

Red Cup Proxe Materials and Instructions

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These directions are for one Proxe set-up including a tent, black sheets, red cup borders, and hanging artwork. The total cost of putting one of these Proxes together is about \$350-\$400.

Materials:

- 10' x 10' Sierra II EZ-UP Canopy (approximately \$100, but lately Big 5 Sporting Goods has had them on sale for \$80)
- 128 Red Solo cups (I used the Wal-Mart brand - they were \$4.98 for a pack of 100. I suggest getting more for construction waste and repairs.)
- 50' of 1/8" Shock Cord (normally used for repairing tent poles - \$4.69 at Sportsman's Warehouse for 45 feet- can also be purchased at REI or EMS by the foot)
- 6-8 bottles of Super Glue (\$.97 cents for a 4-pack at Wal-Mart - found in the Hardware section. However, I found the more expensive Scott Brand at Walgreen's to be a better quality glue and faster to work with - it cost about \$4 for 2 bottles)
- 4 Flat Twin Black Sheets from Wal-Mart 66 x 96 (\$5 - found in the Housewares section)
- Grommet Kit from Wal-Mart (\$4.88 - contains 20 grommets - found in the camping section. For about the same price, you can buy a grommet kit from Sportsman's Warehouse that is a bit better quality)
- 16 Mini bungee cords from Wal-Mart (approximately \$5 for a pack of 20)
- 1 16d (16 penny) nail to punch holes in the cups OR a drill with a 3/16" bit
- 10lb Fishing line (700 yards can be purchased for \$2.50 at Wal-mart)
- Velcro squares with sticky backs (Black... a package of four sets of velcro strips 3" x 2" can be purchased for approximately \$5; These can be cut into 24 - 1 inch square sets... enough for eight Proxe boards. You will also need some extra for the Velcro stripping on the back of the Proxe boards.)
- 8 Black Foam Boards 32" x 40" from Hobby Lobby (\$9 a piece)
- 4 Cord Locks (\$.58 cents for a box of 4 at Wal-Mart - found in the camping section)
- 8 mini carabiners (\$2 for 2 at Sportsman's Warehouse. They are also available at Wal-Mart but are more expensive)
- 8 Art Posters from 2100 Productions (\$15-\$30 apiece depending on size; you will need 2 'Four Red Cups' Panels, 2 'Collage' Panels, 2 'Jesus Quote' Panels, and 2 'Four Circles' Panels)
- 2 red plastic tubs for drinks; available at Sam's club for \$10 per pair or approximately \$5 apiece at Wal-Mart
- 1 12" bamboo shish-kebab skewer (you will probably need to buy a whole

package at a local Grocery store)
Packaging tape
Tape measure or ruler
4 sandbags (usually available for free at local fire stations)
Dirt or sand (to fill the sandbags)
String (to attach the sandbags to the tent)

Construction Instructions:



Step 1: Put grommets in the black sheets

You will need to put a grommet in each corner of each of the four sheets. Follow the directions on the grommet kit. It takes about 6 minutes to do 4 grommets. It will take approximately 30 minutes to do all 4 sheets.

Note about putting in the grommets:

One end of the flat sheet already has large doubled-over end. You do not need to fold that to put in a grommet. However, you will need to fold over the opposite end or else the grommet will rip the fabric because the fabric will not be thick enough. Just fold the fabric over enough (about 1 ¼") to give room for the grommet.

Step 2: Punch holes in all the red solo cups

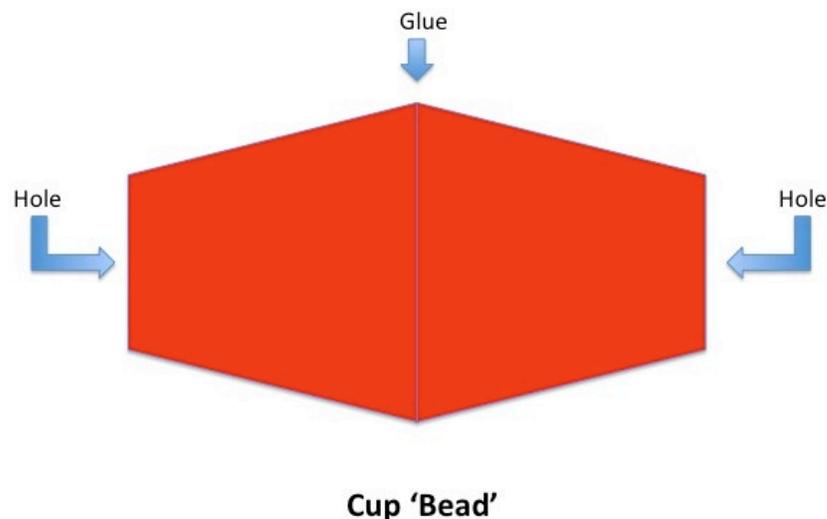
NOTE: Putting together the red cup strands to outline the tent takes about 3-4 hours for one person to complete start to finish.

