

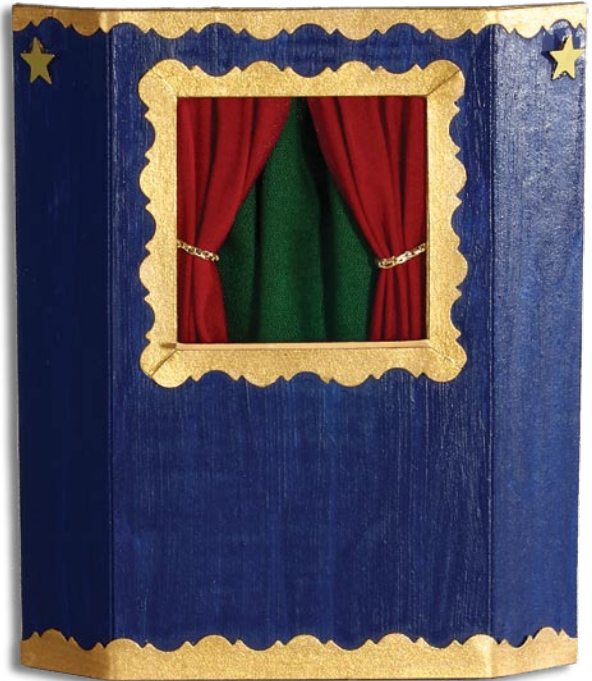
Puppet Theater

By Nancy Rhode

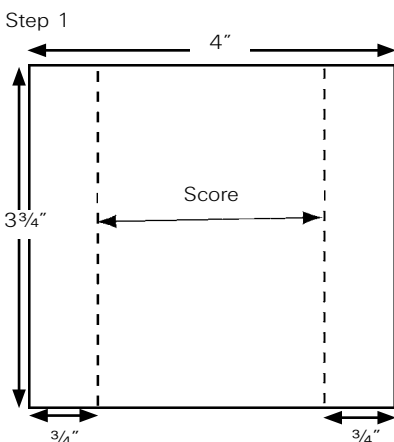
Make an old-fashioned puppet theater for the nursery in your dollhouse. Use colors and trims suggested here, or experiment with materials you find around your house.

What You'll Need:

- Stiff cardboard - 4" x 3¾"
- Ruler, pencil, craft knife, copy paper, brush, craft glue, push pin
- 1/8" dowel or wood skewer - 3" long
- Thin cotton fabric - 3½" x 6" for back curtain and 2½" x 2½" for side curtains
- Narrow ribbon or cord
- Needle and thread
- Acrylic paint - Blue, Beige and Gold
- Index card
- Decorative scissors

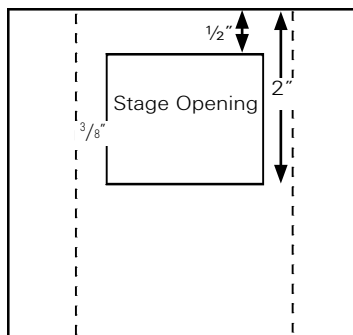


1. On cardboard, mark a line ¾" from each 3¾" side. Score with craft knife along marked line.



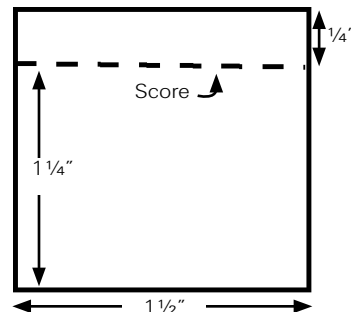
2. To make the stage opening, mark a rectangle on the center section of cardboard as follows; ½" from top edge; 3/8" from each scored line; 2" down from top edge. Cut out this rectangle.

Step 2



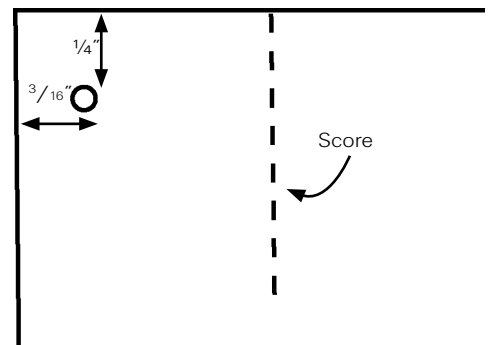
3. To make the stage floor, score a line ¼" from one edge of the square just removed for the opening. Set aside.

Step 3



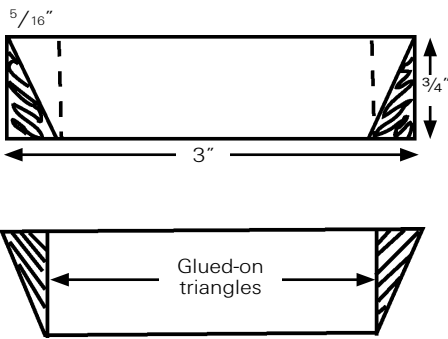
4. For the back curtain rod hole, mark a dot ¼" down from the top of each side section and 3/16" in from the back sides. Make a hole with a push pin on the dot and enlarge it so that the dowel fits snugly. Remove dowel and set aside.

