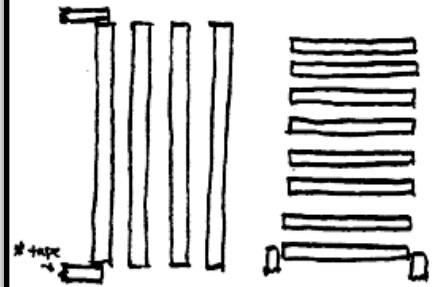# Basic Box Lantern

The first Lantern workshop I ever taught was based on faxed instructions from Welfare State International, a performance art company in England, in 1989.

The following techniques were developed through hundreds of workshops and ideas from many artists and participants.
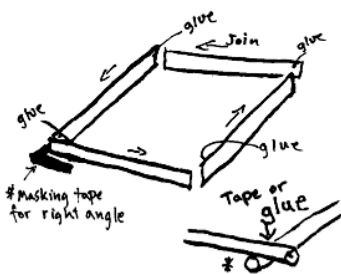
© Paula Jardine
June, 2002, Victoria

You Will Need

* bamboo strips
  (take apart old blinds – the flat strip kind)
  or other relatively straight stick
* pruning shears or tin snips or heavy duty scissors
* hot glue gun and glue sticks
* ¼" welded wire mesh (min 4") also called "hardware cloth"
* needle nose pliers
* soft brush (Chinese calligraphy brush, best)
* white glue
* water & container for glue
* 3 or 4 sheets "Art" quality tissue paper
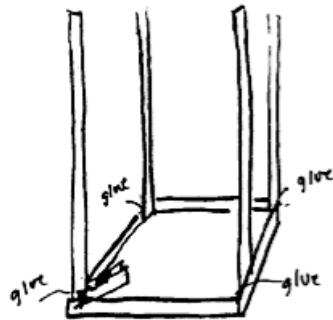* tea candle in tin cup
* fish line or flexible wire for hanging

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* tape

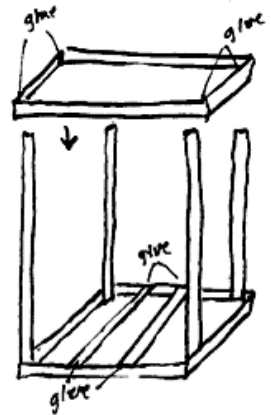CUT 4 side pieces
8 equal pieces for top & bottom frames.

* Tip: use pieces of masking tape on your work surface to measure uniform pieces.

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glue Join glue
glue
glue
* masking tape for right angle
Tape or glue

BUILD
Top and Bottom frame by putting hot glue on the flat side of one piece, and pushing edge of adjoining piece against it until glue sets.
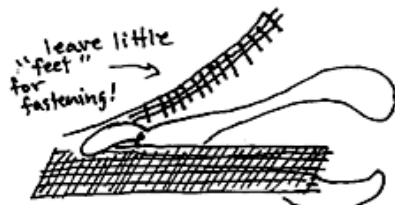* Cross pieces over if using sticks.

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glue glue glue glue

ATTACH the sides of the frame by putting a dab of hot glue on the bottom outside end and press it against the inside of frame.
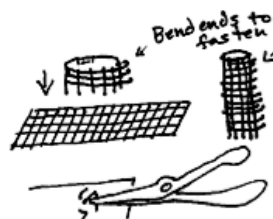You can use a clothspin to hold it in place until the glue sets.

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glue glue glue

ATTACH top frame to sides.
CUT 2 more strips to hold candle holder on bottom frame. Glue in place.

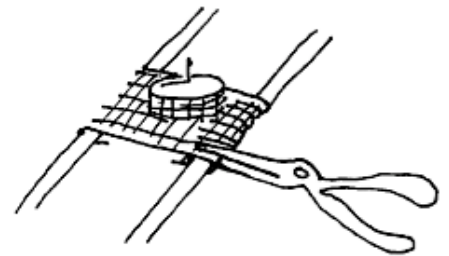leave little "feet" for fastening!

