

Newhaven Lights Up!

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Activity suitable for ages 12 to adult, or younger if you have a spare adult available to help!

Introduction

An ancient and beautiful process, stained glass windows date all the way back to Roman times. Lead was used to colour the glass and has been used to create magnificent windows ever since.

Thankfully you don't have to be an expert glass craftsperson, or expose yourself to lead in order to create some very respectable art to put in your window.

Here are some instructions for making a stained glass effect window and helping to brighten up our community on these dark nights:

Tissue paper window

What you will need-

Tissue paper or acetate/coloured film

- tissue paper is cheaper and not as bad for the environment, but coloured acetate is easier to work with. I have used tissue paper for this example

Black card for mounting

Something to stick things with eg. pva glue, tape or masking tape

Scissors/craft knife

A brightly coloured pen, pencil or crayon to draw on the card

Step 1- Measure your window or space to display



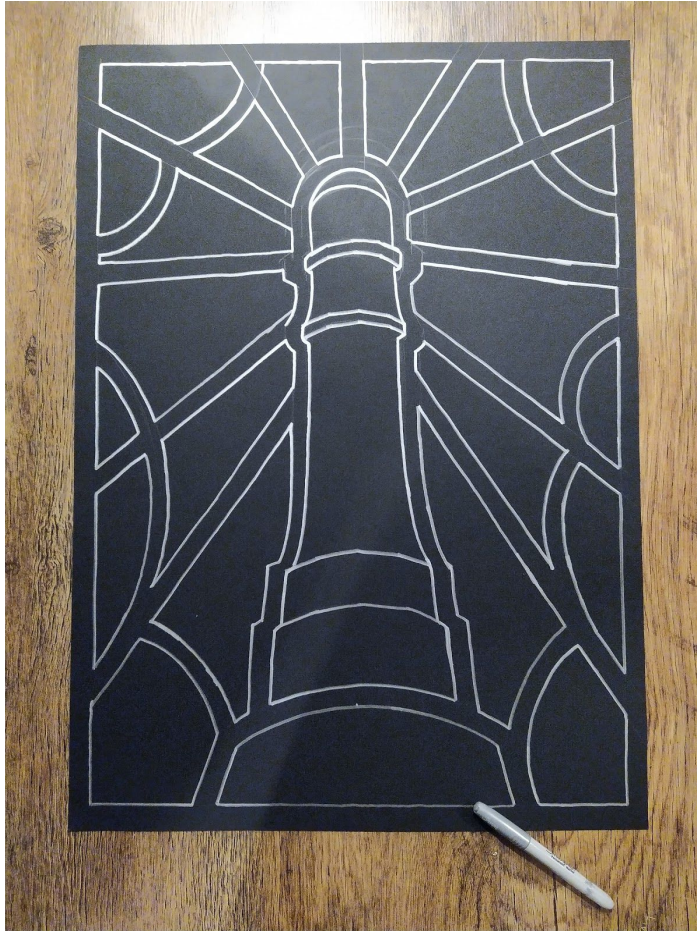
It's not essential to do so, but it does look nice if your stained glass window can be a neat fit!

Step 2- Draw out your design on a piece of paper



It might be tempting to go straight to making you stained glass, but by doing a drawing first you can work out exactly how it should look, make any mistakes in advance and not waste your materials.

Step 3- Draw out your design on the card



You have two choices:

- Draw on the front surface, although your pen or pencil lines might be visible.
- Draw on the rear of your surface for a neater finish, just remember that your image will be reversed.

Top tip! Make sure that your design incorporates reasonably wide areas of black card. If you make them too narrow then you won't have much space for error when cutting or sticking the tissue paper! I like to make them at least 1cm wide.

