Leaf Shadow Box

This is a nice fall project when the leaves turn golden, pick some and dry them between newspapers. Then make this project.

Materials needed:
1. Golden or red leaves, dried between newspaper.
2. Two Plexiglas® pieces, 4" x 4" (get from local hardware store).
3. 20" of ¾" x ¾" wood.
4. Eye hook, silicone glue, 2 rubber bands to hold the frame while drying.

Before the meeting:
1. Collect and dry leaves.
2. Cut Plexiglas into 2 - 4" x 4" pieces.
3. Cut a groove into wood by running it through a table saw. You will need to experiment with various blades to find one that cuts exactly the width of two pieces of Plexiglas. Cut the groove, centered, 5/16" deep.
4. Cut your grooved wood into 4 pieces: 2 - 4 5/8" long; 2 - 3 5/16" long.
5. Spray Plexiglas with furniture wax (ex. Pledge®) and wipe it off. This will help make Plexiglas more static free.

Assembly at the meeting:
1. Put a leaf between the Plexiglas panes.
2. Put a little silicone in the groove of one of the frame pieces.
3. Put the Plexiglas "sandwich" into the groove.
4. Repeat for all 4 sides (see photo).
5. Secure the frames with 2 strong rubber bands.
6. Put the eye screw in the center of the top frame.

Have the boys take their project home with the rubber bands in place and remove the rubber bands the next day.