

FROM TRASH 2 TOYS

BY MICHELE REYZER; PHOTOS BY MARK GODFREY

Season's Green-ings! Here are five Earth-friendly presents you can make for your friends and family. All you need are a few recycled objects.



BOTTLE BOWLING PINS

WHAT YOU NEED

- six clear plastic bottles
- white acrylic craft paint
- red ribbon or duct tape (available in craft stores)

WHAT YOU DO

1. Remove all labels from the bottles.
2. Squirt some white paint and a few drops of water inside each bottle. Put the caps on and shake the bottles until they're completely coated with paint. (You may need to add more paint.)
3. Pour out the leftover paint and let the bottles dry overnight.
4. Cut two strips of red ribbon or duct tape for each bottle and attach to the necks, as shown.

TIPS

- If your bottles are lightweight and keep tipping over, drop a few coins or pebbles inside to weigh them down.
- To make your own ball, crumple a sheet of aluminum foil into a ball. Wrap it repeatedly with colorful rubber bands.

CARDBOARD BOX GUITAR

WHAT YOU NEED

- empty cracker or cereal box
- shelf paper to cover the box (We used a wood-grain design.)
- paint stirrer
- black and white craft paints
- brass fasteners
- sturdy, clear packing tape
- rubber bands
- drinking straw
- craft glue (optional)

WHAT YOU DO

1. Cover the entire box with paper, and then tape or glue down. Draw and cut out a circle in the center of the box. Add any other decorations you like.
2. Paint the paint stirrer black. Once dry, add "fret" designs with the white paint, as shown.
3. Cut a small slit in the top of the box and insert the paint stirrer. Secure with tape. Tape six brass fasteners to the back of the stirrer, as shown.
4. Wrap rubber bands around the box. Slide a straw "bridge" underneath the rubber bands.

PUPPY PULL TOY

WHAT YOU NEED

- clear plastic milk jug (pint size without a handle works best)
- white acrylic craft paint
- black and pink construction paper
- two bamboo skewers or very thin dowels

- two drinking straws
- four plastic bottle caps
- googly eyes
- long strand of yarn or string
- red ribbon
- craft glue
- tape

WHAT YOU DO

1. Squirt some white paint and a few drops of water inside the jug. Put the cap on and shake until jug is completely coated with paint. Pour out the leftover paint and let dry overnight.
2. For the wheels: Cut the straws one inch longer than the width of the jug. Cut the dowels two inches longer than the straws. Slide a dowel through each straw. Drill or punch a small hole in the middle of each plastic cap. (Ask an adult for help.) Push caps onto the ends of the dowels, making sure they fit snugly. (If the fit isn't tight enough, add some glue to secure in place.) Lay the jug on its side and tape the straw axles to the bottom.
3. Cut out a pink paper tongue and black paper ears, nose, and spots. Glue them and the googly eyes onto the jug, as shown.
4. Tie a long strand of string around the dog's neck and glue on a red-ribbon collar.



BONGO DRUMS

WHAT YOU NEEDED

- two empty, cylinder-shaped oatmeal containers
- construction paper
- brown paper bag
- craft glue
- two rubber bands
- markers or stickers (optional)

WHAT YOU DO

1. Cut two pieces of construction paper large enough to cover the outsides of both containers. Wrap the paper around each container and glue in place.
2. Cut two circles from the paper bag that measure an inch or two bigger around than the containers. Glue the circles onto the tops and down over the sides, as shown. Wrap a rubber band around each one to secure in place.
3. Use paper cut-outs, markers, or stickers to decorate the bongo drums with colorful designs.

TIP

To make a drumstick, crumple some of the leftover paper bag into a ball around one end of a chopstick. Add a dab of glue inside and tightly wrap a rubber band around it.



JIGSAW PUZZLE

WHAT YOU NEED

- torn-out page from a magazine that has an eye-catching photo
- craft glue
- pizza-box lid

WHAT YOU DO

1. Glue the magazine page onto the pizza box (picture side up).
2. Once the glue has dried, cut out the cardboard-backed page.
3. Draw simple puzzle shapes on the back of the cardboard, and then cut them out.



SHOW US!

We want to see pictures of the toys from trash you made! Send your letters and photos to

Ranger Rick
11100 Wildlife Center Dr.
Reston, VA 20190-5362
E-mail: rick@nwf.org

We enjoy all your letters and photos, even though we can publish only a few in the magazine. All letters and photos become the property of National Wildlife Federation.