

# Make A Halloween Mobile

Halloween is all about ghosts and goblins and things that fly through the night. So why not spend a few hours with a child, making a kinetic piece of artwork that will fly overhead, moving with any breeze it encounters.

This project is designed for its simplicity. With assistance, a six-year-old should easily be able to help complete one of these mobiles. You will need:

- ◆ A computer with access to the Internet
- ◆ A color printer and paper
- ◆ Sticks: These can be made from wood (such as slender, straight twigs from outside, lightweight dowels or even chopsticks), plastic (straws work well) or heavy wire (wire coat hangers). You will need two sticks 4½" long and one that is 10" long.
- ◆ Something appropriate to cut your sticks to length
- ◆ Chipboard, otherwise known as shirt cardboard
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Glue
- ◆ Double-sided adhesive tape (optional)
- ◆ Heavy thread or embroidery floss
- ◆ Large eye needle
- ◆ Small awl or other tool for punching a hole through the discs
- ◆ A thumbtack for attaching your mobile to the ceiling.

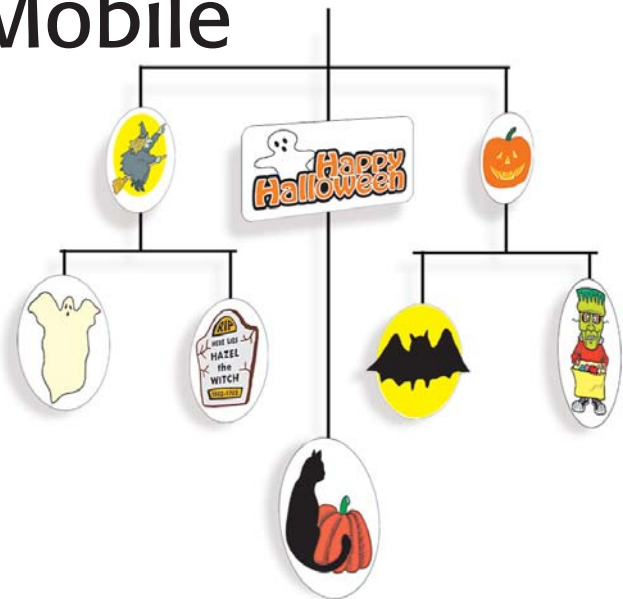
Download the artwork files from the HOMEstyle website, <http://homestyle.dailyprogress.com>, and print the out on your computer. Print two of the same images for each hanging disc, a front and a back.

Supervise your child carefully as they cut out the images along the black lines. If you wish to add a little extra weight to the discs, you can glue one set of the images to a sheet chipboard and, after it dries, cut out the mirror images. Glue the fronts of the discs to their matching backs and allow to dry. (Double-stick tape can be used instead of the glue for this part of the process.)

Plan where you wish to place each disc. Laying it flat on a table with the sticks in position is the best way. Cut lengths of thread long enough to extend from the appropriate stick to the disk with an additional length of at least six inches for tying the thread. You will cut off the excess later.

Punch a hole through the tops of each disc, centering it as well as you can. Be careful not to stab yourself. If making these with very young children, the adult should do this step. For the top middle disc (or oblong shape if using one of the word images), punch another hole at the bottom.

It is best to work from the bottom of the mobile towards the



top. Run the needle (threaded with the thread or floss) through the hole you have made in the top of the disc and tie it neatly, close to the disc. Trim off the excess thread.

With the mobile laid out on the table, wrap the thread around the end of the stick above it. You then should tie a knot tightly around the stick. Do the same for the rest of the discs, working from the bottom up.

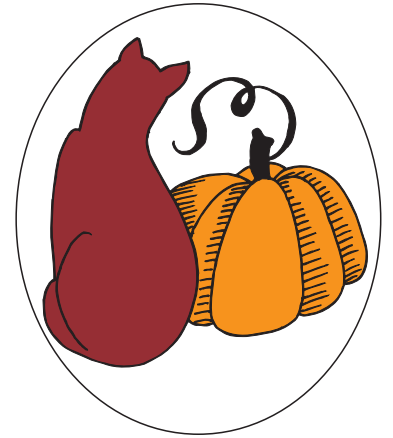
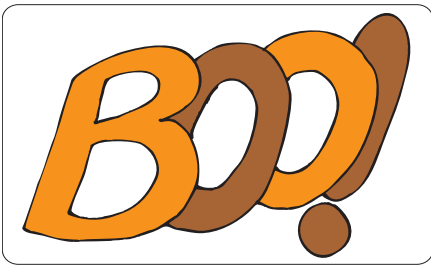
Once you have attached discs to the ends of the sticks, strung the lower center disc to the upper center disc, and then to the center of the longest stick, and have stung the middle of the two shorter sticks to the ends of the long stick, tie a piece of thread to the center of the long stick, leaving a enough thread so that you can easily hang the mobile from the ceiling using the thumbtack.

Now is the time to hold up your mobile to see how it hangs and what adjustments need to be made. This is a good job for the child while the adult slides the string along the sticks until they hang balanced. As long as the mobile moves freely, it does not need to be perfectly balanced. If you wish to shorten the string for a particular disc, simply wrap it around the stick once or twice, or until the disc hangs at a better distance.

When the mobile is balanced to your liking, put a small dab of glue where the thread meets the stick to prevent it from shifting should a stiff breeze cause your mobile to dance wildly. Trim any excess threads.

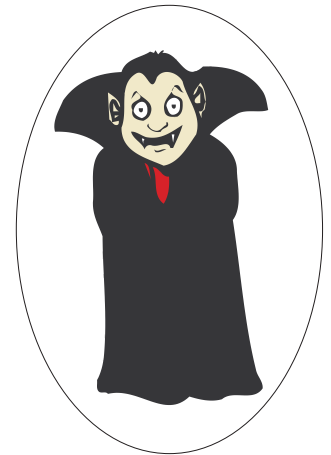
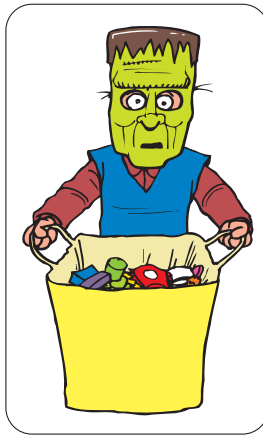
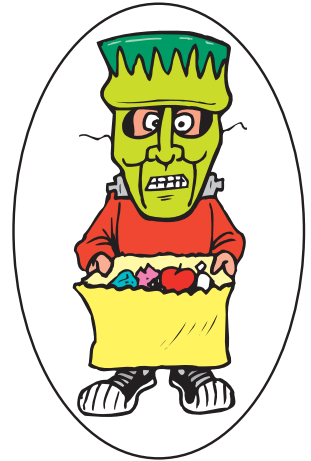
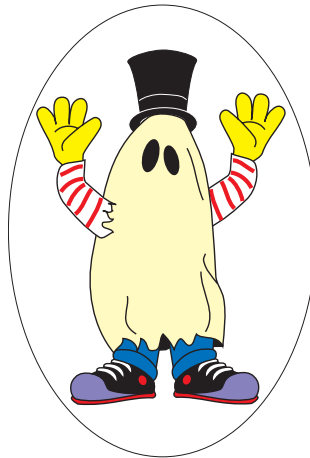
Now you are ready to hang your mobile. The choices of where to hang it is up to you—over the television where everyone will be able to see it move, or over the kitchen sink, or maybe, if you dare, over your bed.

May the ghosts and goblins of Halloween keep an eye on you this All Hallows Eve. *Boo!*



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