

# FRISCO PUBLIC Frisco Library

## Activities at Home

### Paper Craft: Finger Trap

#### SUPPLIES

- 2 pages of newsprint
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Tape
- Two paperclips
- White glue



#### DIRECTIONS

1. Fold each page of newsprint in half along the horizontal fold. If you can find one page that is mostly text, and other that is mostly graphics/color it will create an interesting design at the end.



2. Using a ruler, measure and cut one 1.5-centimeter-wide strip off each page. Keep the strips straight and even in width.

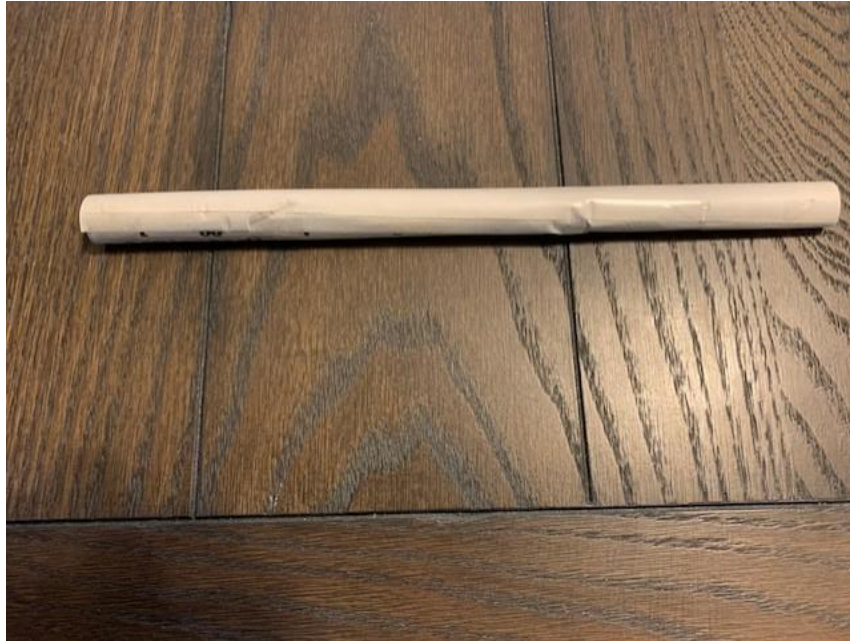
3. Cut both strips you just made in half at the fold. You should now have four strips. Ideally two mostly text, and two mostly color.



4. Make two V shapes with the text strips on the left, and the color strips on the right and glue the ends together at a point with the edges. On one V the color strip should be on top, and on the other the text strip should be. Allow these V shapes to dry.



5. Use the remaining newsprint from 1 of the pages to roll into a cylinder. The cylinder needs to be a bit smaller than your index finger for the finger trap to work. Tape each end and the seam to secure the cylinder.



6. Paper clip one of the V shapes to cylinder's end with the point facing up. Repeat with the second V shape on the opposite side.



7. To make the finger trap, weave the four strips in a circular pattern. Start by crossing the color strip over the text strip on one side.

Here is a video that illustrates the weaving process:



<https://youtu.be/M8RkCQPSWG0?t=138>

8. Turn the cylinder slightly clockwise and wrap the text strip on the right under the color strip to its left, and over the lower color strip. Continue working around the cylinder with the over-under pattern, being careful to keep the strips flat against the cylinder and pulled tight.
9. A diamond pattern will emerge without spaces between the strips. Keep turning the cylinder and weaving around it. Continue the over-under pattern until you get to the bottom of the strips.
10. It is important to weave the ends as tightly as the barrel of the finger trap for the trap to work.
11. Glue the ends together where they meet in the same V shape as the top. Allow the glue to dry.
12. Remove the paper clips and gently pull out the cylinder. Trim the excess paper at the bottom of the finger trap, leaving a V at each end.



## RECOMMENDED READING

- [Upcycling Celebrations](#)

by Danny Seo

Presents many projects for creative "upcycling"-- using used and recycled products to create extraordinary gifts and decorations for celebrations.

- [Wasted: When Trash Becomes Treasure](#)

by Katie Treggiden

As natural resources dwindle, designers are exploring the potential of increasingly plentiful waste streams to become the raw materials of the future. A new book celebrates 30 optimistic and enterprising designers, makers and manufacturers who use waste as their primary resource