Take two red cups (one inside each other) and place them mouth down on a hard

surface. Using the 16d nail (or a drill with a 3/16" bit) punch or drill through the center of the bottom of the cups. There is usually a recycle symbol on the bottom. The apex of the symbol is about centered and you can use that as a guide. Punch holes in a similar fashion in all of the cups (this is an easy job that students can help with!)

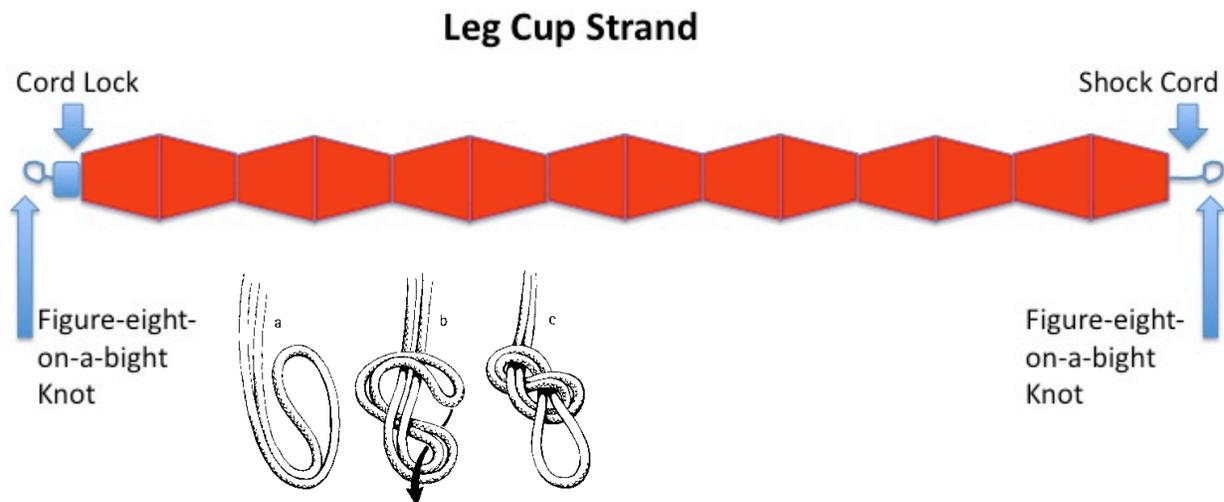
Step 3: Glue the cups together in pairs

Separate the cups. Using super glue, put a bead of glue around the mouth of one of the cups in each pair. Align the mouths of both the cups, press together, and hold for about 30 seconds. Lay aside and glue all of the cups together in a similar fashion. Once the cups are dried, they will look like a giant red bead with holes in each end. Glue all of the cup doublets together in the same fashion. This is the most labor and time intensive portion of the Proxe construction. Having students help with the glueing can significantly reduce the amount of time spent.



