

IDEA FOR CHRISTMAS CRACKER TABLE DESIGN - OR A GIFT

YOU WILL NEED :

:: 2 plastic (or recycled) small/medium water bottles 20 - 25cm tall (with flattish lids) - of same size and shape - ('square' bottles are preferable if available)

:: length of fancy wrapping paper - or brown paper, foil paper, coloured crepe paper - to cover cracker -

:: short length of twine or string - plus length of fancy ribbon to decorate (optional) -

:: thin piece of firm cardboard or MDF approx. 7.5cm x 20cm - spray or paint in colour to complement your fancy paper - this will be used as a presentation base for the completed cracker -

:: 2 lengths of thin batten/dowel - 10 - 15cm long - if using *round water bottles* -

:: block of (grey) dry* or fresh (green/brown) floral foam^ - approx. 4cm wide x 10cm long x 9cm deep -

:: artificial* or fresh plant^ material - smallish head flowers, foliage, cones, baubles, (Christmas) ribbon and trimming to decorate -

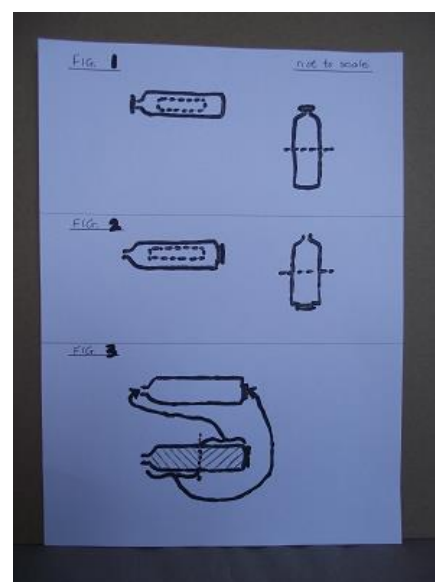
:: Bostik All Purpose glue or Oasis floral adhesive -

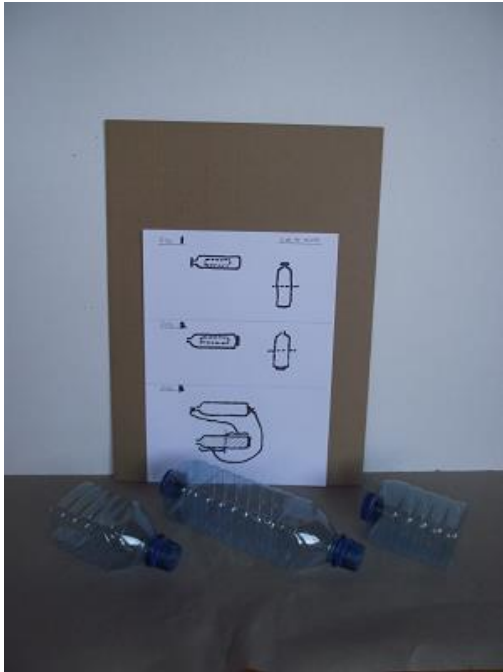


WHAT TO DO :

Wash and dry the two plastic bottles -

Cut only a rectangular shape hole in the (long) side of **one*** bottle - size of hole approx. 4cm x 10cm - cut the **other** bottle in half across the middle -





Glue the two bottle caps to the bases of each bottle (allow glue to dry sufficiently) -

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Screw the **top half** of the cut bottle to the cap on the base of the complete bottle - and screw the **bottom half** of the cut bottle to the top of the complete bottle - this should produce a long tube open at both ends with the two caps acting as **distance** pieces and the hole in your complete bottle to hold your floral foam in the centre -

AN ADULT'S ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE NECESSARY FOR THIS PROCESS -

Tidy both open ends to suitable length - if using round water bottles, glue a length of batten/dowel on to the sides of the complete bottle to prevent it from rolling over -

Cover the cracker (and batten/dowel) with fancy paper, gluing the overlap underneath and when dry, tie the twine/string round the cracker over the distance pieces - trim and tidy ends -



Cut a rectangular hole in your fancy paper in line with the rectangular hole in the bottle, and press excess paper down into hole to tidy the edges -

Cut and prepare your floral foam (dry* foam for artificial plant material - and dampened green/brown foam^ for fresh plant material) - to fit into the hole so that the block of foam stands 2cm proud of the cracker -

Arrange your foliage, flowers, dainty cones **, baubles, ribbons etc - to produce your table design or your gift to a family member or friend -



** how to wire a cone to insert into floral design -

Using length of stub wire/garden wire, thread wire round base of cone where there appear to be small 'gaps' between the cone segments and join two lengths of wire together - twist wire securely so it doesn't wobble and insert wired cone into foam -