



Make colourful paper birds

Craft these bright cut-out birds to decorate a window.

The Big Garden Birdwatch is on now until 25 January. This is a survey run by the charity RSPB where people across the UK can help to monitor the bird population. Ask an adult to help you sign up online, then spend an hour counting the different birds that land in your garden or in a park. By taking part, you help scientists find out how well birds are doing. More than 590,000 people took part last year, spotting 9.1 million birds.

To celebrate this annual event, try crafting some paper birds to decorate your window. The light will shine through the coloured tissue paper and brighten up gloomy winter days. You can use any thin, flexible card in any colour. To make more birds, you could repeat the same shape or try different ones, such as a flying bird with open wings. You could also cut out card branches for the birds to perch on. Keep shapes simple and the frame around the edge at least eight millimetres wide, so it's not too thin and fragile.

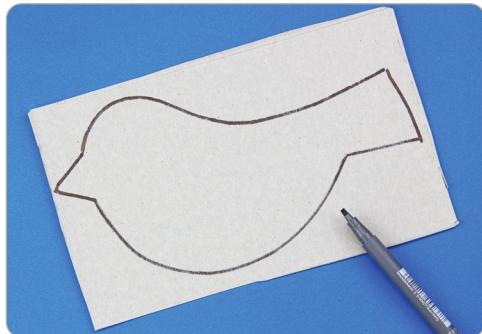
What you need

- Thin card
- A pencil or pen
- Scissors
- Sticky tape
- Glue
- Tissue paper
- Sticky tack (such as Blu Tack)



TOP TIPS

- Overlap the tissue paper to make the colours darker.
- For black frames, paint the thin card before you start.



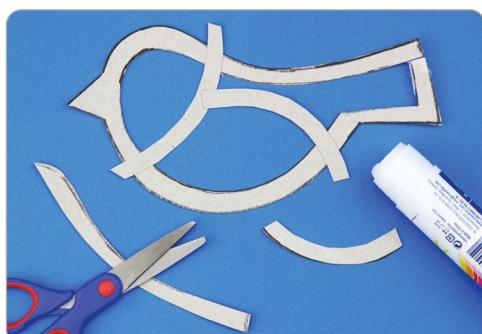
1 Draw a simple bird outline on a piece of card. Thin card from recycled packaging or an empty cereal box is ideal.



2 Cut out your bird shape. Then draw a line around the body, about eight to 10 millimetres from the edge.



3 Cut out the middle section to make a frame. If you cut in from the edge, once you are done you can tape up the break you made in the frame.



4 Cut thin curved card strips from left-over card. Glue the strips to divide the body into smaller sections with a head and wing. Trim the ends off.



5 Tear or cut small bits of tissue paper. Carefully put glue around the card frame then stick the tissue paper on top (overlapping colours are ok).



6 Flip the bird over and trim off any extra tissue around the edge. Glue a cut-out card eye to the head. Use tack to stick the bird to a window.

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