




By Dave Pierik
Shelton-Mason County Journal

-  **You will need:**
- Tools:** ruler, scissors, paint brushes. **Optional:** file
- Materials:** cardboard, clear plastic, plastic lid, bamboo skewers, masking tape, white glue, paint.
- Cost:** about \$0.50 - \$2 including paint and glue
- Time:** two to four hours or more of fun!
- Difficulty:** Intermediate

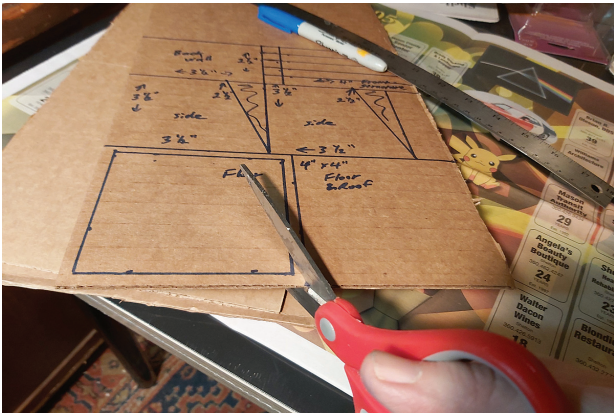
Credit Union

Happy Tree village needs a Credit Union. Let's make one!

Special Thanks to my wife Penny Wilson for the concept!



1. Measure
Clearly mark cardboard for 4"x 4" floor and roof, 3 1/2" x 2 1/2" back wall, 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" side walls. Mark slope on side walls to 2 1/2". On the floor piece, also mark a 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" square for placement later.



2. Cut
Carefully cut straight lines along your marks. It's okay to start over, mark and cut again as needed – cardboard is abundant!



3. Plastic
Cut a 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" square of clear plastic for the front wall. Test fit with the other pieces.



4. Peel
Carefully peel and rip away the top layer of the angled side pieces. Clean up excess with a file if desired. This will give you nice corrugated exterior side walls.



5. Test fit
Place the walls over the floor lines and prop together with your fingers. Adjust any pieces that do not fit correctly.



6. Glue
Glue the back and side walls only. Save the roof and front for later. Wipe away any excess glue with a paper towel. Apply masking tape to hold in place until dry, then peel off.



7. Supports
Mark 6 craft sticks at 3 1/2" lengths, and cut. You will need these for the front entrance.



8. Assembly
On a piece of cardboard, mark a 3 1/2" square. Mark a horizontal guide at 2" and vertical lines 3/4" in from the left and right, leaving a slightly wider gap in the middle. Glue sticks together, let dry and remove from cardboard.



9. Paint
Paint the outside walls, entrance bars and top of roof black, the floor brown, the inside of the back wall and bottom of the roof white and the side walls green.