Step 4 - Cut the card



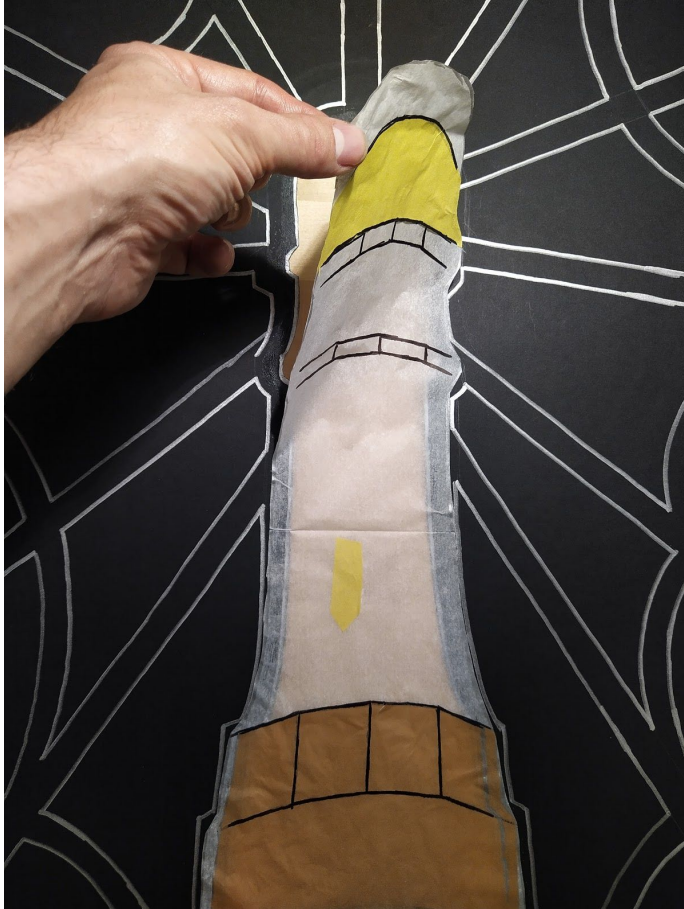
As simple as it sounds. I like to use a craft or stanley knife, but a trusty pair of scissors will do the job too.

Step 5 - trace shapes on tissue paper, cut out pieces and put them in place



As above, check the size of the paper against the card. Apply a gluestick around the edges of the card.

Or you can use tape to stick down your tissue paper: tape is nice and quick, but you also have to get it right first time as it's difficult to remove!

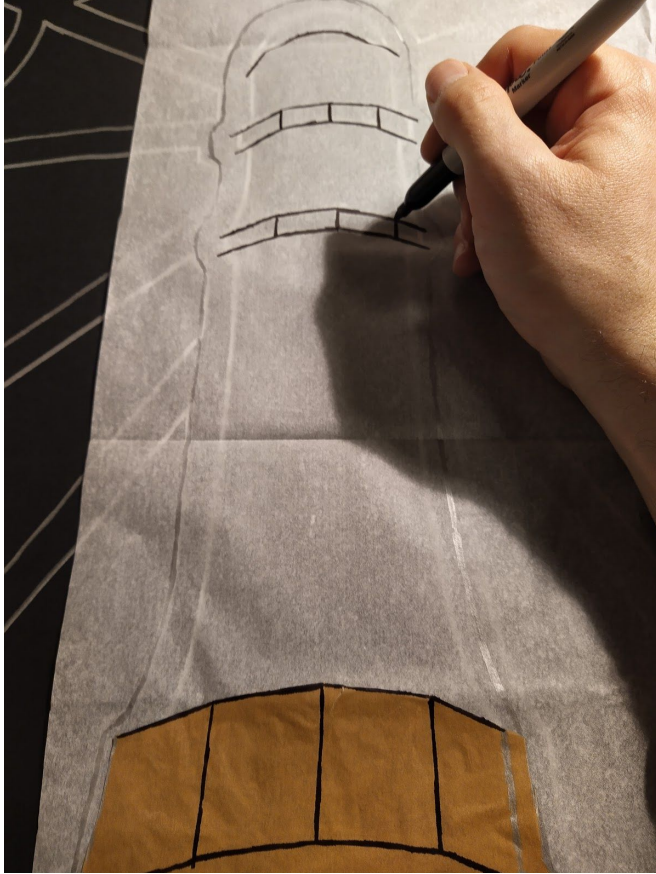


Applying the tissue paper. Once you have cut your tissue paper to size, simply stick it in place. A pritt stick-style glue will allow you to reposition it if necessary.

Step 6 - Repeat!

It will take some time, but work your way around the picture tracing, cutting and attaching all your tissue paper panels.

Step 7 - Getting fancy!



You might have noticed that for my central lighthouse picture I have layered tissue paper and even drawn on it.

This can be used to create nice effects; just be warned it is fiddly: use a good quality felt tip to gently draw on the tissue paper.

Step 8 - Put it in place!



I used a bit of washi tape to secure mine in place: it's gentle low tack tape which is good for not damaging the paint on your window. Blue tack will also let stick your design straight to the glass or a bit of masking tape will do the job. Cellotape is high tack (very sticky!) and might take some paint off any woodwork.

Now you can stand back, admire your work and enjoy comments from your neighbours who didn't realise that you are so creative ;-)

Please share your art and let us know about it, we'd love to see pictures and know where it is located!

