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*DesignKids Habitat*

T.A.R.D.I.S. Playhouse Pattern

# T.A.R.D.I.S. Playhouse

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*Congratulations! You and your child are about to start a creative adventure. Here are some things to remember along the way.*

- Precision is not required, the playhouse will come together even if the angles aren't quite even or the cuts completely straight, the important thing is to have fun.
- All cutting and hot gluing should be done by an adult. Based on the age of your child, allow them to help with the less treacherous tasks.
- The playhouse is designed to be made out of cardboard, this means it will not withstand the elements and should not be left outside in bad weather.
- Imagination is key – creating, decorating, and dramatic play are encouraged at all ages.

Items to assemble before you start:

- 2 1/2 cardboard dryer boxes
- 1 cylindrical oats container (4" diameter)
- masking tape
- Carpet or utility knife (for use by adult)
- Glue
- Paint / markers / stickers and other fun items for decorating
- Industrial strength Velcro adhesive strips (only if box doesn't have 3 continuous sides)

- 1** Check your box size. The pattern is designed to use (2 1/2) two and a half dryer boxes - 31" wide by 29" deep by 43" high.



- If box is within a few inches, place the pattern so it is centered on the top edge of each box side.
- If box is significantly different in width, take the amount that you box is larger or smaller and divide it by 2. This is dimension X" and should be added or subtracted at the locations indicated. Remember a box still needs to be about the same proportions to work well.

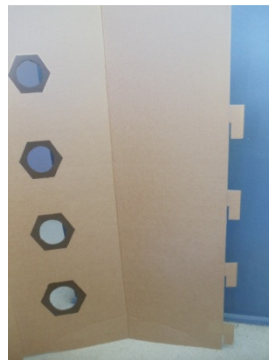
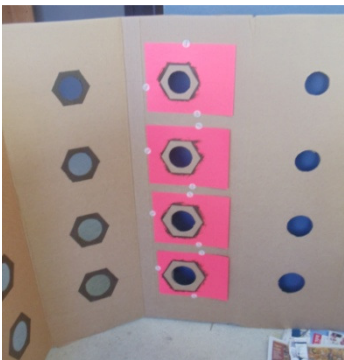
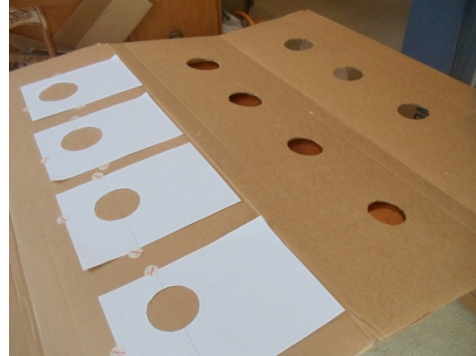
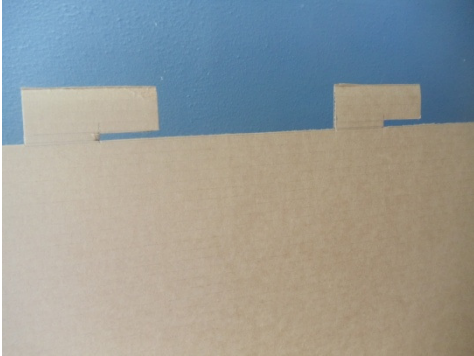
- 2** Your box may have one side cut open. This is okay; we will reassemble the sides after cutting if needed. This playhouse is designed to use boxes with only 3 connected sides.

- 3** Using a carpet knife, cut off all the bottom flaps. Save these flaps and use them for pieces 10 thru 15.
- 4** For the TARDIS box exterior you will need 3 sides connected, with their top flaps attached.
- 5** Secure the pattern to the 3 sides of the box (pieces 1 thru 3) with masking tape. Place the front side so it has an attached panel on each side. Secure the additional pattern pieces (4 thru 9) to the upper flaps. Notice that the top of the main panels extend onto the upper flap – so this portion needs to stay attached to the vertical panels. *(If the box is wider than the pattern, center the pattern and remember to measure the dimension from the door line to the edge of box – you will need to alter a few pieces to match this dimension so everything will align properly.)*
- 6** Starting with the front side (panel 2) cut out the top, bottom and strike side of the doors and the slots that run along the top flap and onto the front side. You can cut the window panes out of the doors or you can paint them in. The doors will be a bit stronger if the windows are not cut out, but it's sort of fun to be able to look in. Mark the fold lines and holding a yard stick along the line, fold the cardboard up to make a nice straight fold allowing the doors to open. Cut the slots in the top flap and fold along the fold line. Cut the additional pieces (4 thru 9) from the remainder of the top flaps. Glue these pieces onto the bottom of the panel in a double layer, below the doors to create a base for extra stiffness. For example: glue pieces 4 and 5 together and then glue them to the bottom of panel 1.