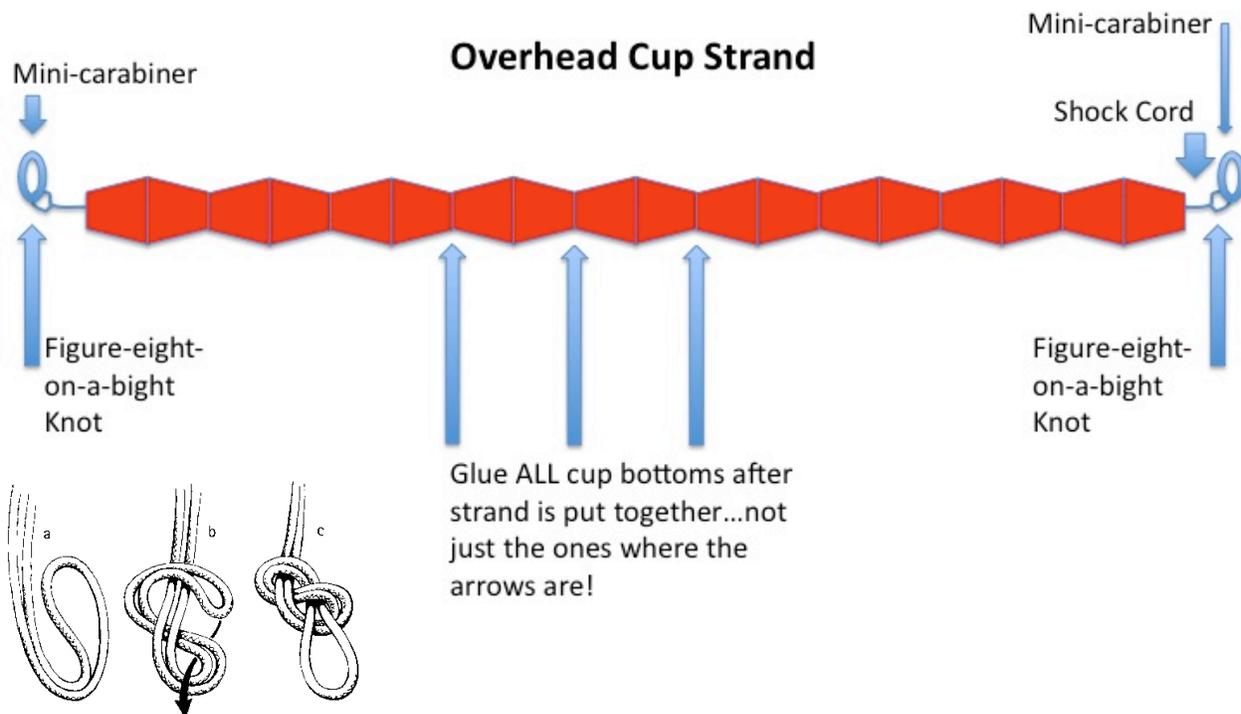
Step 4: Create the leg cup strands

A leg cup strand requires 7 'beads' of cups. Taking the long strand of shock cord, tie a figure-eight-on-a-bight knot in one end. Take the shish-kebab skewer and tape the skewer to the opposite end of the shock cord, in effect creating a giant sewing needle and thread. String 7 'beads' of cups onto the shock cord. Next, take 1 cord lock and string it on after the cup 'beads'. The shock cord is stretchy, so pull the shock cord through the cups to make it pretty tight. Use the cord lock to lock it off. Tie another figure-eight-on-a-bight knot and cut the cord so that you have one complete leg strand. Repeat for the other 3.



