



Make a desk tidy

What you need

- Cardboard tubes (a toilet roll tube)
- Thick card
- A pencil
- A ruler
- Scissors
- Paintbrush
- PVA glue
- Sticky tape (if needed)
- Tissue paper or paper kitchen towel
- Coloured paints

TOP TIP

The lid of a shoe box or chocolate box can be used to hold your cactus pots. Decorate the tray (see main photo).

Organise your pens, pencils and other stationery for the new school term by crafting this cute cactus desk tidy. Collect any finished cardboard tubes from your home (toilet and kitchen rolls are best) and transform them into these useful little pots and holders. They're perfect as a rainy-day activity and great as a gift. You could even adapt the idea and come up with your own designs: the cactus could be a ghost, a tree or maybe even a rocket. Why not get creative – and organise your desk or study area at the same time.



1 First prepare your workspace. Use a 15-16cm cardboard tube to make the big cactus. Cut eight strips from the card, making sure they are the same length as the tube. The strips should be 1cm wide. Brush glue on the cardboard tube then stick the strips onto the sides. Leave the tube to dry.



2 Cut out two branch shapes from the thick card. Then glue or use sticky tape to fix the branches onto the cactus. Attach these to two of the strips. Leave to dry.



WARNING!

Take care cutting card with scissors and ask an adult before you start.

3 Brush plenty of glue all over the tube. Cover with a layer of tissue paper or paper towel. Stick the tissue paper smoothly over the card shapes and leave to dry. Paint green – or use another colour if you prefer.



4 To make smaller pots, cut cardboard tubes into smaller sizes. To add texture, take some small pieces of paper or kitchen towel and twist it. Glue these onto the tubes. Leave to dry, then paint. Add or draw flowers as decoration or add a smiley cactus face.



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