

Homemade Kaleidoscope

Science for kids



Materials for Homemade Kaleidoscope

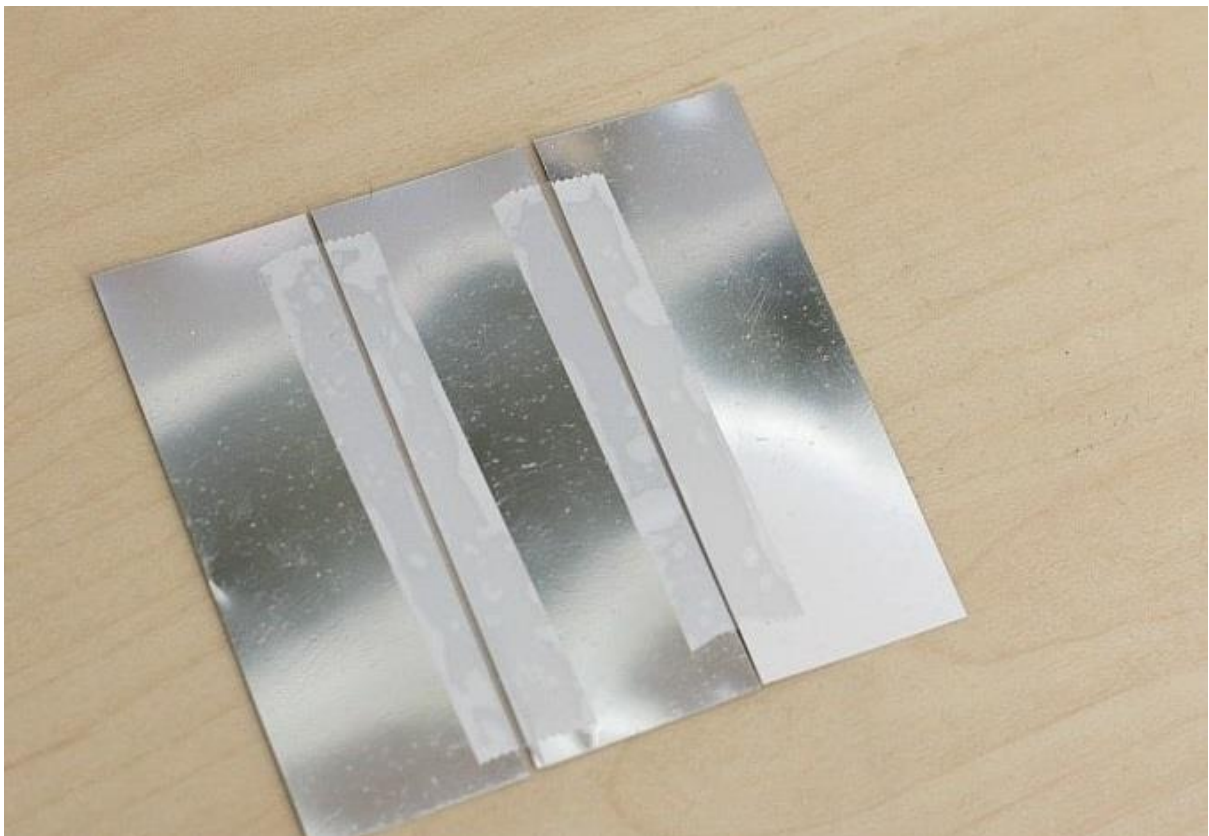
- Empty toilet paper roll
- Mirrored Sheets
- Scissors
- Tape
- White cardstock
- Bendy straw
- Markers, stickers, or other materials for decorating your spinning circle
- Optional: Paint for decorating your cardboard tube

Directions for Homemade Kaleidoscope

1. If you are planning on painting your cardboard tube, do that first. Set it aside to dry.

2. Next, you'll need to cut your mirrored sheets into three equal strips. You'll want the size to be just right so the finished kaleidoscope insert fits snugly in your cardboard tube and won't fall out. Cut your mirrored sheets into strips that measured 9.7cm x 3.5 cm.

3. Line up your mirrored strips, leave a tiny space between each one. (Place the shiniest/least scratched sides face down.) Tape them together over the spaces.



4. Fold the taped strips into a triangular prism and tape along the top to hold in place.



5. This should fit snugly inside your cardboard tube.



6. Cut off the bendy end of a **flexible straw**.



7. Tape it along the top of your tube with the flexible part of the straw hanging over the edge.

8. Cut out 3 circles from cardstock. Ours measured 3.75 inches in diameter

9. Poke a hole in the centre of your circle. (I used a sharp pencil.)



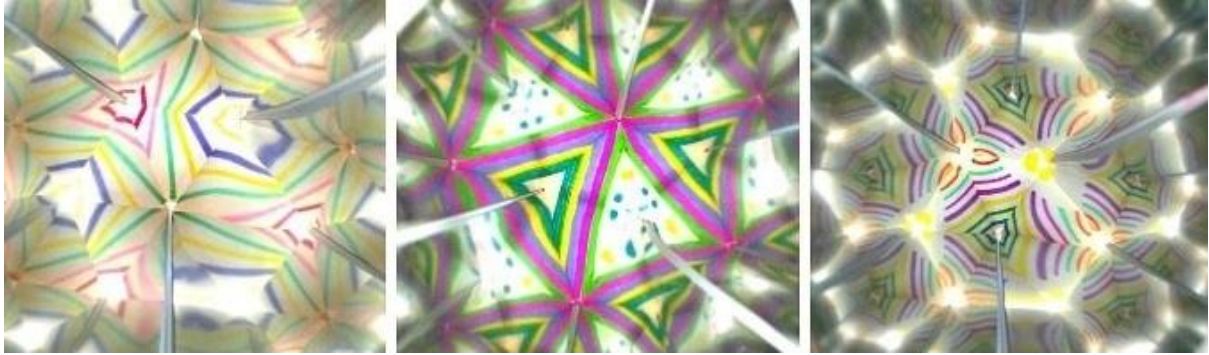
10. Decorate the circle using markers, stickers, crayons etc. Try out different designs, shapes, and letters!



11. Place the circle onto your straw with the design facing the kaleidoscope. You want the hole to fit over the flexible portion of the straw so it will turn easily.



12. Look into your kaleidoscope and explore all the reflections created by your design!



Tips

- If you have trouble getting your triangular prism to fit snugly into your cardboard tube, it will work on its own. Simply tape the straw directly on top of the prism rather than using a tube.
- Make as many cardstock circles as you want and try them all out!