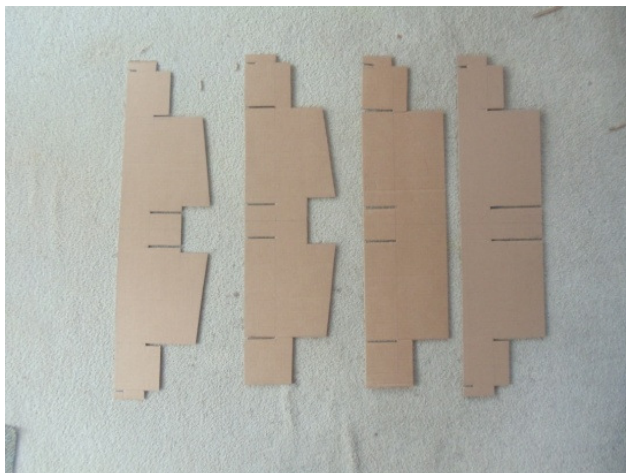


- 7** Cut left and right sides (pieces 1 & 3) – slots and windows, and fold. The top flap is attached the same at the front side. Attach base pieces to left and right sides.
- 8** Tape the pattern for pieces 10 thru 15 to the bottom flaps and cut out the pieces for the signs.
- 9** From the 4<sup>th</sup> unattached side of the first box, cut the roof (pieces 19 & 20).
- 10** With the second box form the “inside” of the TARDIS (pieces 16, 17 & 18). You can use either 3 or 4 sides of the box, depending on how much room you have for the playhouse. (if using all 4 sides, use piece 17 twice) Measure the center of each side and draw a fold line. Fold along the line toward the unprinted side of the box. Tape the pattern to the box aligning the fold

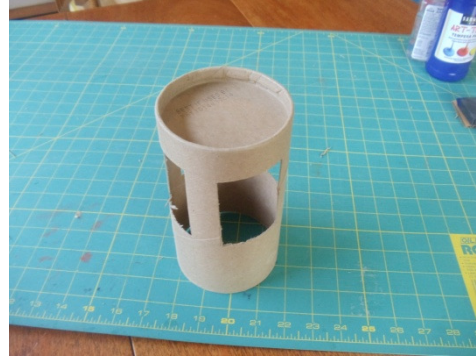
lines, cut the tabs that will insert into the TARDIS exterior. The circles can be cut out or painted on. Circles are not easy to cut, so painting is a great alternative. Hexagons can be painted on by using a stencil. I copied the pattern onto cardstock to have something sturdy enough to reuse for all the panels.



- 11** Using the extra half box tape the pattern for pieces 12 thru 27 onto the cardboard. Cut out the roof supports and label the slots to help with future assembly.



- 12** Take the oats container, wrap the lantern template around it and either cut or paint the openings. Cutting on a cylinder is much harder than you might think, so if you aren't really comfortable with a utility knife, painting is the much safer option, and still turns out really nice.



- 13** (Only if needed) If your box did not have 3 sides all connected to form the front, right and left sides; connect the sides now. Use your top and bottom flaps as connectors. Bend the flaps in half (the bend will be parallel with the long side of the flap). Attach sections of Velcro to the inside of the bend. Attach matching Velcro on the outside of the box sides so that the flaps connect the sides to form a complete box.



- 14** Now is a good point to paint a background color on the TARDIS front, sides, top, bottom base, and sign pieces. When painting, remember your canvas is cardboard, so less water is better. Spray paint, markers or acrylics are good – watercolors are not suggested.

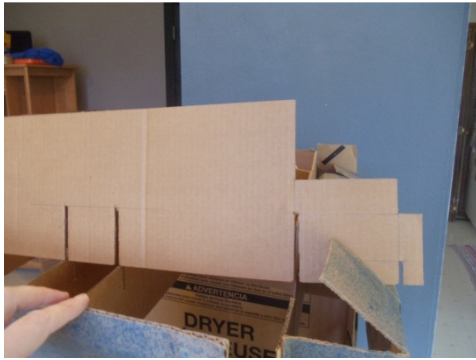
- 15** Cut the slots for the sign attachment pieces (10, 12 & 14) and fold along the fold lines. Glue the sign attachment pieces to the back of the sign pieces (11, 13 & 15) slots on the bottom side. Now is a good time to paint the “Police Public Call Box” on the signs. You can cut along the paint lines on the pattern to use it as a template, or run a graphite pencil along the back and trace the lines. Free-handing is also another option.



- 16** Assemble the outside TARDIS box: Insert the 4 parallel roof supports (pieces 21, 22, 23 & 24) into the slots on the left and right sides, starting at the support closest to the front panel. Insert them in alphabetical order – start with A, and B, then C and D... thru H. After all supports are in the slots – slide them down to secure them in place.



