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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

**MAKING THE MOST
OUT OF WHAT YOU HARVEST**



Wild- Crafting

II

**MORE PROJECTS
USING VARIOUS
WILDLIFE "LEFTOVERS"**

BY LINDA McMURRY

Foreword

While it is a state law that a person is not supposed to waste a wildlife resource, it is obvious that thousands of people in Texas (and elsewhere!) take this to heart far beyond the intent of the law. It is not just the meat that is being used, it is also the feathers, the hide and the antlers. It is heartening to see that our hunting heritage is transcending the outdoor component to include the entire spectrum of the hunting experience—from outdoor companionship, to an enhanced appreciation of nature, to providing meat for the table and household items, both useful and decorative. That's the way it should be!

When the original Wild-Crafting booklet was first printed, it was intended only as a hand-out for two wildlife management association meetings where I was going to be doing a presentation designed so that the ladies of the co-ops would have something strictly for them. It turned out there were far more kindred spirits out there trying to make use of the various wildlife "leftovers" than I ever imagined. Libby and Connie especially wanted this booklet. I think they probably made everything in the first one and still wanted more. It is primarily at their request that Wild-Crafting II is compiled. So ladies, here it is—enjoy!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

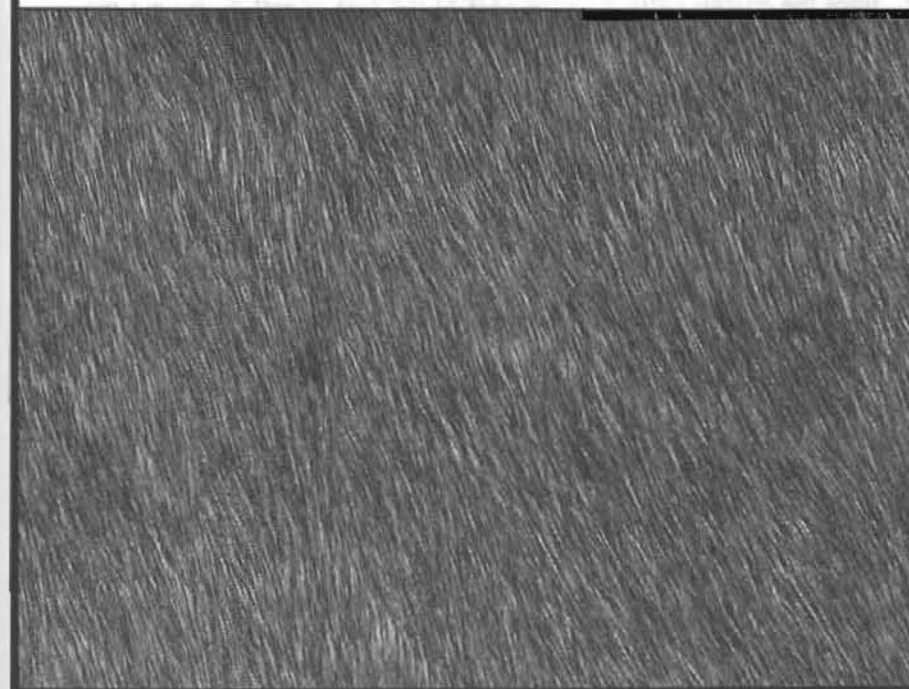
Nothing happens without the time, talents and indulgence of the people around you who support your efforts—preferably with a straight face. So to the folks in Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Creative Services—thank you! You always make the final product so much better than I could ever hope for! And if you were laughing you at least were kind enough to do it behind my back. My indulgent husband Mike also deserves tremendous gratitude for not only helping me with these projects, but for enduring—with very limited complaint—pieces of "stuff" for ongoing projects continually sitting around the house.

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Chapter 1 Fur

Deerhide Coasters
 Deerhide Placemats
 Deerhide Napkin Rings
 Deerhide Serving Tray
 Deer Antler Lamp
 Deer Antler Stamp



Deerhide Coasters

Cowhide coasters are without a doubt the most common kind of leather coaster, but there's really no reason why it has to be that way. Deerhide makes equally nice coasters. The nice thing about these coasters is that you can use the various pieces of hide leftover from other projects, making them a great way to utilize scraps. You can make these relatively quickly, and a set makes an outstanding and unique gift for your favorite hunter.

MATERIALS

Scraps of deerhide	Paper template of the desired size coaster
Leather lacing	Pencil for tracing
Leather punch	Sharp knife for cutting out the coasters

DIRECTIONS

1. Make a template for your coaster. You can either trace a coaster you already have, or use a compass to draw a circle of the desired size. It's a good idea to add a 1/4" all the way around the pattern to compensate for the lacing.
2. Trace the coaster pattern on the back of the hide. Carefully cut out the coasters. It's best to do this on a cutting board!
3. Using the leather punch, punch holes all the way around the coaster. The spacing for the holes should be about 1/4" from the edge and 1/2" to 3/4" apart.
4. Take your leather lacing and using a whip-stitch, lace around the edge. Do NOT tie any knots in the lacing or the coaster will not sit flat. Instead, when you start leave a "tail" about 2" long on the back and lace over it. To finish off, tuck about 2" of lacing underneath the previous stitching. If you're worried about securing the ends, you can tack them down with leather glue. Repeat this until you've made as many coasters as desired for your set.

Deerhide Placemats

As with the coasters, leather placemats are usually made from cowhide. And I might add—they aren't cheap! The same procedure for making the coasters is used for making placemats.

MATERIALS

Deerhide	Paper template of the desired size placemat
Leather lacing	Pencil for tracing
Leather punch	Sharp knife for cutting out the placemats

DIRECTIONS

1. Make a template for your placemat. You can make them round or rectangular. You can either trace a placemat you already have, or make your own pattern of the desired size. It's a good idea to add a 1/4" all the way around the pattern to compensate for the lacing.
2. Trace the pattern on the back of the hide. Carefully cut out the placemats. It's best to do this on a cutting board!
3. Using the leather punch, punch holes all the way around the placemat. The spacing for the holes should be about 1/2" from the edge and 3/4" to 1" apart.
4. At this point it's a good idea to see just how flat your placemats are going to be. If they aren't as flat as you'd like, slightly dampen the backside and put a heavy weight on it so it will dry flat. Then continue with the lacing.
5. Take your leather lacing and using a whip-stitch, lace around the edge. Do NOT tie any knots in the lacing or the placemat will not sit flat. Instead, when you start, leave a "tail" about 2" long on the back and lace over it. To finish off, tuck about 2" of lacing underneath the previous stitching. If you're worried about securing the ends, you can tack them down with leather glue. Repeat this until you've made as many placemats as desired for your set.

