

Family Art from Home

Ink Insects

by Radka Apostalon

Craft beautiful handmade insects that you would welcome in your home! Insects can be placed in sight wherever they can be enjoyed.

Supplies Needed

- White cardstock and cardboard (i.e. Cereal box)
- Decorative paper or magazines cut-outs
- Blue glue, hot glue or Elmer's glue
- Ink, watercolor or other paint (dilute paint thin enough to blow with straw)
- Scissors
- Markers, thin sharpies, or colored pencils
- Straw
- Chalk pastels (optional)

Instructions

MAKE THE INSECTS

1. On a large sheet of cardstock or cereal box pour a puddle of ink or diluted paint. Place the straw directly above it (or at an angle to push the ink away from you while blowing) and gently blow in the puddle. Continue to move the ink by blowing on protruding areas to create legs, hairs, etc. Blow strongly to create 'star' effect at the end of the appendages (see sample). Let dry.

2. Cut out the insect shapes leaving a thin white border. Decorate the border with sharpies, colored pencils or markers.

3. Using the decorative paper or magazines, cut out wings, eyes, spikes or any other shapes you would like to add to the insect body. For sturdiness they can be glued to the cardstock before attachment. Glue onto the body and bend to create 3D effect.

MAKE THE BACKGROUND (OPTIONAL)

4. Paint a large sheet of cardstock and make patterns. If using thicker paint use combs, forks, fingers, skewers or sticks to make the pattern. If you have some chalk pastels, you can add them after the paint dries.

5. Arrange insects on the patterned background and glue down. If you would like to make the insects lift off the sheet, make stilts from cardboard (shaped like little tables). Glue the stilts underneath the bodies and attach to the background sheet.



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