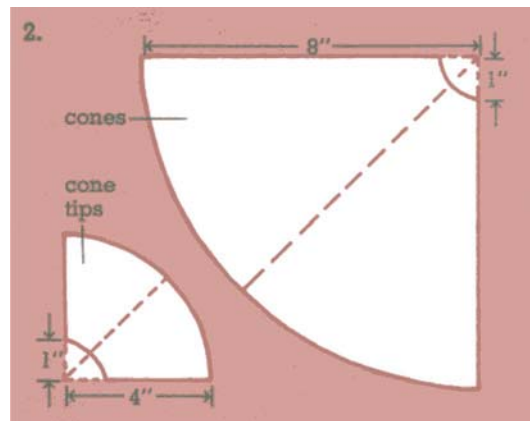
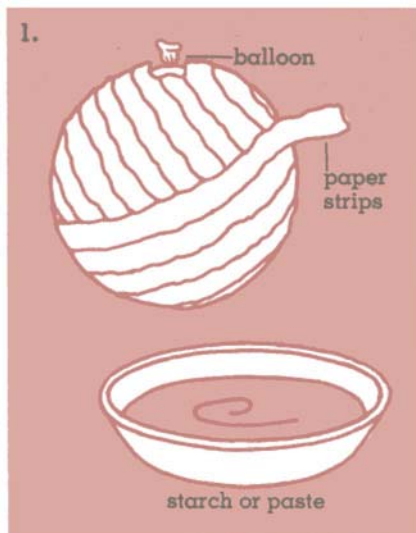


Directions for Star Piñata

Ross, Corinne. Christmas in México, 1976, 72-73.

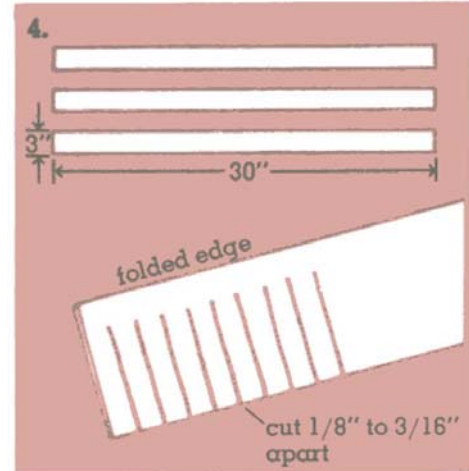
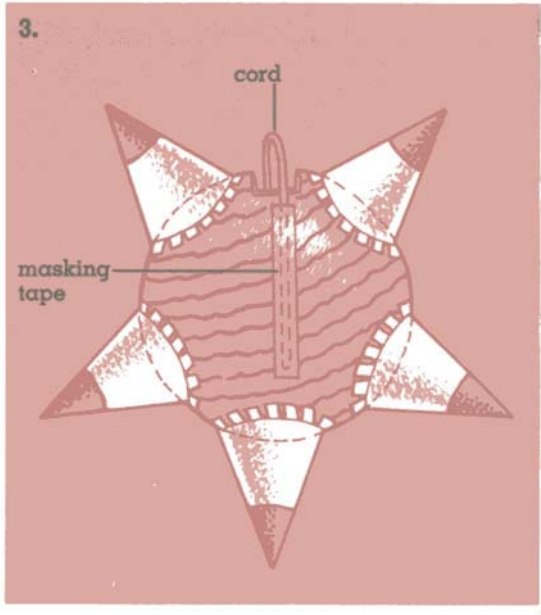
1 round 11" balloon
several pages of newspaper
papier maché paste (one part flour and two parts water or other recipe)
several pieces of poster board
10' rope, cord or strong string
several packs of colored tissue paper about 20" X 30"
aluminum foil
masking tape
rubber cement (regular glue will make the colors in the tissue paper run)
scissors
ruler
pen or pencil

1. Blow up the balloon to about 11" in diameter and tie off the end. Tear the newspaper into 2" wide strips. Tearing works better than cutting because the strips will stick to each other better. Coat each strip with the papier maché mixture, run your fingers down the strip to wipe off the excess, then smooth the strip onto the balloon. Before completing the first layer, leave a 2" x 2" open area where the tied end of the balloon is. This will be for the piñata opening. Continue by applying one layer in one direction, and the next layer in the opposite direction, using picture 1 as a model. This process will help you remember how many layers you've added to the balloon and it will make the piñata stronger. Coat the balloon with four layers of papier maché coated newspaper strips. The four layers will need about three days to dry. When the piñata is dry, pop or deflate the balloon and remove it from the inside of the piñata.



2. Use picture 2 above to create the five cones for the points of the star. Draw five cone patterns with 8" sides on a piece of poster board and cut them out. Use picture 2 above to make the aluminum tips for each cone. Lightly trace the pattern with 4" sides on five pieces of aluminum foil and cut them out. Coat the back of one of the aluminum tips with rubber cement and glue it to the corner of one of the poster board cones by matching the right angles. Repeat this step for the other four cones. Overlap the 8" straight sides of each cone and staple the two sides together about 2" from the bottom to create the cone shape. Finish the cone by gluing the edges together with rubber cement.
3. Make small cuts about 1" deep around the base of each cone. Fold the tabs created by the cuts out and attach the cones in a circle around the piñata by securing the tabs to the piñata with masking tape. Be careful not to cover up the piñata opening with a cone. Using picture 3 below as a model, cut the rope, cord or string to 2-2 1/2' and secure it very well around the piñata with masking tape. The leftover rope, cord or string will be tied to this holder in order to hoist the piñata in the air when it's time to break it open.

- To decorate the piñata, cut the tissue paper into strips that are 3" wide by about 30" long. Stack 4 or 5 strips on top of one another and fold them in half lengthwise. To get the fringe look, make small cuts on the open edge of the fold to about 1/2" of the folded edge. Cuts should be spaced 1/8" to 3/16" apart. When cuts have been made down the length of the strip separate them into individual strips. Use picture 4 as a model. Before you adhere the strips to the piñata, protect your workspace with newspapers. Then use a small brush to spread rubber cement along the folded edge of the strip that is not cut and glue the first strip to the base of the piñata. When you apply the next fringed strips, place the fringed edge over top of the straight edge of the previous strip so only the fringe shows. Use picture 5 as a model.



- Continue rubber cementing the fringed strips to the piñata until it is completely covered except for the opening at the top. Use masking tape to secure the cord, rope or string to the edge of the opening so when the piñata is lifted it won't tear the tissue paper. Don't forget to apply the tissue paper to the base of the cones up to the aluminum foil tips. Make tassels for the tips of the cones by cutting tissue paper into 1/4" by 3 1/2" strips. Make five equal bunches of strips and attach one to each tip of the cones with rubber cement.
- To cover the opening in the top of the piñata roll one or more of the fringed strips and tie at the bottom with string. This flowerlike creation needs to be big enough to not fall through the opening. Use picture 6 as a model. Fill the piñata with candy, confetti, peanuts, small toys, etc., put the flowerlike plug in the hole at the top, and tie the leftover rope, cord or heavy string to the cut piece on the piñata. Children will need adult supervision while breaking a piñata! The traditional way to break a piñata is to blindfold the child, spin him around several times and let him try to break the suspended piñata with a bat or stick.