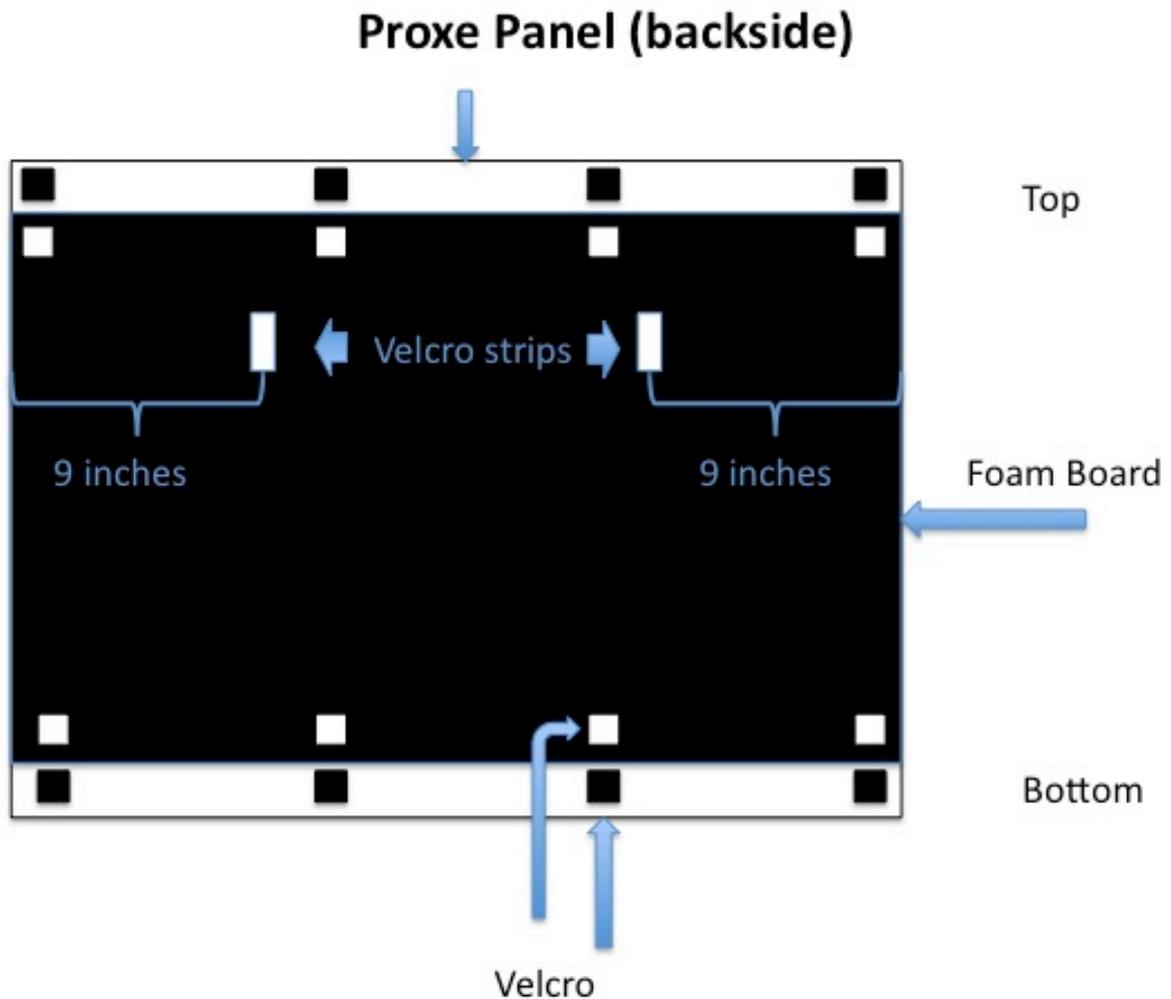
Step 5: Create the overhead cup strands

The overhead cup strands require 9 'beads' of cups. Follow the directions for the leg strands, except add 9 'beads' of cups, and DO NOT use cord locks. Instead pull the cord tight and stand on the end with your foot so that you can tie the knot. Then allow the knots to hold the cups together. Once the overhead cup strand is complete, you will need to separate the cups beads, put super glue around each bottom and gently hold together so that all the bottoms are also glued together. The whole overhead strand will ultimately be glued together and rigid. For transportation, these need to be handled with care, but not overly so. They are fragile, but not too much. The glue is actually stronger than the cups, and you just want to make sure you do not crush any of the cups. Finally, attach a mini-carabiner to each loop on the end of the strand.



Step 6: Wrap the Proxe Panels onto the black foam boards

Lay the panel onto a flat table face down. Lay the black foam board on top of it. Line up the side edges. Make sure the top and bottom overlap about 2 inches each. Using squares of Velcro, attach 4 pieces of Velcro to the top and bottom of the panel and also to the board. Wrap the panel pieces around so that the Velcro makes contact and the panel is tightly stretched. If the panel is not stretched enough, just undo the Velcro and move the panel enough to stretch it tight. Repeat for the other 7 panels.



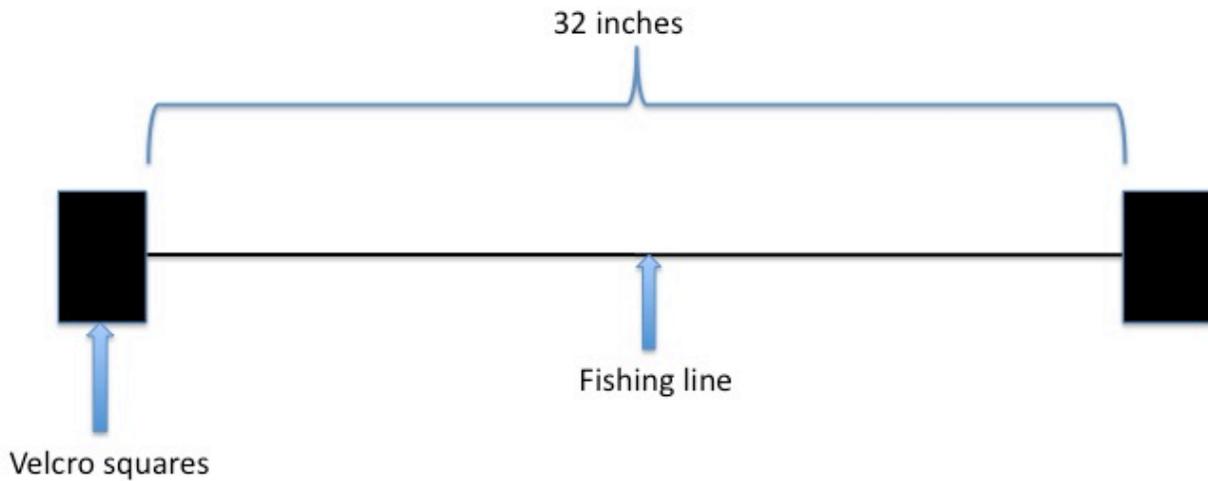
Step 7: Add Velcro strips onto the back of the foam board

