

Napkin Holder - Craft Sticks

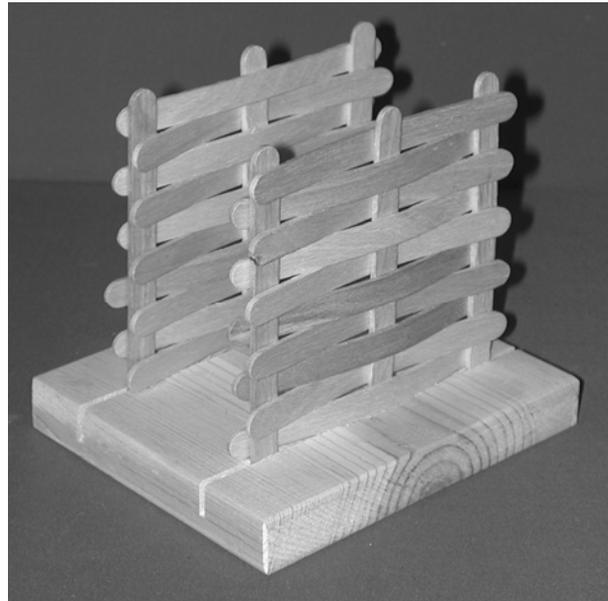
This can be a Mother's Day or Christmas project. The boys really like to work with craft sticks (Popsicle® sticks). The key to making this a nice project is the exact width of the grooves in the base, so the 3 vertical sticks sit very firmly in the grooves (and pre-gluing these sticks before the meeting).

Materials needed:

1. 4 ½" - 1 x 6 spruce/fir for base.
2. 26 craft sticks (you can purchase in boxes of 1000 at Hobby Lobby, etc.).
3. White glue, sand paper (120 -150 grit).

Before the meeting:

1. Cut the base (4 ½" - from a 1 x 6 spruce/fir).
2. Cut two grooves in base (across the wood grain, in the long dimension), 7/16" deep and 1" from the end of the base. You will need a plywood blade on a radial arm saw or a table saw. Be sure the width of the groove is exactly the dimension of a craft stick (about 1/16"). Cut a groove in some scrap and put a craft stick in the groove to be sure it fits pretty snug.
3. Sand base on sander.
4. Pick out 6 very straight craft sticks. Use white glue to glue 3 of these into each of the two grooves (see photo). Be sure the sticks are vertical.



Assembly at the meeting:

1. Sand base as desired.
2. (optional) Stain the base with brown shoe wax polish. Looks nice but takes time.
3. Boys will start by weaving a craft stick between the 3 uprights as per your model.
4. Continue until 10 craft sticks have been interwoven.
5. Use white glue to attach the top-most craft stick (otherwise, it tends to come loose).
6. Do the same for the other side, and use white glue to attach the top-most stick.
7. Be sure the boys write their name and today's date on the bottom.
8. You may want to provide brown bags for the boys to put their napkin holder in, so they can surprise their mom or keep until next week to take to the elderly in your community.

At the next meeting, you can deliver the 5 extra projects to elderly in the community. Be sure to call them on the day of the visit so they will stay up and have the porch light on. Take the boys to get some ice cream after the delivery.