Deerhide Napkin Rings

Whether you're at the deer camp or having friends in for a wild game dinner, there's no reason not to dine elegantly. These deerhide napkin rings will coordinate fantastically with your deerhide placemats or with camo fabric placemats.

MATERIALS

Deerhide	Stud and Stud setting tool (optional)
Sharp knife	Pencil for tracing Leather lacing (optional)
Paper template	Leather punch (optional)

DIRECTIONS

1. Make a 2" x 7" template for your napkin ring.
2. Trace the pattern on the back of the hide. Carefully cut out the pieces. Remember, it's best to do this on a cutting board!

Fastening the strips of hide together to form a ring can be done in several ways, either according to your preferences or to what you already have on hand.

3. If lacing is your method of choice, then evenly space and punch two holes on each end of the leather strip. Make sure the holes on one end line up with the holes on the opposite end.
4. Starting from the backside join the leather together by forming an "X" with the lacing. Tie the two ends of the lace together on the backside. Continue until you have all your napkin rings made!
5. If using leather studs overlap one end over the other and mark the overlap. Carefully trim off the hair from the overlap area and set the stud. Repeat until you have all your napkin rings made!

Deerhide Serving Tray

Without a doubt, this is the ultimate in hunting camp chic! Just watch your guests' mouths drop open as you bring in coffee or snacks served on this wonderfully unique serving tray. This also makes the perfect hostess gift for those extended hunting trip excursions.

MATERIALS

Unfinished wooden serving tray (available at most craft stores)
Paint or stain
Decorative upholstery tacks (optional)
Deerhide cut to fit the bottom of the tray
Glue

DIRECTIONS

1. Paint or stain the tray, leaving the inside bottom unfinished.
2. Be sure you choose a piece of hide that is smooth, flat, and entirely covers the bottom of the tray. Glue the hide into place and let dry.
3. (Optional) Outline the hide with the decorative upholstery tacks, covering as much of the edge of the hide as possible. You may find you have to cut off part of the shank to keep the tack from going all the way through the tray. If so, a little glue on the underside of the head will ensure that the tack stays in place.

Deer Antler Lamp

What is it about a table lamp made from deer antlers that just makes a wildlife-themed décor perfect? Even though they're terribly expensive, we've all admired them and we all want one, even if we have to settle for one made from antler replicas. Well guess what, it's not only possible to make your own antler lamp—it's not even really all that hard!

MATERIALS

- 3 large, or 4 small deer antlers
- 1 lamp kit
- Drill and either a 1/2" or 5/8" bit
- 2 to 3 screws (size will depend upon antlers)
- Duct tape
- Quick-setting glue (for this project, super-glue isn't that super)

DIRECTIONS

What size screws you will use, and where you will position them depends upon how the antlers must be placed in order to be stable and have a reasonably level antler base at the top. Here's the basic idea:

1. Cut off several pieces of duct tape approximately 6 to 8 inches in length. That way, when you've found the perfect positioning you will have it ready to use.
2. Decide which antler has the widest and flattest base. This is going to be at the top where the lamp hardware is going to be installed. Place the base cover from the lamp kit over the top of the antler and determine where you will need to drill, noting where on the side of the antler the drill will be coming out. Mark the spot, remove the cover and drill the hole in the antler large enough to accommodate the nipple from the lamp kit. This is where the cord will be threaded. The hole will come out somewhere on the side of the antler.
3. Thread the lamp cord through the hole. Keeping the drilled base upright and as level as possible, and working the cord through the gaps between the antlers so it emerges at the bottom, arrange your antlers so they are stable. Which direction the tines point is strictly a matter of personal preference. Use the pieces of duct tape to hold the antlers into the desired position.

4. Look your lamp over and determine where you will need to drill in a screw to add stability. Obviously, the fewer screws used, the better. Install the screws, removing duct tape as you go.
5. Check the stability of your antlers. Double check to make sure the top antler base is still at the top and still reasonably flat. Use the quick-setting glue to add stability to areas that need it.
6. Following the directions that come with the lamp kit, install the remainder of the lamp hardware. Add a light bulb, plug in the cord, turn on the lamp and be prepared to be amazed!
7. Finally, clean off any remaining tape from the antlers, and if desired, add a light coating of linseed or other oil to polish up the antlers. If you like, a little cream-colored paint may be applied to the heads of the screws to "camouflage" them.

By now you are justifiably proud of yourself, and all the doubters are being forced to admit it could indeed be done! So now it's time to add a really cool looking shade to your lamp. Unless you already have the "perfect" shade, creating one can be your next project.



Deer Antler Stamp

Remember how popular it was back in the late '60s to mid '70s to use sealing wax with cutesy little designs stamped into it on the back of cards and letters? You don't? Well trust me, it was. Since "retro" fashion is all the rage, this project makes for a very cool and trendy update.

This type of stamp works best in sealing wax, but can also be used with stamp pad ink.

MATERIALS

Deer antler tine (other "leftover" pieces will also work)

Pencil

Dremel tool or something similar

DIRECTIONS

The design you choose for this project can be done either as a "positive" or a "negative." This means either the design will either "stand up" with no background or be an "indention" and show up as an area left blank. Remember deer antler is essentially bone, and as such is porous. If the primary use is going to be for a stamp pad, then removing background will make your stamp more effective, but incising a design is easier.

1. Smooth off the surface to be used. Make sure you get it as smooth as possible. Use a sander if necessary.
2. Carefully draw your design on the stamp surface. You might find it wise to start with a simple design, such as a deer footprint, and not get too carried away.
3. With the dremel, and staying within your lines as much as possible, drill out the design.
4. Polish any rough edges. Test the stamp, and if necessary, continue removing excess antler until your design shows up clearly.