Measure 9" in from either side and add a Velcro strip on the foam board back just below the folded panel. Do an inch strip of hook on one side and an inch strip of loop on the other (the prickly and fuzzy parts of the Velcro).

Step 8: Create the panel hangers

The hangers are a strand of fishing line bookended with Velcro. Cut 24 strands of fishing line 56" long. Place a hook side Velcro face down and put the fishing line on the sticky side with a 12" overlap on one side. Using the 12" overlap, wrap the fishing line around the velcro twice and then secure by sticking the sticky side of a loop side Velcro onto the back of the previous Velcro. The fishing line can then be tied to itself with 2 square knots for security. Measure 32" from the first Velcro end. Repeat the same procedure on the other end. When you are finished you will have a fishing line 32" long with Velcro squares at either end.

Panel Hangers



Assembly Instructions:

Step 1: Put up the tent

Follow the tent's directions for set-up.

Step 2: Hang the black sheets

Peel the canopy of the tent up to expose the Velcro of the tent. Wrap a mini-bungee once around the outside frame and use both hooks of the bungee to come around the front of the corner leg and hook onto the grommet of the black sheet. Repeat for the other side. If done correctly, the sheet will be taught. Using mini-bungees, attach the bottom grommets to holes that are located in the bottom of the legs.

Step 3: Attach the leg cup strands

Holding the leg strands so that the cord lock is on the bottom, hook the loop in the top onto one of the hooks of the mini-bungee holding the black sheet in the corner. Hook the bottom loop of the strand into the mini-bungee hook that is secured into the hole of the leg. Use the cord lock to move the cups upward so that they are cinched together.

Step 4: Hang the panels

String the fishing line and Velcro hangers through the pivot points of the tent on each side. There are 2 sides. Using the Velcro, attach the panels to the hangers. Because

there are strips on each panel back, the Velcro can be adjusted up or down in order to make sure the panels are even with one another.

Step 5: Hang the overhead cup strands

Using the mini-carabiners on each end, simply clip the carabiners to the top of the black sheet on each end. Fold down the canopy of the tent to cover the shock cord and the Velcro on the tent legs.

Step 6: Tie sandbags to each leg

If you live in a windy area, the tent needs the sandbags. Simply tie a sandbag on each leg to ensure that the tent stays put.

Step 7: Put the red bins with ice and drinks at 2 of the corners.

Step 8: Talk to people about Jesus!

Field Repairs:

Inevitably, something goes wrong with the Proxe when you are on campus. It is helpful to know how to do field repairs just in case.

Field repair kit: extra red cups, super glue, packaging tape, 16penny nail, extra shock cord, 12" shish-kebab skewer, grommet kit, scissors, knife, extra Velcro, extra fishing line.

Repairing a leg cup strand: If a cup bead fails or breaks, just create a new cup bead using the materials in your field repair kit. Untie one end of the strand, remove the offending cup bead and restring using the new cup bead. The whole process should only take a couple of minutes at the most.

Repairing an overhead cup strand: These are more complicated due to the fact that the bottoms are glued together. If the glue comes undone, simply re-glue. If one of the cups gets crushed or broken, the simplest and most straightforward method is to wrap a new cup around the offending cup. Take a red cup and cut the bottom out. Cut a slit down the side and wrap the new cup around the old one. Secure using packaging tape. The result will provide enough strength to see you through the rest of the Proxe.

Repairing a sheet: You will just have to improvise a bit and put in a new grommet if one pulls out.

Repairing a fishing line hanger: The easiest and simplest method is to make a few extra hangers in advance just in case one breaks.

In Case of Wind:

In case of wind, you will need to secure the panels to the sheets. Attach Velcro to the panel bottom and to the sheet behind it. Attach the two together.