


Thermal curtain - prototype 2



https://wiki.lowtechlab.org/wiki/Rideau_thermique_-_prototype_2/en

Dernière modification le 10/02/2026

 Difficulty Easy

 Duration 4 hour(s)

 Cost 1 EUR (€)

Description

A prototype for making a thermal curtain using milk cartons, which is mainly made up of: -75% cardboard -21% polyethylene (plastic). -4% aluminium.

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Comments

Introduction

To create the Thermal Curtain, we have chosen materials with the following properties:

- Limits incoming draughts
- Inert, non-toxic, tear-proof material.
- Thermal insulation.
- Good aesthetic level.
- economic.

The milk carton contains these materials:

- Polyethylene: (Plastic)
 - can catch fire at 260°C
 - Non-toxic and tear-proof
 - chemically inert material (does not react in any chemical or biological way)
- Aluminium:
 - thermal insulation.
- Cardboard and plastic limit wind currents; fewer pores than fabric.

What's more, milk cartons are economical and we recycle.

Fabric has been added for aesthetic appeal and to improve heat retention.

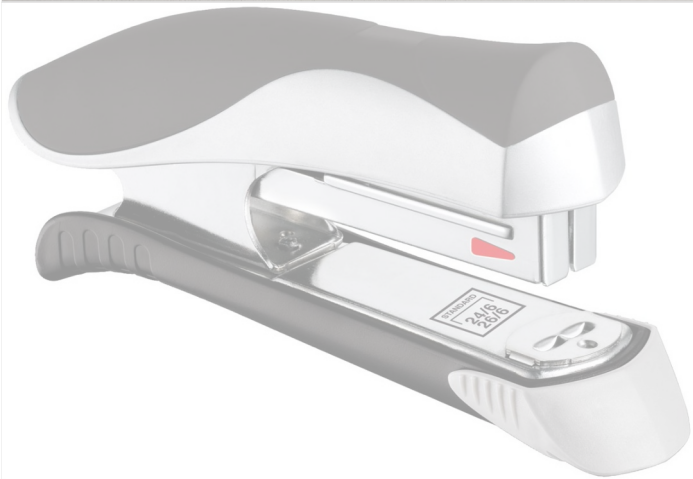


Materials

- Milk bricks (you need more than 5 bricks to make an average curtain).
- Fabric (more usable clothes...).

Tools

- Thread and needle or sewing machine.
- scissors and stapler
- tape





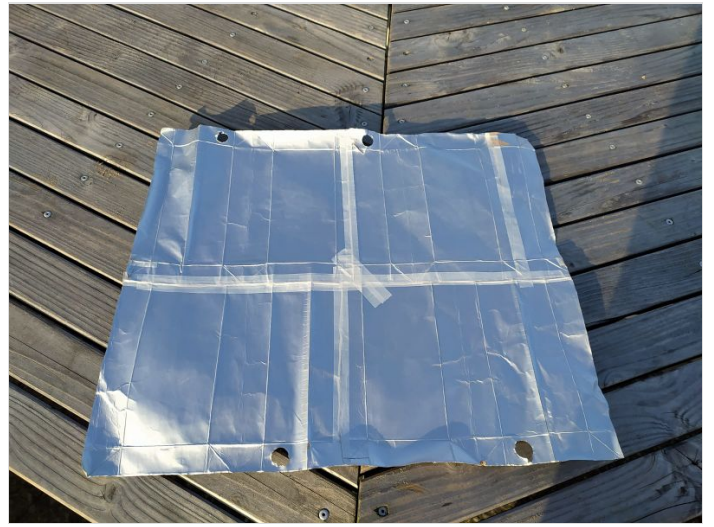
Step 1 - Preparation of Milk carton

- Clean the remaining milk cartons thoroughly.
- Flatten the bricks so that there are no creases.
- Cut the brick as shown in the photo.
- Remove the outer layer of the brick so that a little cardboard remains (be careful not to tear the brick).



Step 2 - Grouping together the different cartons

- Attach the different cartons (using scotch tape).
- Staple any parts that don't fit properly.



Step 3 - Adding fabric

You can add clothes to be thrown away or torn fabrics.

- For aesthetics, you can add a decorative fabric to wrap the bricks and also to increase efficiency.



Step 4 - Addition of wire for closure

- To finish, pass a thread over the curtain to close and open it.
- Use the thread to make a knot on one side and pull on the other to close.