Chapter 2 Feathers

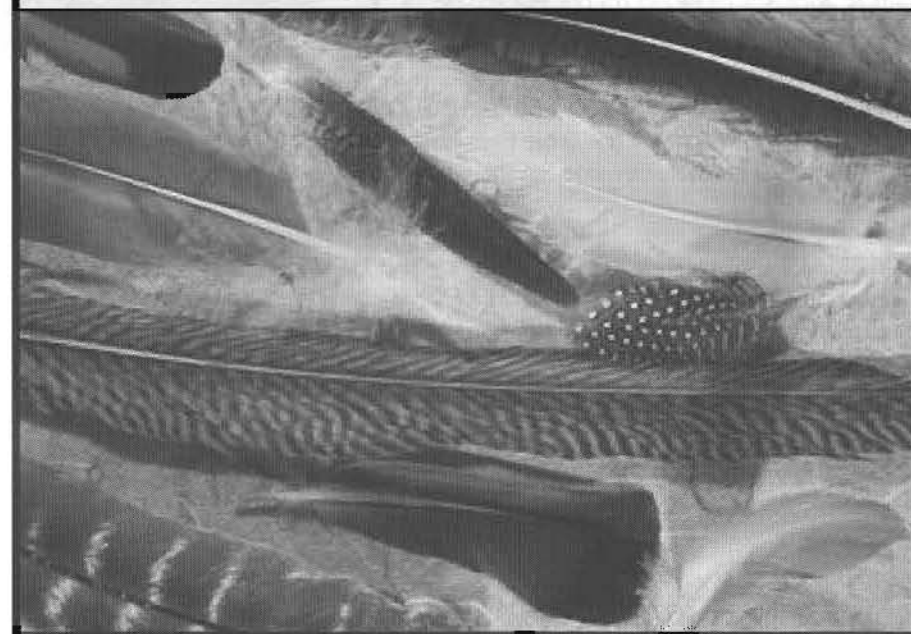
Turkey Feather Tissue Box Cover

Prayer Feathers

Beaded Turkey Feather Hair Barrette

Camo Tissue Box Cover

Feather Trimmed Camo Lamp Shade



Turkey Feather Tissue Box Cover

Everybody loves the magnificent turkey tail feathers, including me, but have you ever really looked closely at the body feathers on a turkey? They absolutely shimmer! Out in the bright sunlight some will shimmer a dazzling bronze color, but move ever so slightly and they can look almost green. I've always wanted to do more with the body feathers than I have, but this is the perfect project for appreciating the gorgeous variation of colors.

This is not a neat project, so just resign yourself to that reality. This is also one of my cat's favorite projects. I'm sure it would be a favorite of the dog as well, but fortunately it's easier to keep the dog off the table than it is to keep the cat off. It really only takes about 20 feathers per side, so this project goes quicker than one might imagine.

MATERIALS

Turkey body feathers
2 yards of 1/2" black trim
Scissors
Hot glue
1 unfinished "boutique" size wooden (or papier mache) tissue box cover
Black spray paint (optional)



DIRECTIONS

1. Wooden, or papier mache tissue box covers can be purchased at most craft stores. If you prefer, before starting, spray a light coat of black paint on the outside of the tissue box. This step is not critical, but can serve to cover up any gaps you might have with your feathers. Let dry.
2. For the first row, choose 4 to 5 nice good size body feathers and clip off the "fluffy" downy part of each feather. Position the first feather so that the top (the uncut end) just touches the bottom of the tissue box cover. With a small amount of hot glue on the backside of the feather, glue it down to the box. Remember hot glue is very hot and can cause painful burns, so be careful not to burn your fingers with the glue. Keep a small cup of water nearby to quickly immerse your fingers should you accidentally get some on you.
3. Place the second feather next to the previous one, making sure that the bottom of the feather touches the edge of the tissue box cover. Repeat this procedure of gluing each feather down, one next to the other, until you have formed a continuous row across the bottom.
4. Trim another 4 to 5 feathers and start the second row. The feathers in the second row should be glued down in such a way that they cover the tops of the feathers in the previous row and cover the gaps between the tops of the previous rows' feathers.
5. Repeat this until you have the entire side covered. Repeat with the other 3 sides.
6. Cover the top of the tissue box cover with feathers in the same manner as the sides. The feathers should point away from the opening in the top of the tissue box cover.
7. Measure a piece of trimming long enough to go all the way around the upper edge of the tissue box cover. Glue it down so that it covers up the rough edge of the feathers. Repeat this around the center top opening. Then repeat this around the bottom of the tissue box cover as well. As painful as it is to cover up part of the feathers, it is necessary so that they are held securely in place and don't shift and move during use.

Prayer Feathers

Feathers from the wild turkey are an important part of Native American culture. Prayer feathers are used to help fan prayers skyward to the Great Spirit. Prayer feathers don't take up much space to hang, and are an interesting addition to your home or cabin. One of my favorite uses for this project, however, is as a gift to friends who are facing surgery, dealing with a serious illness or going through a difficult time. The feathers are a wonderful visual reminder that they're in my thoughts and prayers.

Note: Please keep in mind that for people undergoing certain types of treatments that compromise their immune systems, feathers—like flowers—can pose a risk of being a source of infection. Having the feathers x-rayed (irradiated) will decontaminate them, provided they remain tightly sealed.

MATERIALS

1 to 3 long turkey tail feathers
1 to 3 medium length turkey tail feathers
Any other smaller feathers as desired (optional)
1 yard leather lacing (approximate)
Hot glue
Deer antler concha, or other decorative beads (optional)

DIRECTIONS

1. Holding the large feathers in your hand, add the smaller ones and arrange the feathers until you have them the way you'd like them.
2. Cut a strip of leather lacing approximately 6 to 8 inches long. This will form the loop for hanging—either around your wrist or on the wall.



3. Starting at the base of the feather shaft and working towards the tip, you are now going to wrap all the feathers together with the leather lacing. Use hot glue to hold the starting edge of the leather lacing in place, and then wrap the feathers, taking care that each round of lacing is up against the previous round.
4. When you are about three-quarters of the way finished, it's time to add the loop for hanging. Place (glue if necessary) one end of the loop piece on one side, and the other end on the other side of the feather shafts being wrapped. Continue wrapping the shafts together with the lacing, being sure to cover up the ends of the strip that is forming the loop.
5. Check to make sure the prayer feathers aren't going to be hanging sideways. If they are, adjust your lacing and the loop so that they hang correctly.
6. When you're satisfied with the results, cut off the excess lacing and glue down the ending edge.
7. Add any beads, conchas or other decorations you prefer.

Don't confine yourself to just turkey feathers! Pheasant feathers, waterfowl feathers, even quail feathers can be included to add interest.

