

# Toilet Tube Castle

By Nancy J. Rhode



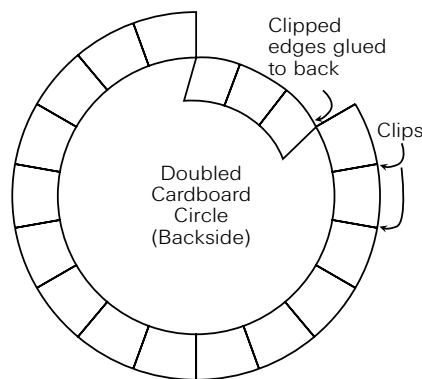
**K**ids, here's your chance to build the castle of your dreams, using recycled toilet paper tubes and simple craft materials you may have around the house. We'll build the castle this month, and landscape it next month.

### What You'll Need:

- 1 toilet paper tube
- Graph paper with  $\frac{1}{4}$ " squares
- Tacky Glue (5 oz. size that will fit snugly in your t-p tube)
- Craft knife
- Pencil, paintbrush, paper, toothpick
- Thin cardboard, cardstock, heavy brown paper bag
- Large needle, heavy thread (Brown or Tan)
- Acrylic paint (Light Gray, Brown, Gold)
- Sponge (torn in 3 or 4 pieces)
- Thin red fabric ( $\frac{3}{4}$ " x  $\frac{3}{4}$ ")
- Fine black marker, scissors, large pin

**1.** With fine marker trace over the lines of the graph paper until you have an 8" x 12" sheet. This will be "block paper." Using watered-down gray paint, sponge or brush over block paper lightly so you can see the block outlines. Save some for landscaping (in the next issue).

**2.** Stand the toilet paper tube on thin cardboard and trace around it. Cut out the circle and check the fit; it should fit inside the tube "comfortably." Mark this circle "floor pattern," and use it to make a few more cardboard circles. Cut out four circles. Glue one circle to another. Glue a second circle to another circle. You now have two sets of doubled circles. Glue one set to the back (unpainted side) of block paper. Cut paper  $\frac{1}{4}$ " larger around circle. Cut paper from outside edge to the edge of cardboard several times. Glue trimmed paper to the back of circle, smoothing the edges. Set aside.

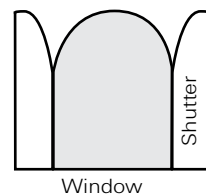


**3.** Using the window pattern, trace three windows on the tube, spacing them randomly. Trace the drawbridge "door" at bottom of tube, even with the bottom edge. Cut out all openings. Save all the cutouts.

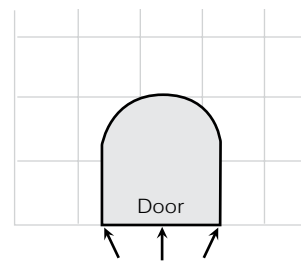
**4.** Cut a 4" x 6" piece of block paper. (Measure your tube's height and cut the paper that length plus  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to  $\frac{1}{2}$ ".) Spread glue evenly over unpainted side of paper and glue it to the tube. Smooth it as you glue, and have it extend  $\frac{1}{4}$ " at the bottom. When dry, use your finger to press around all the openings,

marking the outlines. Cut the paper  $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the inside of openings. Slit the paper to the edge of the windows and "door" (drawbridge). Cut paper diagonally to the corners. Apply glue to the wrong side of openings and press paper to the inside.

**5.** Paint the window cutouts brown. Paint both sides of the drawbridge "door." Cut the window cutouts in half vertically to create shutters. Glue to sides of windows following the diagram.

