



DIRECTIONS FOR BUILDING A POPSICLE STICK LAUNCHER

Step 1 – Paint two of the craft sticks one colour, and two another colour. You will be gluing them together so that is why we painted ours to have two matching, but really they don't need to match. Just paint them however you want! This is a great engineering and crafting challenge for kids 7 years old and up. The result is part crossbow, part slingshot, all fun!

Step 3 – Choose which is going to be the handle and which is going to be the crossbar. Place the crossbar about 1/4 of the way from the top of the handle and glue in place.

Step 4 – Make sure your crossbar is on the bottom (so you have the smooth surface of the handle on top). Now glue your buttons on the crossbar about 2 cm in from the ends.

Step 5 – Cut your straw about 6 – 8 cm in length should work.

Step 6 – Glue the piece of straw on top of the handle so it is above the crossbar near the front. Let the glue set for a few minutes.

Step 7 – Wrap the rubber band around the end of the crossbar on one side, then repeat on the other side. Pull the long side of the rubber band and anchor it on the end of the handle. Your Launcher is now ready for action!

Step 2 – Using a glue gun, glue two popsicle sticks together. Then glue the other two together. We are doing this for two reasons. First, it makes the structure stronger. Second, the end of the handle

Pro Tip! Challenge your kids to design their launchers with various lengths of straws. The longer straws will allow great pull on the rubber band, resulting in launches covering greater distances, but they also require more finger strength. Test it out to find the optimal design for the best launches!

Pro Tip! The cotton swabs may get a little fuzzy which can cause friction and cause issues during launching. If this happens, you have two options. Roll the ends of the Q-Tip between slightly moistened fingers to help tighten up the fibers. Or you can wrap a little clear tape around the ends of the Q-Tip to keep things neat and moving smoothly through the straw, just make sure it is really smooth so the tape doesn't cause friction.