Beaded Turkey Feather Hair Barrette

MATERIALS

- 1 metal ready-to-finish hair barrette
- Small piece of felt (approximately 6"x 6")
- Small piece of thin leather (faux leather works just fine!)
- Package of beads, beading needle, thread
- 2 medium turkey feathers
- 2 slightly shorter turkey feathers
- 1 to 2 yards of yarn (I prefer black, but any color will work)
- Yarn needle
- Glue

DIRECTIONS

1. Decide on the shape of your barrette. Round or oval are the easiest shapes to work with. Trace this outline onto the piece of felt and the piece of leather.

Important Notes: a) You are going to be leaving a small unbeaded hole in the very center of the design to attach the feather to. The diameter only needs to be about 1/2" across. b) You do not sew down each bead individually. Rather, you string the beads and then tack them down.

2. With your threaded needle, come up from underneath along the line for your first row of beads. String enough beads on the thread to form an outline of the center hole. Go back down as close to your original hole as possible. (Figure 1)

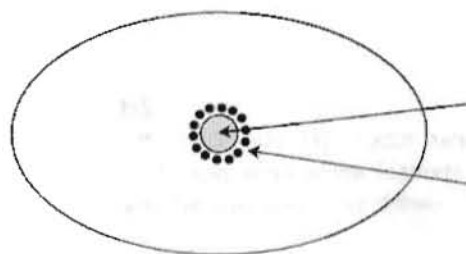


Figure 1

Center hole, left unbeaded.

First row of beads. String beads and then tack them down every 2 to 3 beads.

3. To anchor down this first row, come back up about 2 beads from the start and tack down the row with a stitch across the thread. Repeat the about every other bead. Continue beading your barrette until the shape is entirely covered with beads. (Figure 2)

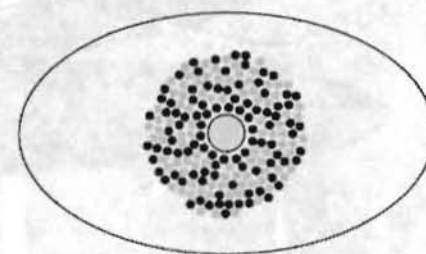


Figure 2. Continue cover the felt barrette base with beads until it is entirely covered.

4. Now you're ready to stitch the backing to the felt by making a beaded edge. Wrong sides together, take a stitch or two to secure the 2 pieces and get the thread in position for the edging.
5. String 6 beads and working from back to front, move down about the distance of 2 beads and bring the needle up. You should now have a loop of beads.
6. Take your needle and go back up through 2 beads.

7. Add 4 beads, and again take a stitch going from back to front, about the distance of 2 beads. Go back up through 2 beads. (Figure 3)

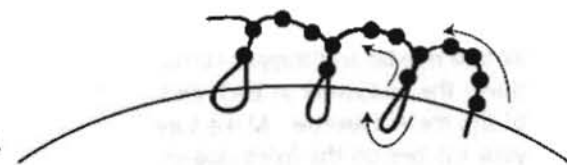


Figure 3. Add beaded edging to join the backing to the front.

8. Repeat this until you have stitched around the entire piece. You are now ready to add the feathers.
9. Arrange a short feather on top of a long feather. Using about 1 yard of yarn, tie the feathers at the base of the shaft in the middle of the piece of yarn.

Camo Tissue Box Cover

This is an easy project that looks so nice when it's finished. There are many ways of attaching the fabric to the tray, including commercial products, but this one is my favorite not only because it's cheap, but because it allows me to indulge in those spur-of-the-moment projects without running into town for supplies.

MATERIALS

Unfinished wooden or papier mache tissue box cover
(available at most craft stores)

Camo fabric – no more than 1/2 yard should be necessary

1 yard trim

Feathers, deer antler conchas, etc., for decoration

White glue

Scissors

Shallow bowl (cereal bowl works well)

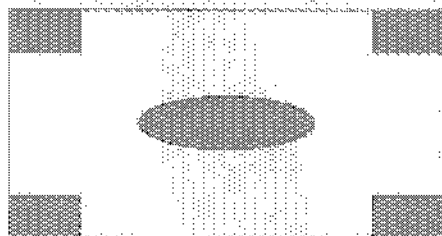
Optional – Spray sealant (extra hold hairspray works very well)

DIRECTIONS

1. Cut a square of fabric large enough to cover the entire tissue box cover.

2. Fold the fabric over the tissue box, mark the edges of the cover and remove the extra fabric from the corners. The fabric should now look like figure 1.

Figure 1



3. Keeping the fabric in place over the tissue box cover, turn the cover over and from the inside, trace the top opening. Remove from the cover.

4. Carefully cut out the center opening, leaving about 1/4" to 1/2" all around to turn to the inside. Clip the curves so that the fabric can be more easily tucked underneath to the inside of the cover.

5. In the bowl, mix a solution of about 2 parts water to 1 part glue. Stir the glue and water solution together until it is thoroughly mixed. Exact measurements aren't critical.

3. Dip the piece of fabric into the glue and water solution so that it is completely saturated.

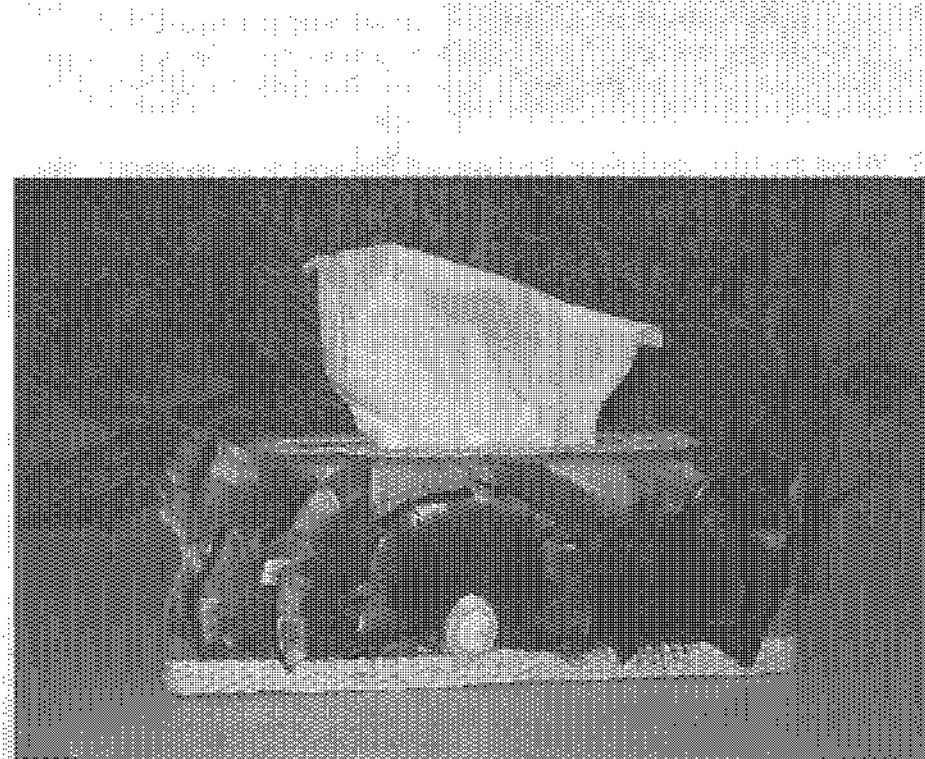
4. Spread the fabric over the tissue box cover, making sure it covers completely. Wrap the edges on all four sides.

