

Christmas Nativity Scene - with Six Pointed Star

This Christmas nativity scene takes lots of pre-meeting preparation, but it is one of the nicest nativity sets I have seen. Make them about the first of December and deliver them the next week to elderly people in your neighborhood or at a nursing home. Have the kids sing a couple of Christmas carols. You will have a great response.

Materials needed:

1. 6 1/2" of 1" x 6" spruce/fir for upright.
2. 5" of 1" x 6" spruce/fir for base.
3. 5" of 1" x 6" spruce/fir for Joseph and Mary.
4. 1 3/4" of 3/4" dowel for baby Jesus.
5. 3" x 5" x 1/4" Masonite® for manger.
6. 3" x 4" x 1/8" Masonite® for six sided star.
7. Yellow, white & black latex (acrylic) paint.
8. Tan paint for face and hands (get a little 2 oz. bottle of acrylic paint at your local craft store).
9. Straw to put in the manger under baby Jesus.
10. Sand paper (120 grit), pencil type paintbrushes.

Before the meeting: (this is a 2-week project!)

1. Photocopy the 1X diagram and trace the outlines onto spruce using carbon paper.
2. Use a band saw (1/8" blade) to cut out the parts, 1 manger scene per boy, plus 5 extra for each club (to give away) from the spruce/fir as per figures below.
3. Sand parts on belt sander.
4. Glue 2 pieces of manger together with white glue (see diagram).
5. Use a disc sander to round one end of the 3/4" dowel for baby Jesus' head.
6. Paint rounded end (about 1/3 length) with tan acrylic paint.
7. Cut a 3" square of white cloth and wrap baby in cloth. Tape rear with clear tape. (Making the Jesus baby is pretty tricky for boys, so you had best do this before the meeting).
8. Paint entire figures of Mary and Joseph white.
9. Use a pencil to outline the place for the hands and faces on both figures, so the boys can just paint tan inside the lines.



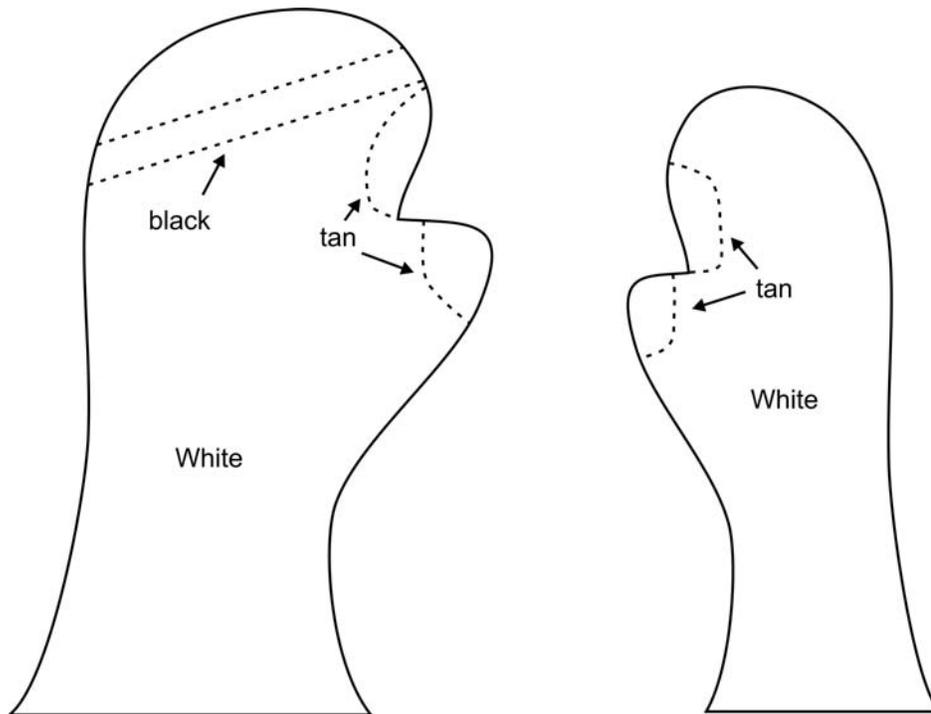
Assembly at the meeting:**Week 1:**

1. Sand all parts with sandpaper.
2. Glue straw into manger.
3. Glue upright to base and set aside.
4. Paint star with yellow latex (water soluble) paint.
5. Paint Joseph tan on face and hands, & black headband with fingernail polish(see diagram).
6. Paint Mary figure tan on face and hands (see diagram).
7. Clean up brushes with water.

