

GRAFIX® LESSON PLAN SERIES

Lesson 4: Let Your Light Shine – Fun, easy lanterns for votives and string lights. Created by Lisa Thorpe.



Let Your Light Shine – Fun, easy lanterns for votives and string lights



OBJECTIVES

Students will explore a variety of surface design techniques using a number of mediums. They can then combine mediums to create new effects.

Step 2 takes these two dimensions works and by a process of cutting and reconstructing they will make a three dimensional object.

Older students can be challenged to take this beyond the provided patterns to create their own three dimensional lantern structures.

I was having a little party not too long ago and I wanted to brighten up the house with lights. I pulled out my Christmas box and dug around for my white lights. White seemed too wintry so I decided I wanted to make some lantern covers. I played around with different materials, first paper that I printed and then book pages but neither was as sturdy or transparent as I wanted. But down in my pile of pads and papers were some sheets of Grafix Dura-Lar Matte Film. This sturdy stuff is very hard to tear and has a lovely matte finish that gives a soft glow. I played around with materials to decorate the film and found that lots of things worked, including the 3 techniques I'll share here. I also fiddled around with different shapes for the lanterns; the one I found to be the simplest and most efficient use of the 9" x 12" sheet was the barrel design showed here. I also made little cone-shaped shades for some battery powered LED votives that are charming and festive, and you don't need to worry about your guest or wee ones knocking them over and lighting the party on fire.

MATERIALS

- Stencils
- **Grafix Dura-Lar Matte Film 9" x 12"**
- Exacto knife
- White LED string lights or battery powered LED votives – both are easily found
- **Additional materials needed for each technique**

One sheet makes 4 barrel lanterns for string lights or 2 small cone shades for the battery LED votives. If I'm making a whole set of string lights, I layout about 6 sheets of the matte film side by side on my work table; 6 sheets will make 24 barrel lanterns for string lights, or 12 cone shades for battery votives.



Grafix Dura-Lar Matte Film

Film has a matte translucent drawing surface on two sides.



Decorative Technique A

DIRECTIONS

Decorative Technique A:

- Acrylic paint
- Stencils
- Cosmetic sponges for dabbing paint through stencil

Using both store bought and homemade stencils, I layered stenciled patterns of color. The acrylic dries fast so you can put down one layer of stenciled color and move on to the next almost immediately. Make sure to leave plenty of white space since the acrylic paint is not transparent, so light won't shine through.

Decorative Technique B:

- Sharpie permanent markers in bright colors
- Rubbing alcohol
- Permanent inkpad like Staz-On
- Store or self-made rubber stamps

For this technique, simply color the matte sheets completely with permanent marker. Don't worry about any pattern or design, just scribble the color on. Be sure not to use very dark colors or colors that are opposites on the color wheel, as they will blend and make a brownish-grayish color. I choose tertiary colors like magenta, violet and blue, or green, yellow and turquoise. Once you have the sheets completely scribbled, with an eyedropper or brush, drip rubbing alcohol on the surface and watch the colors move and blend. It dries very quickly and you will find a beautiful subtle marbled effect on the surface that is permanent when dry. I then stamped mine with store and self-made stamps using black permanent ink to add accents and interest.



Decorative Technique B

Decorative Technique C:

- Alcohol inks like Jaquard Piñata or Ranger Adirondack inks
- Rubbing alcohol
- Permanent inkpad like Staz-On
- Store or self-made rubber stamps

The alcohol inks give the brightest, most transparent color of all the techniques. The alcohol inks can be put on the surface in an infinite number of ways, but to make this wonderful marbled paper look, I simply dropped the inks in onto the surface, being mindful of how colors will blend. Then I dripped and splattered rubbing alcohol to create pale rings in the bright colors already on the surface. Again, this dries quickly and accents in black can be added using self-made or store bought stamps and permanent ink. Alternately, you can brush the ink onto the surface, then drip rubbing alcohol on it to give a paler, lighter effect. I also found you can brush the alcohol ink onto large stamps and stamp them on the film – the edges bleed a bit, and it looks great with colors and patterns overlapping.