5. Tuck the bottom edges underneath to the inside of the cover. Repeat with the top opening, clipping the curves as necessary.

6. Smooth out all the air bubbles. Check it frequently while it is drying to make sure no other bubbles appear.

7. Check for loose corners and edges when dry, reglue if necessary. If desired, seal with a clear sealant.

8. Glue trim along the lower bottom edge, and around the top opening. Glue on feathers and decorate as desired.



Feather Trimmed Camo Lamp Shade

Why is it that something as simple as finding a certain size and color lamp shade always turns out to be so difficult? I always seem to be able to find every size and every color except the size and color I'm looking for! Fortunately you can usually find the plain white decorate-it-yourself type at most craft stores. Using that as a base, you can then customize it to match most any décor—even camo!

MATERIALS

Purchased lampshade	1/2 yard camo (or enough to cover the lampshade)
Hot glue	Pheasant skin with feathers still attached
White glue	Scissors

DIRECTIONS

1. Cut the fabric to fit around the lamp shade. You can use scotch tape if necessary to hold the fabric in place so that you can cut it for an exact fit. Try to have no more than 1/4" of overlap.
2. Once the fabric has been trimmed to size, it will need to be glued down. Run a thin line of glue around the top and bottom edges. Gently press the fabric in place. Secure with tape if necessary. The dried glue will be visible when the light is turned on so use it sparingly.
3. Where the fabric overlaps on the shade will also need to be secured. Carefully run a thin seam of glue down the overlap and smooth it down with your finger. Set aside to dry thoroughly.
4. Cut a thin bias strip of fabric no more than 1/2" wide and use it to cover the top edge of the lampshade. Be sure to cut the fabric on the bias because bias-cut fabric is much more stretchy than fabric cut with, or across the grain. This makes it easier to avoid puckering when covering curved surfaces.
5. With the hot glue, carefully place little pieces of pheasant skin around the bottom edge of the lamp shade. Make sure the feathers are all going in more or less the same direction.

While I prefer pheasant feathers, other things can also be used. A thin strip of hair-on deer hide will make a nice trim, as will turkey feathers—although they are much more tedious to attach.

Try experimenting with some silhouettes of birds or animals on your lampshade. A simple paper cut-out glued to the inside will cast a nice shadow and not be obvious when the lamp is turned off.

Desk Lamp

This is a neat little project with lots of opportunities to be really creative. Look for interesting shaped bottles to use as the base. Consider adding different items such as empty shotgun shells, rifle casings, pieces of antlers, interesting rocks and other such items to the bottle for more variety. When you do this project think Christmas or Father's Day...

MATERIALS

1 lamp kit
Bottle to use as the base
Assorted feathers

DIRECTIONS

1. Fill the bottle with the feathers. Put some in shaft first, and others tip first. Use a pencil or knitting needle to rearrange them if necessary. Shake the bottle to help settle the feathers and continue adding them until it is full.
2. Assemble the bottle into a lamp by following the instructions on the lamp kit. Add your lamp shade.



Chapter 3 Fins & Feet

Fish Printing
Animal Track Necktie
Hand-printed Designer Fabric



Fish Printing

When you think of fish, you don't usually think of them in terms of anything other than a menu item, or possibly as bait for other menu items. Fish generally don't make it to the Top Ten List of "must have" wild-crafting supplies. We're going to change that.

Fish printing, or gyotaku (pronounced ghio-ta'-koo), is actually a very old and respectable art form. Gyotaku has been used in Japan for more than a century to record catches of sportfish. By painting the fish with ink and pressing rice paper on the inked fish, the details of the fish can be preserved. This gave largely illiterate fishermen a way to record the details of their catch. Since the prints don't exaggerate, they are an excellent source of accurate, historical information. By studying these prints, scientists have been able to gain valuable insight into the changes in fish populations over time.

More recently, fish printing is being revived as an art form. Done individually one at a time, detailed rice paper fish prints command high prices. Fishing printing is also ideally suited to T-shirts and other types of clothing. Trust me, after you've tried fish printing you'll start evaluating fish not by their size or eating potential, but how they'd look on a T-shirt.

MATERIALS

Fresh or frozen fish (flounders, perch, bass, rockfishes, skates, rays work particularly well)

Fabric paint or small can of regular latex house paint (how many clean house-painters have you seen?)

Bristle brushes (usually about 1/2" to 1" works well)

Small amount of modeling clay

Straight pins

T-shirt or other item to be printed

DIRECTIONS

1. Use soap and water to clean the outside of the fish as completely as possible. The cleaner the fish, the better the print. Dry the fish well. (Prints will look better if the fish has not been previously gutted.)
2. Cover the table with newspapers. Use the modeling clay to spread out and prop up the fins. Use straight pins if necessary to hold them in place.

3. Paint the fish with the fabric paint. Pay attention to the direction of the brushstrokes as they will show up and can truly enhance the details of your fish. Cover up any excess paint that gets on the newspaper so it won't get on the T-shirt when you print it.
4. Put newspaper inside the T-shirt so that the paint doesn't go all the way through.
5. Carefully position the shirt over the fish and press down. Work from the center of the fish out. Carefully lift up the shirt. This step is easier if you have someone to help you lower the shirt down onto the fish.
6. Allow the shirt to dry completely. Areas that don't quite turn out as dark or got missed can be filled in with either a fine point permanent marker or by carefully painting them in with a smaller brush.
7. Heat set the shirt once it is dry. This will make it machine washable. This can be done by either putting the shirt in the dryer for about 15 minutes on high heat, or by turning it inside out and ironing it for about 1 minute on a cotton/wool setting.