CUT narrow strip of WELDED WIRE MESH to wrap around candle, and a wider strip for the base.

USE Tin Snips, or old pruning shears that you will never use for pruning again.

wear gloves!

Bend ends to fasten

Wrap strip around candle, with just enough room to easily slip candle in and out. Bend "little feet" to fasten.

PUSH finished candle holder through mesh of BASE, bend "little feet" with pliers to fasten securely
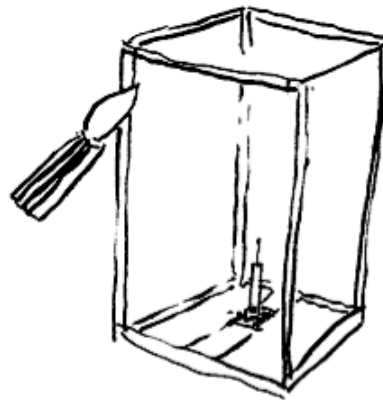

ATTACH candle holder to struts by bending ends around bamboo and press with pliers.

ADD a dab of hot glue to reinforce, if needed.

THE SAFETY of your LANTERN depends on the Security of your CANDLE holder!

pour GLUE into container.
ADD WATER ONE DROP at a
TIME, and MIX.
The consistency should resemble
thick cream. Thin the glue
just enough so it doesn't drag
the paper during application.
Never use glue in a COLD room.
(if you're wearing mittens, it's
too cold)

PAINT glue on frame,
stretch paper across
frame, one panel at a
time.

PAINT Glue on papered
edge of next frame
panel. Overlap paper.
You may also want to
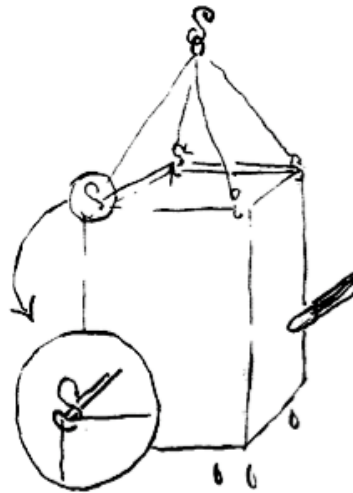paper bottom, to cut
down on wind.

Once all the panels are
covered with paper, paint
the ENTIRE LANTERN with
your glue mixture.
You may want to do one
side at a time if there
is no place to hang the
lantern to drip dry.
Add any decorative bits
at this time.
* The paper will sag with the
weight of the GLUE.
DO NOT BE AFRAID! once
the glue dries your lantern
will be nice and taut.

MAKE little "S" hooks to
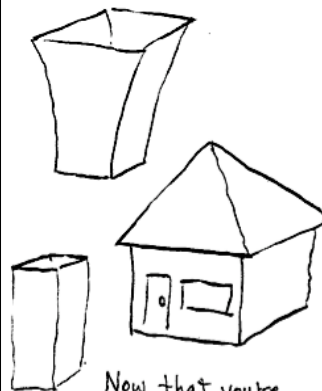attach fish line for hanging,
or simply attach line at corners.

Your Lantern
is a vessel to contain
light. The lighter the
colour of tissue paper, the
more light is radiated.

These lanterns can survive
light rainfall ~ simply hang
them in a dry place to
recover.

Repairs are simple: paint
glue over torn or punctured
area, lay suitable piece of
tissue across, and paint over
with glue.

THINGS to add to a
finished BLANK BOX
Lantern:
· Coloured tissue paper
    cut outs
      * Careful, some colours run.

- xerox images
      (colour or B & W)

- paints or inks
- cut out sillohettes.
- writing

Now that you're
an expert, try variations!
Add a roof! (leave a heat vent)
Have fun!

DISCLAIMER
Although all due care has been
taken in the preparation of this
material, the author cannot be
held responsible for any ommisions,
damage or injury resulting from
any interpretations of its contents
howsoever caused.

NEVER USE A CANDLE LIT
LANTERN INDOORS.