Decorative Technique C

Directions continued on next page.



String Light Lantern



String Light Lantern



Battery LED Votive

ASSEMBLY

String Light Lantern:

After paints or inks are dry, cut your film into four 3" x 9" strips. Then on each end, 1/4" in from the edge and centered at the 1-1/2" on the short ends, cut three 1/4-1/2" lines to make * (See Pattern on next page). Then create a barrel, lining up your * on each end. To attach, you can simply use regular household scotch tape that typically comes in a matte finish and is barely visible when used on the matte film. Or if you have eyelets and an eyelet crimper, then you can place four eyelets to hold your barrel in place. Then you simply slip the light through the * and your first lantern is on.

Battery LED Votive:

I made a simple fan pattern that makes two cone shades from one sheet of the matte film. Cut the fan, then tape or attach two eyelets on either end to create your cone, then simply slip over the battery votive base.

EXTRA DECORATIVE IDEAS

- You can cut the top of your cone shade and edge of barrels with pinking shears or patterned scissors.
- Use decorative hole punches to make a pattern of holes to give your lanterns a luminaria touch.
- Collage on the decorated Dura-Lar using paper and matte medium.



Extra Decorative Ideas: Use Pinking Shears and Decorative Hole Punches

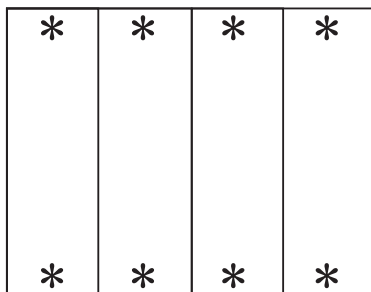
NATIONAL STANDARDS

Content Standard 1: Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes

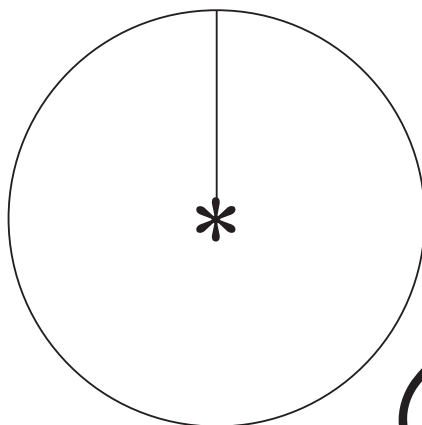
Content Standard 2: Using knowledge of structures and functions

Content Standard 5: Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others

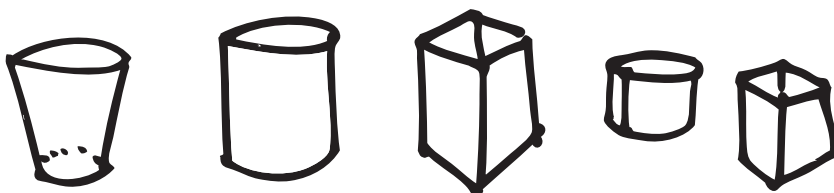
String lights covers can be cut to lots of shapes and sizes. The fastest and easiest is to cut your sheet of Dura-lar into 4 equal strips. Cut a * about 1/4-1/2" from ends in middle on both sides. Roll into barrel, line up * tape, or use eyelets to hold together. Slip over light. You can make larger or smaller barrels you choose I suggest you try it out with paper first.



STRING LIGHT ASSEMBLY PATTERN



You can use this circle as a pattern trace it onto your decorated Dura-lar . Cut it out, cut * and line from edge to center. overlap circle until you make a cone. Play around with size and tightness. Tape or use eyelet again to close..... try making a little box.... what other shapes? Experiment with paper before you cut your valuable Grafix Dura-Lar!



You can make a little luminaria any shape you want. The simplest is to cut a strip make a barrel close with tape or eyelet and voila. You can cut 4 equal rectangles to make a box of any size, tape the edges with decorative washi tape and that's another great version. Or you can use this pattern to make a cone luminaria cover, 2 will fit on one sheet with scraps left over to play with.

