

MAKE A PORTABLE

ARTIST'S EASEL!

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Do you see yourself as a budding artist and would love to create your own masterpieces whilst out and about?

We'll follow the instructions on how to make your very own portable artist's easel and get out into the wilds of your local countryside with your easel or pay us a visit at Portland Basin Museum, where there's lots of plants, trees, birds, insects and other wildlife for you to sketch and paint.

First, what size do you want your easel to be? A4 or A3?

You will need:

A4 version

- 2 large cardboard rectangles around 27cm x 36cm
- 1 cardboard strip around 23cm x 4cm
- 1 cardboard pocket piece (optional) around 23cm x 25cm
- 2 pieces of cord or string (thick if possible), around 45 - 50cm each

A3 version

- 2 large cardboard rectangles around 36cm x 48cm
- 1 cardboard strip around 32cm x 4cm
- 1 cardboard pocket piece (optional) around 32cm x 35cm
- 2 pieces of cord or string (thick if possible), around 45 - 50cm each

Strong sticky tape, like duct tape or masking tape. Ruler, scissors, pen or pencil. Finally something pointy like a knitting needle/ sharp pencil, for piercing holes in the cardboard. ***Remember to ask a grown up for help with this.**

Step by step instructions and photos are found over the next two pages.



Look at the picture above to see your finished easel! And the picture on the next page shows the other side.



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How to make your own Portable Artist's Easel.

First take the two large rectangular pieces of cardboard and using tape, stick the short ends together. Make sure to leave a small gap between the pieces, so that there is room for it to bend (see photograph).

Now flip the two pieces over and tape the other side as above. Then test out your bend before you go any further.

Next, take the cardboard strip and using tape, stick it to your easel along its top and sides, leaving the bottom edge of the strip open, this will hold your paper in place when you're out sketching and painting (see photograph).

If you'd like to add a storage pocket onto the back of your easel, cut out a curve at the top of your pocket piece of card to make it easier to remove your materials. To do this you can place a round object onto this card piece, overlapping by about half, to create a semicircle. Draw around it and cut out the semicircle. Now take the cardboard pocket piece and using tape, stick it along three of the edges, leaving the top edge open for your art materials (see photograph).

Now using something pointy like a knitting needle, carefully poke holes into the bottom corners of the two large rectangular cardboard pieces. *You might want to ask an adult to help you with this. Wriggle the 'pointy thing' around to make sure the holes are big enough to thread cord or your string through.



We have created so many other activities, to take a look visit:

[Culture Crafts \(tameside.gov.uk\)](http://tameside.gov.uk)



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How to make your own Portable Artist's Easel continued

Next, thread the cord or string through the holes and tie a knot at both ends. Repeat on the other side (see photograph).

Top Tip: The cord keeps your easel from slipping and can also be used to tie it together for compact storage.

That's it, you're all set to get out there and create your works of art!

Don't forget to pop into the museum to show us your masterpieces, we'd love to see them!

