



Make colourful fruity bowls

Papier-mâché is the ancient technique of making things using paper and glue, which dates back as far as 200BC. Being very versatile, it has been used to make all sorts of things including masks and ornaments. These decorative bowls are a great way to practise the technique and can be decorated easily to look like your favourite fruit. They will look great in your home and they make brilliant presents, but remember, they aren't suitable for serving food.

What you need

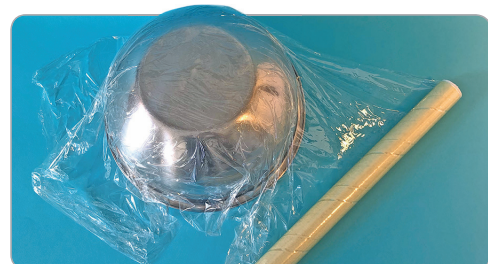
- Big bowl
- Clingfilm
- Newspaper
- Small bowl
- PVA glue
- Water
- Paintbrush
- Ruler (optional)
- Scissors
- Coloured paper (or newspaper or magazine clippings)
- Marker pen

You can create many designs.

WARNING!
Be careful when using scissors to trim the bowl.



Instructions



1 Turn the big bowl upside down and cover the outside in clingfilm. Place it on newspaper or a surface that doesn't matter if it gets a bit mucky.



2 In the small bowl mix about 200ml of PVA glue with about 100ml of water, stirring it well with the paintbrush to get it smooth.



3 Tear some newspaper into small pieces. One by one, carefully brush the pieces with the glue mixture and overlap them on the clingfilm.



4 Once you have covered the bowl with your first layer of newspaper, leave to dry slightly. Add four more layers and leave to dry overnight.



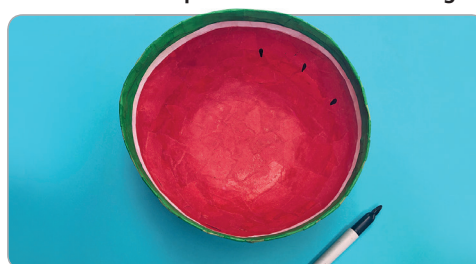
5 Ease the papier-mâché off. Slide a ruler in between if necessary. Remove the film and trim around the top of the bowl for a clean edge.



6 Now decorate it. The watermelon bowl, for example, has small pieces of red or pink paper pasted inside and white paper on the top edge.



7 Paste torn strips of different shades of green paper on the outside. Fold and paste pieces over the top edge of the bowl and leave to dry.



8 Finally, as a finishing touch, take the marker pen and draw watermelon seeds on the inside. You can experiment with other designs.

TOP TIP

If you don't have coloured paper, take colourful clippings from old newspapers or magazines and use them to decorate your bowl instead. This method is called *découpage*.



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