

Project: Cut Starburst Mobile

Level: Medium

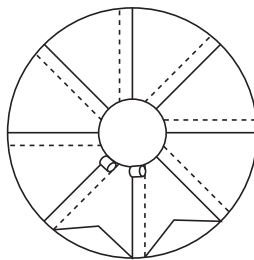
Age: 7 and up

Materials needed: Eight can lids of various sizes, one large can with a rim approximately six inches in diameter (a three-pound coffee can works well), gold or silver cord, metallic ribbon or trim, tin snips, glue, a ruler, a non-permanent marker

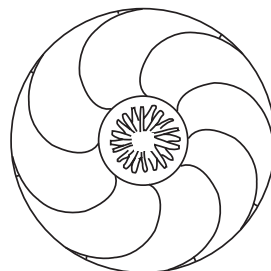
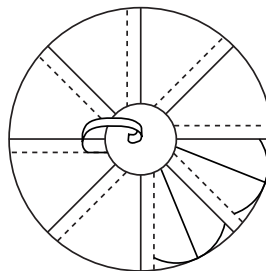
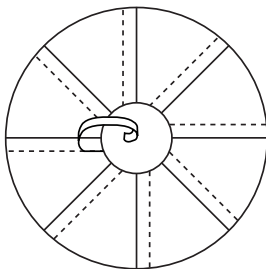
Directions:

I suggest reading through these directions first, then trying several of the starburst designs on scrap lids before actually doing them on the lids you want to use for your finished mobile.

1. With a ruler and a non-permanent marker, divide your first lid into eight equal pie-shaped sections. Then measure approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ inch on ONE side of each section and mark with another line (see the following figure). Cut along each solid line up to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the center. That will give you eight wide sections and eight thin strips.

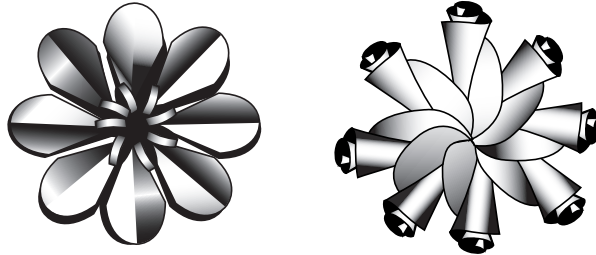


Measuring and marking for cutting your starbursts.

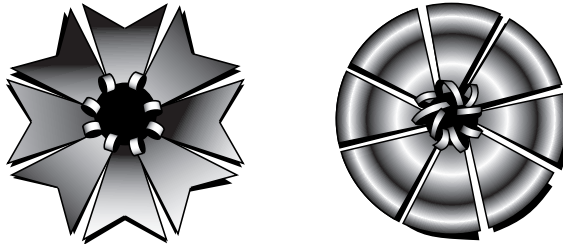


2. Now you can make variations on your starburst, depending on how you manipulate the wide sections and thin strips. You can cut the outside edges of the wide pieces into V shapes, round them into “petals,” straighten them, or leave them as is. You can roll the narrow strips up tightly toward the center or more loosely (using a pair of round-nosed pliers). You can choose to crimp the narrow strips or twist them.

Swirl starburst design.



Rolled starburst design.



Another variation is to make a swirl design, as shown in the figure that follows. This has no strips in between sections. Just be careful to clip the sharp points of each section before moving on to the next one so you don't cut or scratch yourself. This can be left as is or rolled, as shown.

3. After you've got your starbursts cut and shaped the way you want, make a hole (use a metal punch if you have one) for hanging and suspend them from a frame made from the rim of the coffee can (or a wooden embroidery hoop).
4. Decorate the hoop or rim with metallic ribbon or trim. (See the following figure.)

Finished mobile.



You can use individual starbursts as Christmas ornaments, and even glue artificial gems or other decorations to the centers.