Note: Your favorite fish can be washed off and frozen to use again at a later time.

Animal Track Necktie

This project is something your favorite male hunter will really enjoy. Dressing up and wearing a tie is not something most men really enjoy doing. However, an interesting tie can make it just a little bit easier—particularly when that tie is a design that utilizes one of their trophies.

The process used here is essentially the same one utilized to fish-print—except you will be using something other than a fish! You can do this project in one of two ways: you can print the fabric and then sew the tie yourself, or you purchase a plain tie and print it. Either way it'll make up into something special.

MATERIALS

Fabric to be used to sew a tie; or

Ready-made single color tie

2 shades of fabric paint, or 2 small cans of regular latex house paint in shades that will complement the tie.

Bristle brushes (usually about 1/2" to 1" works well)

Practice fabric scraps

Your choice of:

Deer foot

Duck or goose foot

Turkey or pheasant foot

Dove or quail foot

Or any other animal foot you might have on hand
(plastic replicas will also work very well)

DIRECTIONS

1. Use soap and water and make sure whatever foot you're using is clean and dry. As with fish-printing, the cleaner the foot, the better the results will be.
2. Apply paint the bottom of the foot, using the darker color first. Make a few test prints on a scrap of fabric. When you're satisfied with the results, start printing your animal tracks on the tie. Let dry before going on to the next color.
3. Clean the foot thoroughly to remove all traces of the first color of paint. Using the second color of paint, repeat the printing on top of, but slightly off-set from the first prints. The darker paint underneath will give your footprints a "shadow" effect.

4. Heat set the tie once it is dry. This will make it more colorfast. This can be done by either putting the tie in the dryer for about 15 minutes on high heat, or by turning it over and ironing it for about 1 minute on a cotton/wool setting.

Hand-printed Designer Fabric

There is no reason why only neckties get the special designer fabric treatment. Although a little more time consuming, it is not difficult to create your own designer fabrics. Using the same procedure, print your fabric and heat set it. Then cut out and sew your garment in the usual manner.

If you're not that handy with a sewing machine, don't worry—you can create just about the same look on a ready-made garment.

Chapter 4 Finishing Touches

Serving Tray
Camo-trimmed Bath Towels
Camo Pot Holders
Camo Cosmetic Bag
Camo "Pearls"
Shotgun Shell Key Chain
Hanging Bird Feeder

I have a friend whose main complaint about my projects is that they all require "dead animal parts." Just to prove that's not true, all the projects in this chapter can be made without the harvest of any wildlife resource.



Serving Tray

This is an easy project that looks so nice when it's finished. Add a pair of deerhide coffee mugs, some camo napkins, and who says the hunting camp has to be uncivilized and tacky!?

MATERIALS

Unfinished wooden serving tray (available at most craft stores)
 Paint or stain
 Camo fabric, cut to fit the bottom of the tray
 White glue
 Shallow bowl (cereal bowl works well)



DIRECTIONS

1. Paint or stain the tray, leaving the inside bottom unfinished.
2. In the bowl, mix a solution of about 2 parts water to 1 part glue. Stir the glue and water solution until it is thoroughly mixed. Exact measurements aren't critical.
3. Dip the piece of fabric into the glue and water solution so that it is completely saturated.
4. Spread the fabric out on the inside bottom of the tray, making sure it covers completely. Smooth out all the air bubbles. Check it frequently while it is drying to make sure no other bubbles appear.
5. Check for loose corners when dry, reglue if necessary. If desired, seal with a clear sealant.

Camo-trimmed Bath Towels

These things are really good looking, but if you try to buy them be prepared to pay dearly! With a little bit of time you can not only have enough for every bathroom, you can even have extras! You'll be surprised at how easy these are to make.

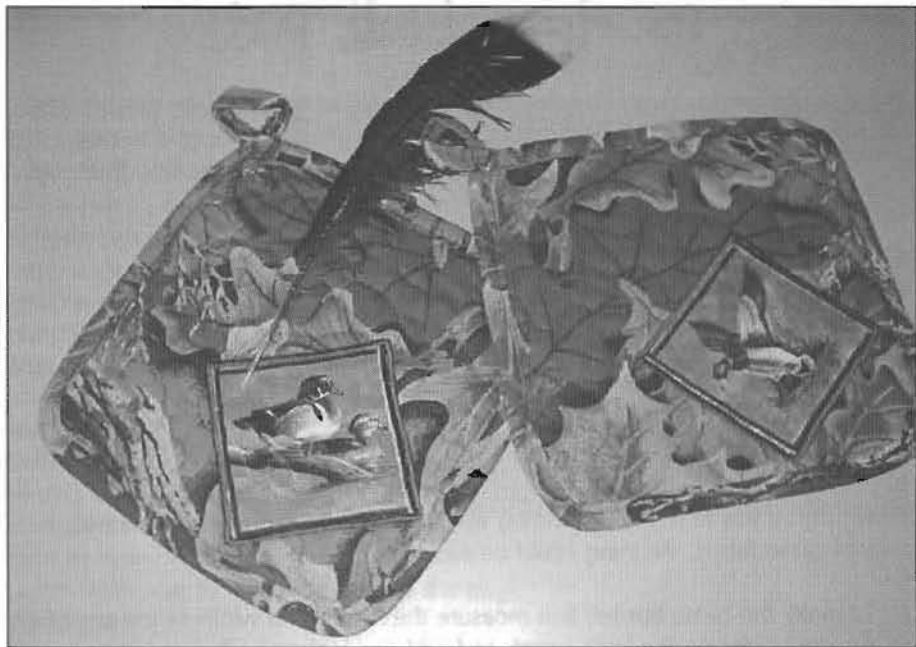
MATERIALS (per set)

1 towel set – bath towel, hand towel, face cloth
 1/2 yard of camo fabric
 Scissors, or rotary cutter
 Thread
 Embroidered wildlife appliqué (optional)

DIRECTIONS

Essentially all you're doing is covering the smooth border on the towels with a strip of camo fabric. Nothing could be easier!

1. To make the camo border, first measure the length and width of the smoothly woven border on the bath towel, and add one inch to both measurements.
2. Cut a strip of fabric to these measurements.
3. At the ironing board, turn under 1/2" along both long sides, press.
4. Stitch the fabric over the border, making sure it is completely covered. Fold over ends and stitch to the backside of the towel.
5. If desired, stitch an appliqué onto the towel just above the border. Repeat with the hand towel and face cloth.