Step 4



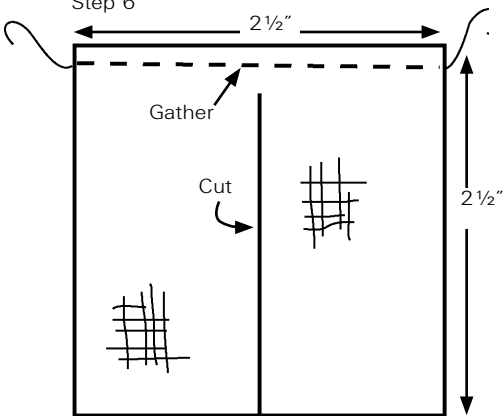
5. For the bottom support, cut a strip of cardboard $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 3". Draw a line $\frac{5}{16}$ " from each end. At one edge of the strip, draw a diagonal line connecting the outside corner to the opposite inside corner of the line you just drew. Repeat for the other end with diagonal lines going in opposite direction. Cut on each diagonal line (if you need to trim strip, cut diagonal line parallel to cut edge about $\frac{1}{16}$ " at a time). Glue cut-off triangles to slanted edges for extra support. Be sure all edges are even. Set aside.

Step 5



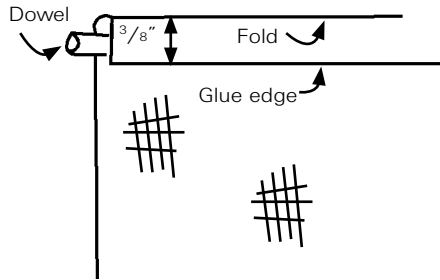
6. For side curtains, fold fabric in half and cut along fold to within $\frac{1}{4}$ " of top. Spread glue thinly along cut edges. Mark center of stage opening at top. With needle and thread gather curtain $\frac{1}{8}$ " from top edge. Pull up gathers tight. Set aside.

Step 6



7. For back curtains, fold over $\frac{3}{8}$ " of one long edge and crease. Unfold and apply glue just to edge, forming casing. Press to adhere. Set aside.

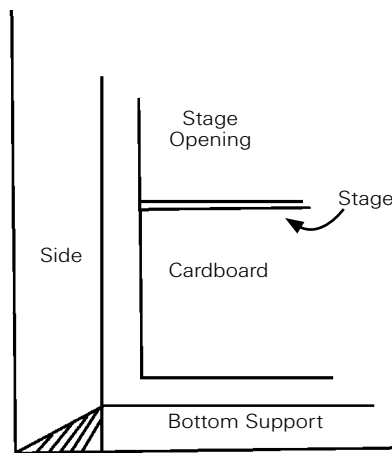
Step 7



8. Paint front of theater blue. Paint the stage floor (Step 3) beige. Decorate the outside with narrow strips of index card that is cut with decorative scissors then painted.

9. Glue stage floor to bottom edge of stage opening, having floor extending out from opening. Glue large remaining flat piece to inside of theater. Glue bottom support (Step 5) to inside of theater.

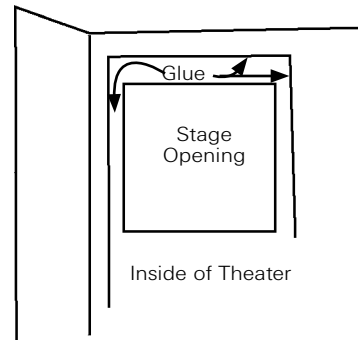
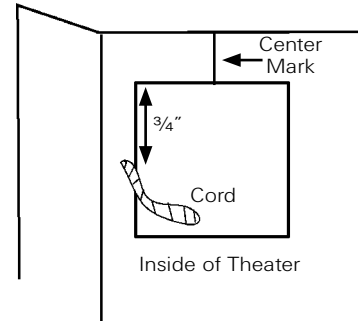
Step 9



10. For side curtains, measure $\frac{3}{4}$ " down from top of stage opening. Mark a dot $\frac{1}{8}$ " from side edge of opening. Cut 2 pieces of cord each 2" long. Glue one end of cord to each dot. Leave other end free. Run a line of glue along each side of opening close to edges, starting $\frac{1}{4}$ " from top of theater down $2\frac{1}{2}$ ", and along $\frac{1}{4}$ " from top edge. Glue center of curtain to center mark of open-

ing; then adjust gathers to fit glued area. Let dry.

Step 10



11. Open curtains and bring each cord over center of curtain. Pull cord to gather up curtain. Glue cord to end previously glued. Repeat for other side of curtain. Glue bottom edges of curtains to inside of theater.

12. For back curtain, thread dowel through casing. Glue ends of dowel to holes in theater sides (Step 4). When dry, adjust gathers. Paint ends of dowels blue.

Next month, we'll tell you how to make puppets for your theater!

