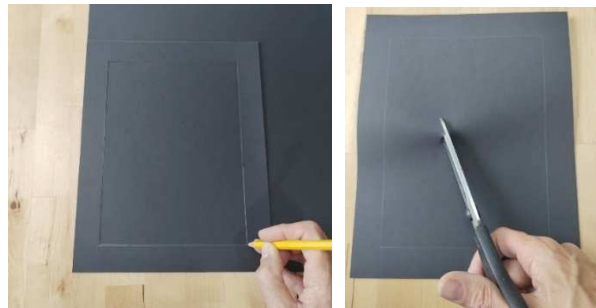
1. Participants decide on the design they'd like to make.
 - a. Participants can sketch out a design plan first if they like, or just work freeform.
2. For materials, we used:
 - a. Regular weight cellophane in half a dozen colours can be bought (on sale) at an art supply store but sometimes can be found at second hand stores.



- b. Assorted glitter colours, sizes and shapes can be purchased from the Dollar Store but are ideally salvaged from second hand stores and community donations to reuse plastic instead of making more.



- c. Buying second hand and salvaging items for use is best whenever possible.
3. Cut two pieces of Bristol board to the size you want your window light filter with scissors (below left). Measure with a ruler and mark in about 1" from all edges. Cut out the centre of each piece by making a hole in the centre and inserting the scissors to cut from there (below right).



- a. Your cellophane creation will be sandwiched between these two pieces.



4. Cut two pieces of cellophane to the size you want your window light filter to be using scissors. Choose a colour that isn't too dark, so that the rest of the image will show up. Use the Bristol board frames as a template for the size to make it easier.



- a. One piece is for the background for you to work on. The other piece is the top layer holding it all together.
5. Cover your work surface with salvaged cardboard.



6. We used E6000 pump spray glue to stick layers of cellophane together. It is generally sold at art and craft supply stores or online.



- a. This glue sprays as a pump and is not pressurized. Look for the pump spray kind, because there are other kinds in tubes and pressurized.
- b. It is described as no odour but we would call it low odour.
- c. It dries translucent, cleans up with water, works on a variety of surfaces including cellophane, is strong and reasonably priced compared to other options.
7. Cut out pieces of cellophane to make each element of the design. Cellophane is very prone to roll up and stick together with static. Gluing as you go is definitely easier on smaller pieces. However, you can cut out all the pieces first if you prefer.
8. Spray the background cellophane with E6000 glue. Each time you spray glue, apply enough for a thin coating. Avoid applying excess glue because it will squeeze out the sides when ironed later.
 - a. Wear reusable gloves if you want to avoid getting any glue on your hands. Safety glasses are also a good idea if there is any chance of accidentally spraying the glue in the wrong direction.



9. Cut out the pieces spraying as you go so there is glue between all the layers of the cellophane. Press each new piece firmly in place by hand.
- a. Cut a wide section of green cellophane for the bottom.



- b. Cut long tapering rectangles with irregular sides to look like tree trunks.



- c. A fun way to cut up leaves for the trees is to scrunch up several colours of cellophane scraps and cut them into small pieces into a bowl.



- d. Add leaves to the trees by pouring the shredded cellophane from the bowl onto the background.



- e. Spray a thin coat of glue on top of the leaves after pouring them on.



10. Add glitter in fun shapes and sizes by sprinkling them onto a background already sprayed with wet glue.



11. When you are finished adding design elements, spray any areas that do not have wet glue on top of them.
12. Place the top layer of cellophane over the design, lining up the edges with the background and sandwiching the cutout design pieces between them.



- a. The cellophane can't easily be repositioned after it touches the glue. If you are worried about lining up the edges, cut an extra-large piece of cellophane and use that instead. The edges can be trimmed afterward.
- 13. Press the top cellophane in place with your hands working from the centre outward, so any trapped air bubbles can escape.



- 14. Trim around the edges of your cellophane light filter with scissors, to the size of the paper frame.



- a. Cellophane does not cut easily with an x-acto knife. We found scissors work much better.
- 15. Sandwich the cellophane light filter you have created between two layers of foil.



16. Iron the cellophane filter working on the foil sandwich. Use a medium-heat no-steam iron setting and work on an ironing board or ironing table if available.



- a. DO NOT iron directly on the cellophane, because it will likely melt. Also, if the cellophane melts without foil protection, it is a lot more work to clean the iron and board.
 - b. DO NOT reposition the foil to continue ironing. Use new sections of foil. Some glue will squeeze out the side edges. Repositioning the foil can get glue on the front of your cellophane filter.
17. Spray glue one side of one of the Bristol board frames on a separate sheet of foil or cardboard. Transfer this glue side up to a clean cardboard and apply the cellophane filter on top of it lining up the edges.



- a. Spray glue the second Bristol board frame on a clean cardboard or foil, flip it over apply it to the top of the cellophane filter lining up the edges. Be careful to avoid getting glue on the front of the Bristol board frames. Iron this assembly again if desired, but always between layers of clean foil.



18. Leave your cellophane window light filter to finish drying on a flat surface. Ironing the filter pressed the cellophane layers together so it is flat, but doesn't completely dry the glue.
19. Light shining through the filter will illuminate the artwork showing off all the colourful details.



20. The cellophane light cover can be changed with the season and events, hanging a different one in the window for decoration.
21. Happy creating, and please send us photos of your creations if you feel comfortable sharing.

Useful Information/Adaptions/Variations:

- Trying doing a large version for the community to cover an existing wall mounted fluorescent light fixture if there is one. The design can be created by the community as a group project without the construction paper frame.



- Colourful cellophane window panels can be changed by season and event, for fun and easy decoration.

- Try using different colours of Bristol board for your frames and different creative designs.



- We don't recommend using a glue stick on the cellophane. We found it didn't stick well. It was messy and hard to keep the cellophane in place.

Trouble Shooting:

- If you end up with large trapped air bubbles, cut a tiny hole in the top layer of cellophane with an x-acto knife so they can escape, then press the edges down into the glue.
- Do not use parchment paper to wrap around your cellophane for ironing instead of foil. It is heat resistant and will stop the layers from flattening properly.
- Do not use wax paper to wrap around your cellophane for ironing instead of foil. The wax will melt onto your project or your iron depending which way up the wax paper is. Waxed paper is not recommended because it is messy and dulls the cellophane colour.
- Parchment paper and wax paper are not interchangeable for reference on other projects. Parchment paper is heat resistant and waxed paper is not.
- Do not turn your iron up too high or iron for very long because the heat can melt your cellophane. Test on a few scrap pieces before working on your creation.
- Never iron your cellophane without covering it with foil first. If it does melt, your iron and ironing board are still ok with the protection. Test your heat setting on scraps before using it on your finished project.
- Iron cellophane with foil under and over the package. Don't reposition the same foil because extra glue coming out the sides can get onto the front of the next piece ironed.