

Floating Cup

Making Instructions

You will need:

- One plastic cup
- A pair of scissors
- Electrical tape
- Decorative tape
- Sticky tape
- A white paper clip
- A thumbtack
- An eraser
- A pair of pliers
- Mono filament or fishing gut
- A piece of soft cotton rope, about 30 cm long



A few tips before you start:

This is one of those cool magic tricks for kids and well worth the effort. Take your time and make it carefully for the best effect. Use a soft plastic cup for the best results. There are some tricky bits that you may need an adults help with, so have a grownup nearby. Be careful when working with the thumbtack. Take extra care when you are using the pliers.

The rope that works best for this (and loads of other very cool magic tricks for kids), is called '**magician's rope**'. It is cotton rope that have been cored. Magician's rope is available to buy on the internet from lots of different shops. Ask a grownup to help you look for it on the internet.

The 'mono filament' that is used to make this trick is often used to make jewellery and you can get it from most craft shops. You can also use lightweight fishing gut from an angling shop.

Step 1:

The first step in making the floating cup trick is to make two small holes in the top of the plastic cup, about 1cm from the rim of the cup. We have found that the best way to make a neat hole is to use a thumbtack and an eraser.

Place the thumbtack on the outside of the cup and the eraser on the inside and press the thumbtack through the cup.



Step 2:

Now do **Step 1** again, exactly opposite the first hole. This is important because if the holes aren't exactly in the middle of the cup, the finished effect will not be as successful. Ask help if you are struggling with this step.



Step 3:

You are now going to thread a length of the mono filament (about 30 cm) through the holes. You need a steady hand for this! Start on the outside of the first hole, though the inside of the opposite hole and out on the other side. Your cup should now be able to hang in mid air if you hold the two ends of the mono filament (see below).



Step 4:

Now you are going to tie the two ends of the mono filament together. You need to make sure that you tie the knot nice and tight, make it a double double knot. The thread that is now stretched across the top of the cup needs to be tight. This thread is what will be holding the rope attached to the cup. Decorate the top of the cup with some colourful tape. This disguises the mono filament and add a 'magical' touch.



Step 5

Now we are going to prepare the rope for the floating cup trick. Firstly, you need to stop the ends of the rope from fraying... This will make sure that you can use this trick again and again. The way it is done is by wrapping see-through sticky tape around the ends. See the step-by-step pictures below.

TIP:

Remember this method for any other rope tricks that you may learn and do in the future.





#1 Cut a piece of see-through sticky tape, about 5cm long.



#2 Wrap the sticky tape around the ends of the rope.



#3 Cut the frayed bits off both the ends of the rope.



#4 Now you have neat rope ends that won't fray.

Step 6

The next step is to prepare the 'hook' that will make the cup float. This is done with the paperclip that gets bent into a hook and this fits into the rope as the '**gimmick**'. You may need help from an adult with this step as it is a bit tricky and you need a pair of pliers to cut the extra bit off.



Step 7

We now need to measure where the paperclip needs to go into the rope. The way you do this, is by placing the rope inside the cup and lift it about 1.5 cm to 2 cm from the bottom of the cup and mark where it meets the mono filament on the rope with your finger. This is the place where we are going to put the 'hook' into the rope.



Step 8

Push the long end of the paperclip hook into the rope you have marked in step 6. Make sure that it is **pointing down** into the cup (inside the rope) so that the 'hook' can hook onto the mono filament.

Well done !

You are now ready to do the **floating cup trick**. Have a look at the video again for some performance tips.