

# COILED NEWSPAPER TRIVETS

This fun, hands-on activity yields a beautiful and functional result. Feel free to use pages that include color for a more vibrant trivet.

## MATERIALS

4 full sheets of newspaper

Glue

Sewing needle

String

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut eight half-sheets of newspaper in half, so that you have 16 strips of newspaper, each about 6" wide.
2. Fold each strip in thirds lengthwise. Then fold each strip in thirds lengthwise again and glue in place.

**Tip:** Try folding first to get the creases straight, then unfold, apply glue, and press together. Using a fingernail to make your creases sharp at this step will make the final fold easier.

3. Repeat the folding in thirds and gluing one more time, so that you have long strips of folded newspaper about 1/4" wide.
4. Starting with the inside end, add a dab of glue before pinching an inch or so and rolling it up tightly. It's important for the first rolled-over piece to be as small as possible, or you will end up with a rectangular unit instead of a square when you're finished.
5. Glue the next 6" or so and keep rolling until you get to an unglued portion. Repeat gluing and rolling until you reach the end of the strip.

**Tip:** As you roll, do your best to make regular square corners. The sooner you get it square the easier it will be to keep it that way until the whole strip is rolled. Perfect corners are not as important as straight sides.



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6. Assemble all 16 squares in the same manner, and set aside until the glue is completely dry and the squares are dry, several hours at least.
7. To sew your squares together, you'll need 6" long pieces of string. Cut them a little longer if you like to have extra to work with when tying knots.
8. Thread the needle; no knotting is needed. Push it through the edge of one square, between the two outermost layers of the paper roll and at the center of one side of the square. Pull it through so that you have an inch or two of string left hanging out the opposite side of the square.
9. Then push the needle back down through the edge of the next square. Turn the two squares upside down and remove the needle. Now you have two loose ends of string coming out of two adjacent squares. Pull them tight together and tie a simple overhand knot.
10. Repeat steps 8 and 9 to connect the rest of the paper coils together. Make sure you keep the knots consistently on one side of the squares, so that you end up with a smooth front side.



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