Week 2:

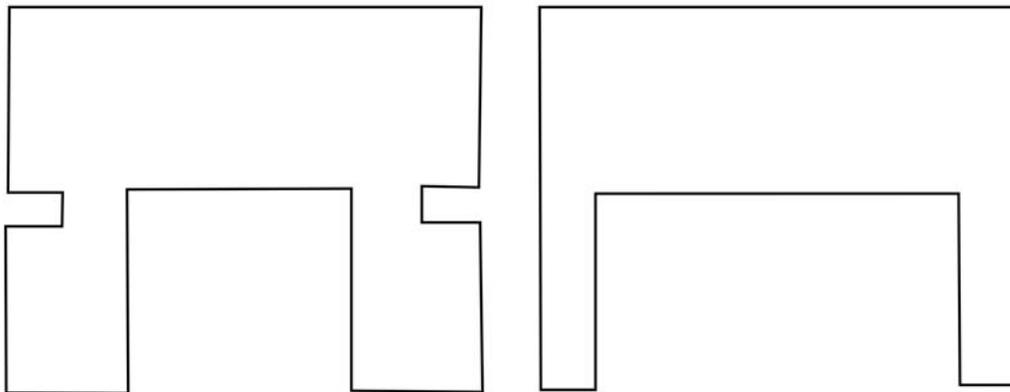
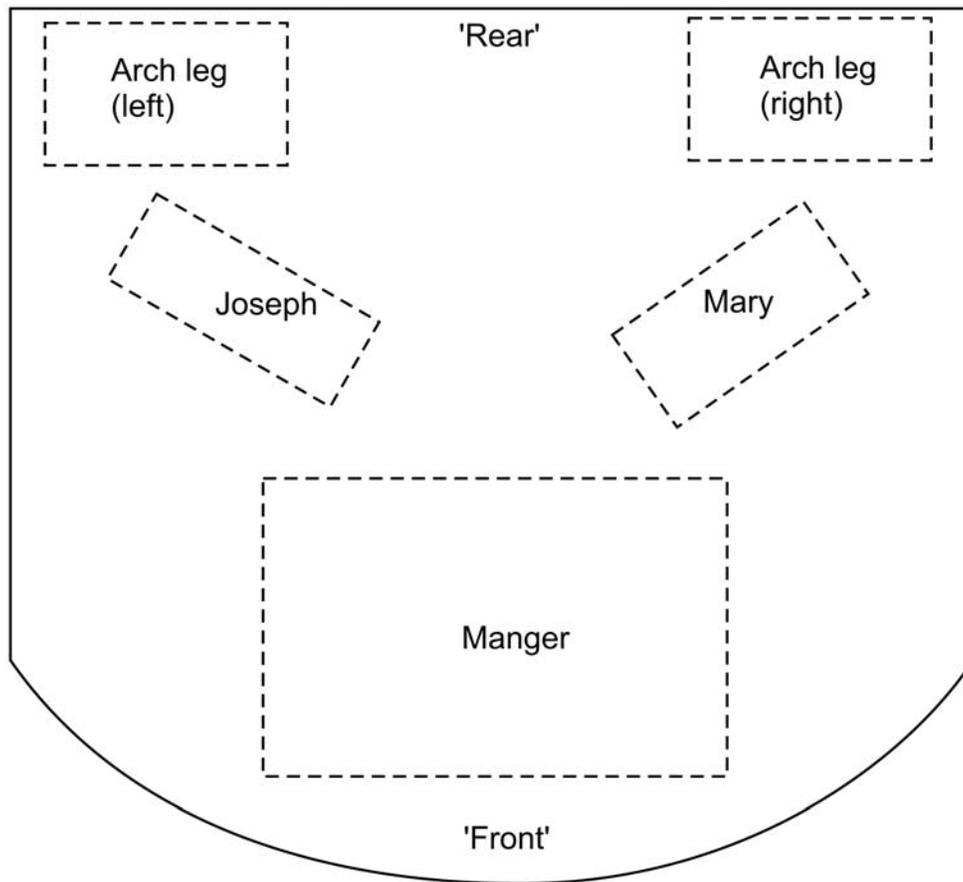
1. Glue six-sided star onto upright.
2. Glue baby Jesus into manger (on top of straw).
3. Glue manger in center of base as per photo and diagram.
4. Glue Joseph and Mary figures as per the photo and diagram.
5. Set aside to dry until next week.
6. Be sure the club builds 5 extra projects to give away.

Tip: Call the elderly persons on the day you are coming to remind them. Sometimes they go to bed early and you will be coming to a dark house. If they know you are coming, they will be ready (often with cookies for the boys).



Mary and Joseph 1X patterns, cut from 1" pine/ spruce

1X Pattern, cut from 1 x 6 spruce/ pine



Manger Parts (2)
1X Patterns
cut from 1/4" Masonite

Manger, assembled