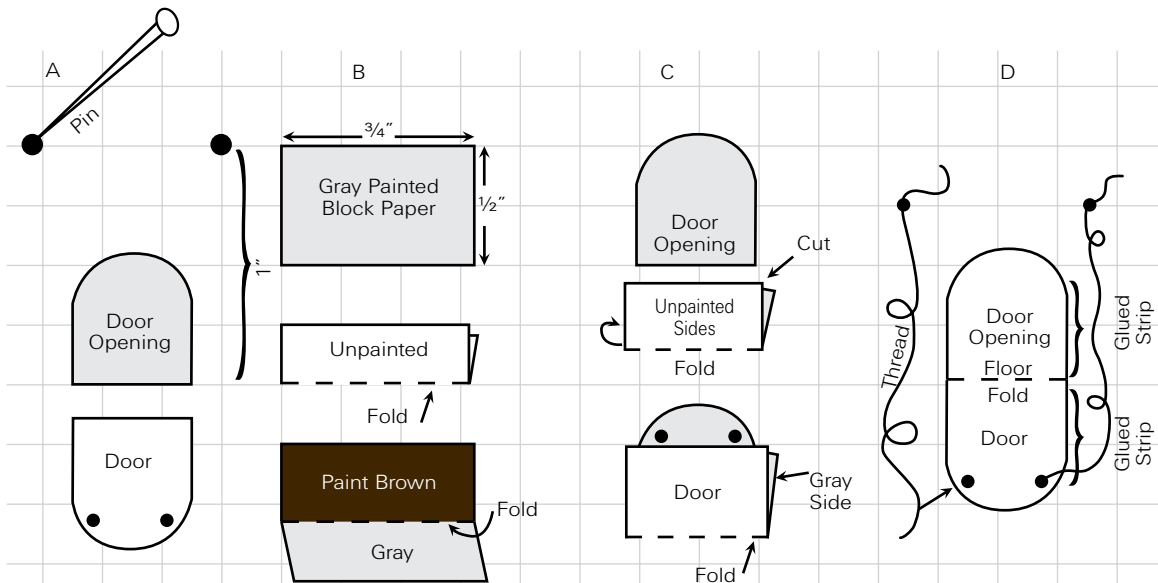


**6.** Glue the plain doubled cardboard circle from step 2 to the top, fitting it inside the tube. Glue the block paper circle to the inside bottom, having it flush with bottom edges. Cut the edge of the floor straight across the opening.

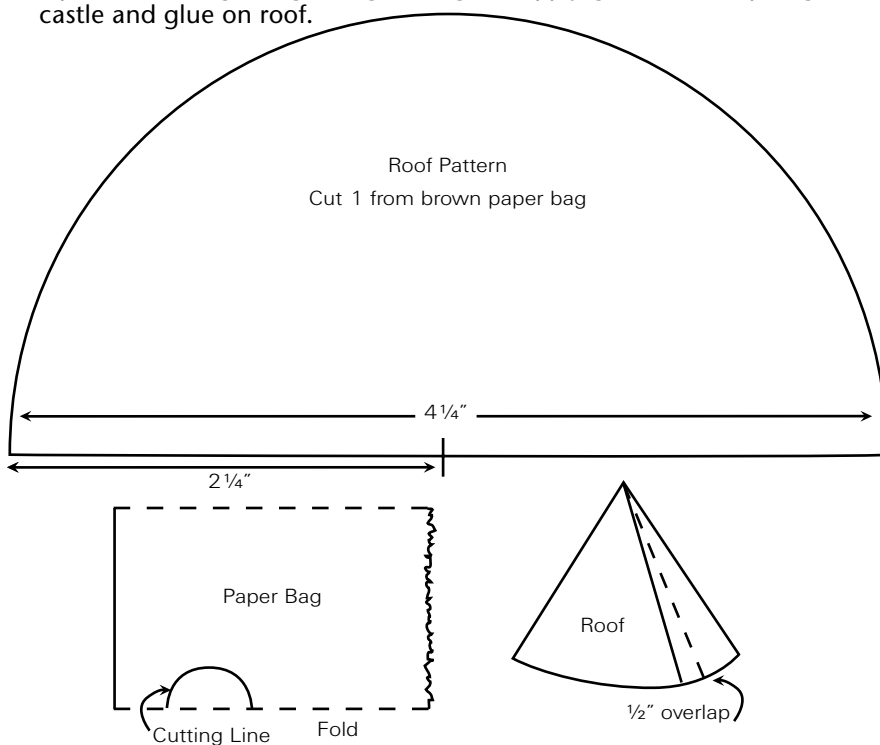


Cut floor straight across opening.

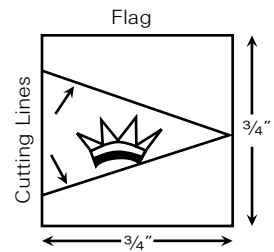
**7.** Following diagram A, make holes in the wall and door with a large pin. Cut a strip of block paper  $\frac{3}{4}$ " x  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (Fig. B). Fold the strip in half with the long unpainted sides on the outside. Open cut strip and paint one side brown. Let dry, then fold so the brown and gray colors are on the inside. Cut the folded strip slightly less than the width of the door opening. Flatten the drawbridge door and glue the brown side of the strip to the door, brown side up and having the strip fold even with the straight side of the door (Fig. C). Glue the other side to the floor, gray side up. With drawbridge door open, glue thread in the hole in the wall, then in the door (Fig. D).



**8.** Cut the roof from a heavy brown paper bag using the pattern. Lay the pattern on one side fold of the bag, following diagram. Trace around the pattern, and cut out both layers. Open and spread a thin layer of glue on half the circle. Re-fold, smoothing paper with fingers creating double thickness. While still wet, roll into a cone shape; overlap  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch along straight edge and glue. Apply glue to the top edge of castle and glue on roof.



**9.** Flag - Apply glue evenly to both sides of the red fabric. When dry, mark and cut the fabric following the diagram. Paint a strip of paper gold. Trace crown on painted paper. Cut out and glue to flag. Glue the flag to a pin, wrapping the fabric around the pin two or three times. Glue pin to the top of the roof.



**10.** Make various size turrets by making a cardstock tube then following the previous instructions to finish the turrets. ■