- 17** Insert the 4 perpendicular roof supports (pieces 25, 26, 27 & 28) – slide them over the parallel roof supports and into the slots in the front panel. Maneuver the pieces until the slots all align and slide into place. Match up slots starting with K, L, M, N (piece 25). Be careful not to use too much force as the cardboard may tear, if slots aren't aligning properly, mark the proper alignment, disassemble and cut a wider or new slot. *(Refer to the roof support diagram on sheet 11 if you work better with visual representations)*



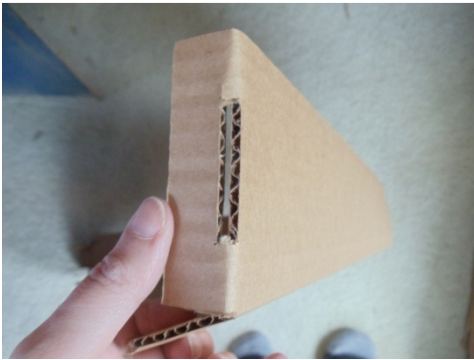
- 18** Once all roof supports are in place, install the signs. Align the sign supports with the slots in the box front and sides (slots G/A, I/J, and B/H). Slide the tabs into the slots on the inside of the roof supports, and push them down gently to lock into place.



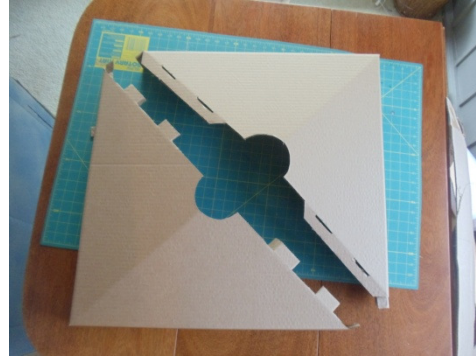
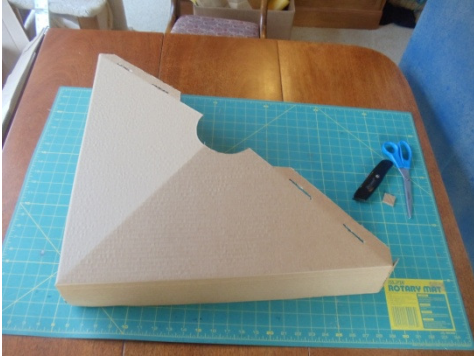
**19** Take the top flaps and fold them over tucking the last fold down against the roof supports.



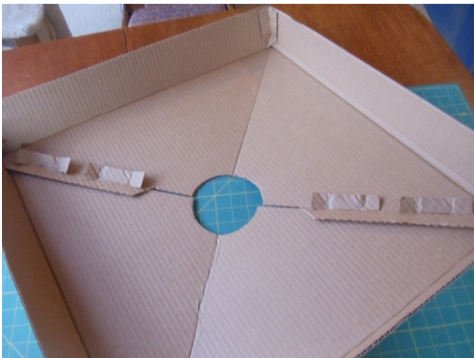
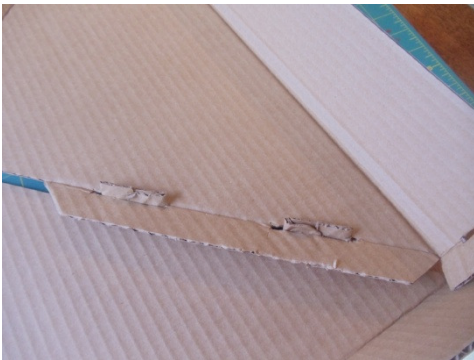
**20** Assemble the TARDIS roof by using a yard stick to fold along the fold lines. At the corner of the 2 vertical sides, fold both sides of the tab together and squeeze them a bit to flatten them out then insert the tab into the slot on the other side. Once the tab is completely inside the slot, fold out the edges of the tab making the corner a right angle. This should make the inside of the triangle bend up to form the roof slope. Do this for both roof pieces.







- 21** Next attach the 2 roof pieces together by folding the tabs, inserting them into the slots and then unfolding them. Lastly, attach vertical sides of the 2 roof pieces together as described in the previous step.



- 22** Set the roof down over the top of the roof structure and insert the cylindrical “lantern” into the hole in the top of the roof.

- 23** Insert the tabs (AA & BB) of the inside of the TARDIS into the slots at the open edges of the exterior TARDIS box. The inside will form a polygon space closing off the open side of the box. This makes it “bigger on the inside”. You can paint the cardboard that is showing to match the wall color of the room if you want to disguise it more.



**24** Now your TARDIS is assembled. Using markers, paint, and/or stickers, it is time to decorate away!

- Consider the paint lines on the pattern as a suggestion for decorating. You can cut along the paint lines on the pattern to use it as a template, or run a graphite pencil along the back and trace the lines onto your cardboard.
- Remaining unused pieces can become additional decoration for the inside or outside of the playhouse.
- Be creative and work together with your child to personalize their playspace.
- Don't forget to cut out and glue on the door sign, or paint your own.



*Thanks for Creating with ME! And don't forget to send me pictures of your final product, we'd love to see you and your DesignKids up on our facebook page.*

*-shannon*

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