

MAKERS MANUAL #15

Govert Flint

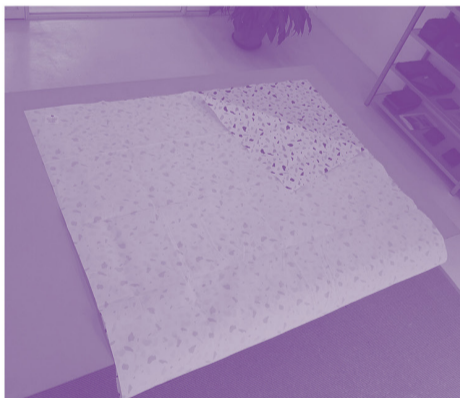


INTRODUCTION

This manual is an introduction to creating your own panel for a balloon house. The balloon house is a building technique designed to build insulated walls without being illegal. The Dutch law defines a building as something consisting of elements which can be isolated as constructive means. The balloon house is a wall made from elastics, balloons and tarpaulin. None of these elements can stay upright, making the design inconstructible, therefore not a building. Apart from the ability to extend your house with this technique, it is a fun building method to use with kids to build spaces and dividers. In case you would like to use this panel for a long time: use synthetic balloons instead of latex balloons, use hair band elastics and use plastic caps with a U-shape to replace the straws.

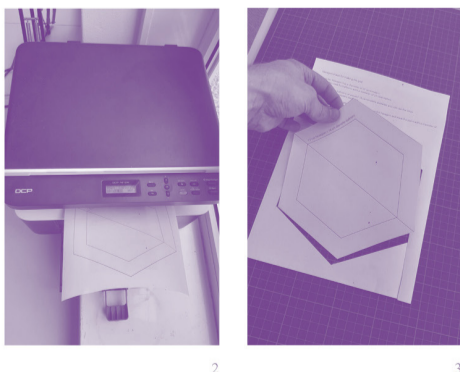
STEP 1

Fold the table cloth in two and place it inside out.



STEP 2

Print the hexagon-shape (this can be downloaded at <http://www.storeprojects.org/events/makers-manual-15-balloon-house>). In case you don't have a printer, you can make yourself a hexagon. The diameter of the hexagon should be 3 centimeters smaller than the diameter of the balloons you are using.



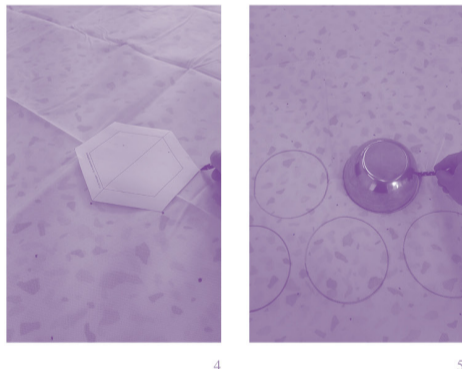
STEP 3

Cut out the hexagon to the size you need.

STEP 4

Place the hexagon on the backside of the folded cloth and mark its corners. Start with the side of the fold. Place the first row

of hexagons roughly 8 centimeters from the fold. Make a pattern marking and connecting the corners of the hexagons to cover the entire cloth.



STEP 5

Draw one circle in the center of every hexagon. Use a 10 to 15cm diameter bowl as a mould.

STEP 6

Cut the circles with either scissors or a stanley knife. To cut both sides of the cloth at the same time tape both layers of cloth together so you can make sure both layers of cloth remain in the same place.

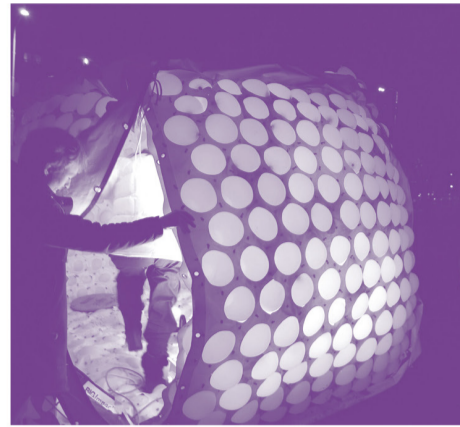


STEP 7

For every dot of each hexagon corner you must cut a small hole, large enough for making the elastic come through. Measure the elastic to determine the size of hole you will need.

LIST OF THINGS

- 50 balloons of around 25 cm diameter
- 175 Regular sized office elastics (3 times more than balloons)
- Table cloth (plastic) or banner of around 1.20 x 2.40 meters
- 60 Straws (cut in 5 parts), 300 paper clips (6 times more than balloons)
- 1 A4 paper for making a print
- Tape



LIST OF TOOLS

- Scissor or stanley knife
- Cutting board
- Food bowl or large cup of around 10 to 15 cm diameter as a mould to cut holes in the cloth
- Marker

BIO OF THE DESIGNER

Govert Flint is a Dutch designer based in Rotterdam. He has a background in architecture and graduated at Design Academy Eindhoven. Currently he works on environmental enrichment, the future of work and moving furniture. He is one of the founders of design studio Enrichers (www.enrichers.nl).

FURTHER READING

The Balloon House relates to a longer history of exploring freedom withing architecture. In the 60's European groups such as Superstudio, Archizoom, Ant Farm and Coop Himmelb(l)au explored with performances, art and pneumatic architecture how to liberate spaces from their definite character. The work Oase nr.7 from Haus-Rucker-Co in 1972 exhibited in Documenta Kassel displays an inflated 8 meters in diameter bubble mounted to a facade of a Renaissance building. Inside the building is a catwalk extended from the interior to the bubble with a palm tree at the end. (<http://architectuul.com/architect/haus-rucker-co>)

Makers Manual is a collaborative project between exciting makers and STORE STORE. Participation is free and no design background is necessary. You can share your creations using #makersmanual. We will pick our favourite submissions and publish the results in a limited printed edition of all of the manuals. Everyone who makes it into the book will receive a free copy.

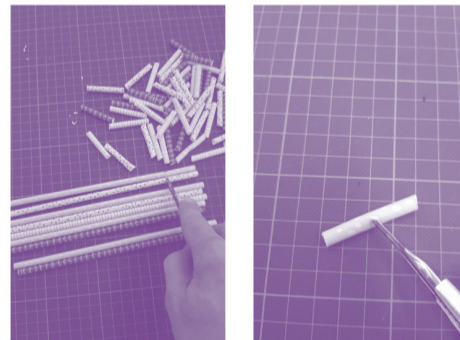
This project is supported by Coal Drops Yard.

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STEP 8

Cut 4cm lengths from the straws. Make a half an incision in the middle of every straw length.



STEP 9

Place both ends of the elastics through each opposite hole on each layer of the cloth. Fill the loop on each side with the 4cm straw to prevent the loop from sliding back through the hole of the cloth. You can fix the straw to the elastic by placing the loop at the incision.



STEP 10

Inflate a balloon in between the cloth for every circle / hexagon you have made. Make sure the elastics are placed at every corner of the hexagon before inflating the balloon.



STEP 11

All the balloons are inflated! The panel of the balloon house is finished!



STEP 12

You can place it as a wall, make more panels to constructing a pavilion or use it as a mattress. Keep building!

