NEW VIEWS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

One key to successful design is having the ability to see things from a different point of view—and sometimes altering your perspective is as simple as changing what’s right in front of your eyes. Opera glasses are used as low-magnification lenses to see far away performers and in this project, the glasses are combined with some elements of kaleidoscopes.

Experiment with ways to create your own portable windows onto the world, using recycled materials found around the home.

RECOMMENDED AGE/SKILL LEVEL:

Recommended for children ages 4+ with adult supervision when cutting.

MATERIALS

- Cardboard paper towel roll or two toilet paper rolls
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Ruler

Suggested additional materials
- Clear plastic (ie: plastic bags, clear bubble wrap, take-out packaging…)
- Packing tape
- Washi or scotch tape
- Duct tape
- Cardboard
- Paper or cardstock
- Pipe cleaners
- Feathers
- String or yarn
- Glitter
- Sequins
- Tissue paper
- Markers, crayons or colored pencils
- Popsicle sticks
- Hot glue or glue sticks
- Hole punch
INSTRUCTIONS

• Sketch your design.
  ° For typical opera glasses, you’ll need two viewing tubes sticking forward, and something on top or in between them which holds them together.
  ° Decide if you would like more decorative elements - for example, you might create a fan that extends over your forehead, or strips of cardboard or fringe that hang down to your chin.
• Use a ruler or a sewing measuring tape to determine the width (from eye to eye) and length of your face, in order to plan your materials layout. You can also just hold materials up to your face to see which parts will fit your face best.
• Cut your paper towel roll in quarters to create two eyepieces and two leftover pieces. Set the leftovers aside.
  ° Cut one end of each eyepiece at a slight angle so they will sit straight on your face. Try them on to check the angle.

• Mark and cut your chosen material (ie: cardboard, posterboard, etc…) to the correct width (eye to eye). This is your connector between the viewfinders.
• Use tape to stick eyepieces in the correct place.
• As you go, test out your glasses by holding them up to your face.
• Use glue or tape to stick your main pieces together. Tape can also decorate the surface of your materials, especially if you are using colorful duct tape. Cut as needed if you are fitting tape around a tube and would like it to stay flat.
• Experiment with adding cut out shapes or creative “filters” over the front of the eyepieces (the non-angled edge). We used a blue feather here!
- Use tape to secure pieces.
- Grab one of your leftover roll pieces. Cut it in half lengthwise. These two new pieces will be decorative, moveable “lenses” inside your eyepieces.

- Decorate the half-tubes using marker, collage materials, or colorful tape.
- What material do you have that is transparent? We used green bubble wrap, but you might also have some colored cellophane or clear packing tape.
- Cut a half-circle piece of your transparent material(s) so that it will fit on the end of the interior half-lens(es).
- Tape or glue the material to the front end of your moveable lens(es).
- Slide lenses inside your two eyepieces. They will hold securely, but can also be turned to change your view.
• Add any last details or embellishments as desired. Use tape or a hole punch to attach a string or cord to allow you to carry the opera glasses around your neck.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

**CONNECT SOCIALY AND LEARN MORE**

**Facebook & Instagram:** @MuseumofCraftandDesign  
**Twitter:** @SF_MCD

**Share your project!**  
Post and tag #MCDatHome

**Websites**  
[Learn more](#) about traditional opera glasses, and see what different designs look like in the real world!