Camo Pot Holders

It's true that you can make these out of other types of fabric besides just camo, but I try not to admit it.

MATERIALS

1/2 yard of camo fabric

1/2 yard of batting

Matching thread

Wildlife appliqué (optional)

DIRECTIONS

1. Measuring across the width of the fabric, cut a strip 2 1/2" wide. This will be the binding. It takes about 45" of binding per potholder.
2. At the ironing board, turn under 1/2" along both long sides; press and set aside.
3. Cut two 8" x 8" squares of fabric and two 8" x 8" squares of batting.

4. Sandwich the batting in between the two layers of fabric, making sure the right side of the fabric is showing on both the top and the bottom.
5. You can now quilt the potholder in several different ways. One way is to stitch a grid pattern across the potholder. A second way is to simply stitch in a random pattern until the entire potholder has been quilted. Your sewing machine will make this easy to do. Press. Trim the corners so they are rounded.
6. Start at one corner and sew the binding on the outside edge of the potholder, making certain that you catch the fabric on the backside. End by stitching the binding for approximately 2 to 3 inches past the edge of the potholder. Trim off excess binding.
7. Take the stitched binding and fold it back around to the potholder to form a loop for hanging. Stitch in place.
8. If desired, stitch an appliqué to the potholder.

Depending upon how you intend to use these, other types of batting can be used. Try using several pieces of fleece or flannel as your batting. Old dish towels can be cut up to make an excellent batting as well.

Camo Cosmetic Bag

Everybody needs a travel bag for cosmetics, medications, jewelry ... whatever. So why not have one that also makes a statement? After you've made one you'll see that it's easy enough to change the shape and/or the size for even more possibilities.

MATERIALS

1/2 yard of camo fabric
Matching thread
8" zipper

1/2 yard of batting
Wildlife appliqué (optional)

DIRECTIONS

1. Cut 2 pieces of fabric, and 1 piece of batting all measuring about 9" x 12".
2. With the fabric pieces wrong sides together, sandwich the batting between the two pieces of fabric. Make sure the right side of the fabric is on both sides. Pin the layers together to keep them from slipping out of place.
3. Using a random stitching pattern, quilt the pieces together. Trim the edges and press. (Figure 1)

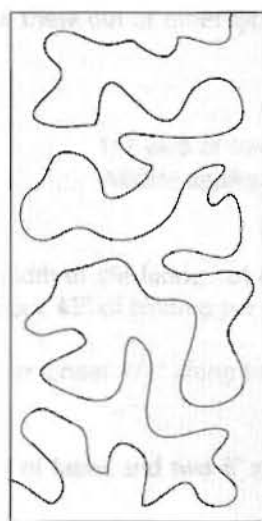


Figure 1

4. Press under 1/2" on each of the short sides.
5. Leaving the zipper closed, stitch a short side, right side up, to the outside of the zipper. Open the zipper. (Figure 2)

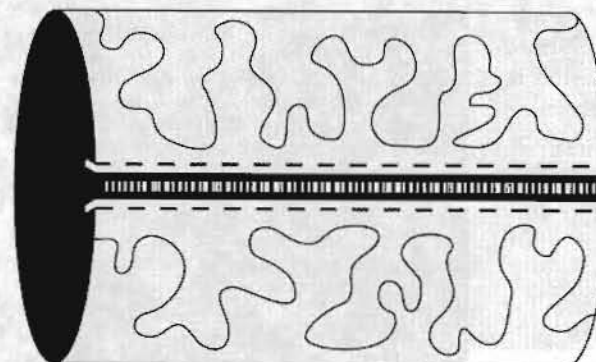


Figure 2

6. Stitch the opposite side of the bag to the opposite side of the zipper. Turn wrong side out.
7. Using a 1/2" seam, stitch each side together.
8. To create a base for the bottom of the bag that will help it stand up better, on each end of the bag, center the seam and fold up the bottom. This will create a triangle. (Figure 3) Locate the point where a seam would be about an inch long and stitch across it. Repeat on the opposite side.
9. Turn the bag right-side out, and press.

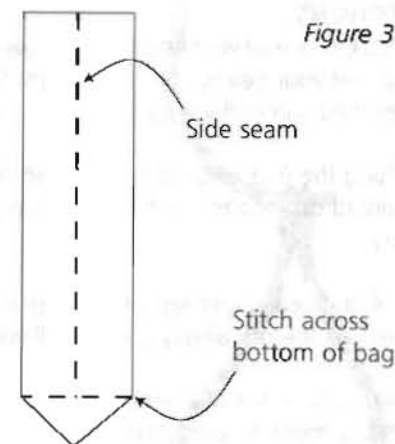


Figure 3

Camo "Pearls"

This necklace is a very easy project, and with a little bit of preparation even makes a good "kid project." Don't let that fool you however—this is a very good looking necklace and you can be sure it'll draw plenty of attention every time you wear it.

MATERIALS

Unfinished wooden beads (how many depends upon the size of the beads chosen, and the desired finished length.)
Glass, gemstone and/or metal spacer beads (optional)
Cord for stringing (use yarn for kids)
Camo spray paint set: green, brown, black, white
Newspapers or other suitable covering for work area

DIRECTIONS

1. Work in a well-ventilated area. Cover your work area with newspapers and spread your beads out. Use a light "dusting" of paint in order to achieve a mottled camouflage pattern.
2. Using the first color of spray paint, make a first pass with the paint over your spread out beads. Don't try to turn them over or to get even coverage. Let dry.
3. Roll the beads and repeat this process with the second color of paint. Repeat with all the remaining colors until you have the "camo" effect to your liking.
4. Now you're ready to string your creation! Mix in other beads of glass, gemstone, metal or even deer antler for a true designer look. Add a clasp if desired.



Shotgun Shell Key Chain

This keychain isn't designed to stand up to a lot of hard wear and tear, but it makes a cute little item you can use to either decorate a package or add to an existing gift. Certainly any hunting dog would be proud to give this to his or her "people" for Christmas!



