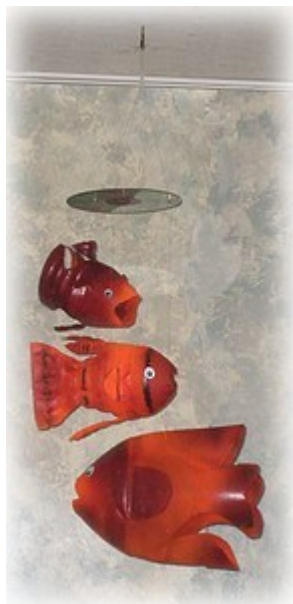


Recycled Bottle Fish Mobile



Make a decorative mobile from empty plastic bottles.



Supplies:

- plastic bottle for each fish
- discarded CD or DVD
- fishing line
- serrated knife
- scissors
- spray paint in two colours, one light, one dark
- plastic, movable craft eyes
- craft glue
- permanent marker

Instructions:

1. Preparing the CD:

Glue paper onto one side of CD. Spray paint or decorate the papered side of the CD and set the CD aside.

Note: if you don't have a CD handy, you could also suspend the fish from a plastic lid, a brass ring of suitable size, or even an interesting piece of driftwood.

2. Preparing the Bottle:

Remove the paper wrapping or plastic sleeve wrapping from a clean and dry plastic bottle. Set the bottle on its side and, using a serrated knife, cut off the neck of the bottle.

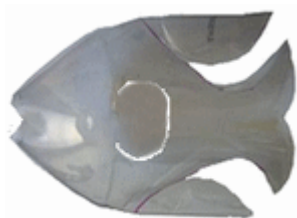
You also need to remove the bottom of the bottle. Use the serrated knife to start the cut, then continue with scissors.



Collapse and flatten the bottom part of the bottle, below the cone-shaped top. If the bottle is ridged, this might crinkle the plastic a bit, but you don't need to worry as this only adds some interesting texture to the finished fish.

3. Cutting Out the Fish Shape:

Draw the basic fish shape onto one side, outlining where you will cut around the gills, the top and



bottom fins and the tail. A good basic shape is shown here.

Hold the bottom of the bottle tightly with your fingers, so that both sides are immovable. If you find it helpful, you could staple or tape the bottom edge to temporarily secure it.

Cut out the curves of the top and bottom fins, going through both sides of the bottle. If you want to change the shape of the fins, you can trim them back later.

Shape the edge of the tail, cutting through both sides, to design. A shallow, curving "V" cut, or a simple straight cut, most fish.



suit your fish
is suitable for

Cut a small, sharper "V" cut on either side of the mouth.

The gills must be cut out separately. Use your fingers to open out the fish to the original round bottle shape, then carefully cut a "U" shaped gill on each side. Bend both gills outwards, so they stand away from the fish body a little bit.

4. Painting the Bottle Fish:

Follow the general directions and cautions on the paint can label to spray paint your fish; for instance, you'll want to work outside, or in a well-ventilated area. First, suspend the fish body in some fashion. We upended ours over the mouth of an empty glass bottle. Hold the spray paint about 25 cm away, then spray the fish all over with the lighter colour of spray paint. The paint will dry in about five minutes, but you may need more than one coat for adequate coverage. It is best to apply multiple thin coats, rather than one thick coat of paint, to avoid runs and streaking.

When the first colour is dry, add complementary markings with a darker colour of spray paint. This might include spraying the tail, the gills, and part of the face area, or another combination of highlights.

Be creative, and aim for a different look for each fish.

Let the paint dry, then
"goggle" eyes on either

glue on the plastic,
side of the face.

If desired, add straight or wavy stripes, or scale marks, with permanent marker.



5. Assemble the Fish Mobile:

Make three plastic bottle fish to suspend from the mobile. For each fish, cut a length of fishing line. Place a noose knot on the end of the fishing line and secure it around the top fin of the fish. Thread the other end through the hole on the CD, over the edge, back under, and through the hole again.

Repeat for all three fish, varying the lengths of fish line so the fish are arranged as a pleasing trio. Knot all three fishing lines together at the top and cut off any excess line.

6. Hang the Mobile:

Suspend your plastic bottle fish mobile where it can be enjoyed for its colours, the fish shapes, and its recycling ingenuity!

