

Crafty Time

Art tutorial by Dave Pierik
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News 2 Go Espresso

Happy Tree Village's (Hot Wheels) drivers swing by for coffee and a paper.

You will need:

Tools: ruler and markers, scissors, paintbrushes

Materials: cardboard (not too thin), a plastic cottage cheese container lid, masking tape, school glue, acrylic paints, a thin coffee straw, a milk pull lid, clear plastic, Hot Wheels cars. Craft letters and figures are optional.

Cost: about 75 cents worth of glue and paint. The craft letters were another \$2 at a thrift store and would have been a lot more new, so maybe \$3 total depending on how you count it.

Time: about 6 hours.



1. Plan



You can start before you think, or you can think before you start. In art, both are good and there's nothing wrong with improvising. That said, when you're inspired with an idea, write it down. Make sketches. You can create them later or change them however you like. The weakest pencil is stronger than the strongest memory. I made several sketches

2. Measure and mark



Use a ruler and marker. The square corner of a ruler gives you helpful right angles. A Hummer Hot Wheels Car measures 3" long x 1.5" wide, so we need 2" wide lanes. Espresso kiosks are about a lane wide also, so make a 6" square base divided into 3 lanes 2" wide. Mark 2 sides 3" x 4", 2 sides 2" x 3" and a roof 3" x 5".

3. Cut cardboard



Be safe and don't rush with your sharp tools. Use scissors to cut right on top of the lines you marked. Cardboard is everywhere, so if you make a mistake don't hesitate to start over. Thin cardboard from a cracker box is much easier to cut than thick corrugated box cardboard. If you want to cut door and window openings (optional) be careful and go slow with a craft knife, being careful to protect the surface underneath it.

4. Assemble and glue



Line the walls up to the marks in the middle of your base. Glue along edges and add masking tape as you go, starting from the sides and then the sides to the base to hold everything in place. Set aside to dry.

5. Remove tape



Well, remove most of it. Carefully peel off the tape where you've glued edges. If you used thick corrugated cardboard for the base like I did, put masking tape around the outside edge to tidy that up. You can paint right over it later.

6. Barrier curbs



Mark and cut a wide plastic lid (such as from a cottage cheese container) until it looks and fits the way you want it too. You'll be painting it later. That said, if you have a choice of different colored lids, pick one that is close to the color you want to make it easier for yourself.

7. Base coats



Paint the asphalt and roof black, the building any color you like (I chose light blue this time) and the barrier curbs red or orange. Because it covers everything, I usually save the black for last but looking at the photo I see I didn't do that this time. But, to quote Bob Ross, "Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good."

8. Sign letters



If you have craft letters, they pretty work well for signs. If they only come with one each of number and letter of the alphabet, you might have to rethink the kiosk name. News 2 Go was the 4th or 5th name, after Joe & News, Citizen Coffee, Java News and Hot News were considered and dismissed. Test fit for space on top of the building. Base coat letters in white.