MATERIALS

1 used shotgun shell
Small amount of batting or pieces of foam (enough to fill the shotgun shell)
Key ring (recycle some of those old ones you never use!)
Approximately 6 to 8 inches of leather lacing (you don't actually need this much, but having it makes it easier to attach the ring.)
Quick setting glue
Multi-tool, pliers or reloader

DIRECTIONS

1. Clean and dry the shotgun shell. Polish the metal for a shinier look.
2. Tightly pack the shotgun shell with batting or small pieces of foam. This will help keep the shell from getting squished, but without adding a lot of weight.
3. With a slip knot, loop the leather lacing to the key ring. Make the end of the lacing as equal as possible. (Figure 1)



Figure 1



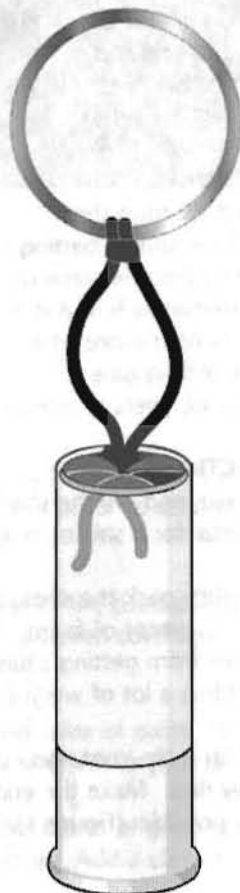
Figure 2

4. Tie a square knot in the lacing about 2 to 3 inches below the key chain loop. Exact measurements aren't necessary! This bottom knot will be put inside the re-crimped shotgun shell to hold the key ring onto the shell. (Figure 2)

5. With either the multi-tool, the pliers or the reloader, recrimp the shotgun shell. Push the crimping further down inside the shell, just far enough to insert the bottom knot of leather lacing.

6. Using the key ring, pull up gently, but firmly until the crimping is once again level with the top. (Figure 3)
7. If necessary, secure the key ring by putting a little glue down inside between the shell and the knot.

Figure 3



Hangng Bird Feeder

With approximately 95% of Texas being privately owned, individual Texans are the ones primarily responsible for providing habitat for wildlife. The activities that people do to manage for wildlife can be grouped into seven basic categories: supplemental food, supplemental water, supplemental shelter, habitat control, erosion control, predator control and conducting census.

While it's true not everyone can manage their land to provide habitat for large animals such as deer, everybody can do things to make their yards and other open spaces more wildlife-friendly for smaller species, such as birds, small mammals and butterflies.

This is a great project for parents and grandparents to do with children. While it won't last forever, this feeder is sturdy enough to actually be used—so make lots of them!

MATERIALS (per feeder)

- 1 16.5 oz. soda bottle with top, cleaned and dried
- 1 film canister (lid is not necessary)
- 1 disposable plastic bowl, or frozen entrée bowl
- 1 paper fastener (brad)
- 1 clothes hanger, cut to about 24" length
- Scissors and/or x-acto knife

DIRECTIONS

1. Cut (or drill) a large hole in the top for the soda bottle. When the top is on the bottle, this hole will allow bird seed to come out of the bottle, while allowing the bottle to be unscrewed for refilling with bird seed. Screw the top on securely and set aside. (Figure 2)
2. Discard the lid to the film canister. Cut a semi-circular scoop out on opposite sides of the bottom end of the film canister. The scoop should be at least $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1" tall, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide. This opening is to allow seed to travel from the bottle to the dish. (Figure 3)
3. From the inside of the film canister, poke a small hole in the bottom center just big enough for the prongs on the brad to pass through. The brad will hold the dish to the film canister.
4. Poke a corresponding hole in the center of the plastic dish.

5. Starting from the inside, push the brad through the hole in the film canister and on through the hole in the dish. Fasten on the underside of the dish.
6. Place the soda bottle so the top is inserted into the open end of the film canister. The fit should be secure enough that no glue is required.
7. Take the piece of clothes hanger wire and shape it into a horseshoe shaped hanger for the feeder. Bend about 1" on each end towards the inside of the hanger. (Refer to Figure 1 for a view of the completed bird feeder.)
8. Carefully poke a small hole on each side of the bottom of the soda bottle (that has now become the top of the feeder) and insert the hanger on each side. Bend the hanger as necessary for it to hang properly. (Refer to Figure 1 for a view of the completed bird feeder.)

To Use: Unscrew the bottle from the base, fill with small grain birdseed and reattach the base. Invert the feeder so that the seed will spill out into the bowl. Be sure to keep the feeder clean and full of seed, particularly in the winter.

Figure 1

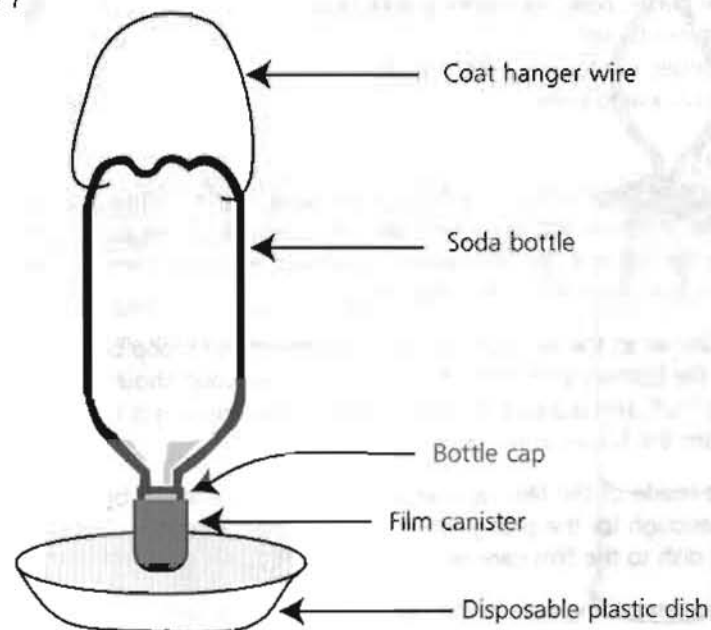
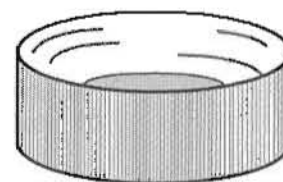
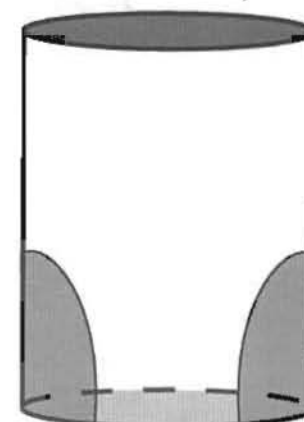


Figure 2



Cut an opening into the top of the bottle cap large enough for seed to flow out easily

Figure 3



Insert soda bottle into open end of film canister

Cut openings on opposite sides of film canister

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