

How To Make Paper Columns

Construct your own architectural columns and test out their strength.
This craft is inspired by the Greek-Revival columns at the Patapsco Female Institute.

Supplies

- 8.5 x 11" paper (preferably cardstock)
- Ruler
- Pencil or pen
- Scissors
- Tape

Instructions

1. Take your ruler and measure $1\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch from the bottom corner of the paper. Mark this spot with a pencil. Repeat this step on the opposite side of your paper. Your markings should be parallel from one another.
2. Align your ruler with your two markings, draw a straight line from the top to the bottom connecting them.
3. Carefully cut along the long line you drew with scissors.
4. Use the first strip of paper as a measuring tool for the remaining 5 strips. With your pencil, trace out 5 paper strips. It is important that all of your strips be as close as possible in size.

5. Cut out the 5 remaining paper strips.
6. Repeat this step 6 times: Take a paper strip and roll it as tightly as possible around your pencil into a column shape. Slowly slide the paper column off your pencil taking care to pack down the edges once off. Firmly hold the paper column between fingers and roll a piece of tape along the column so that it holds shape.
7. To test out your paper columns, begin by evenly arranging them into two rows of three. Find a platform that your columns can uphold like a book or small bin. After balancing your platform on top of the paper columns, gradually add weight onto the platform.



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