

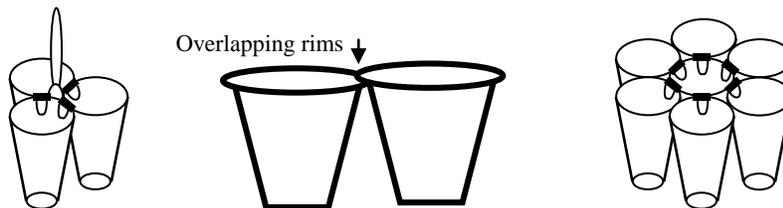
A RAFT How To

Materials List for each

- ✓ 3 to 7 round mouth cups or containers, best if clear
- ✓ 3 to 6 binder clips, small size
- ✓ Spoon, plastic
- ✓ To make a handle cording or a FAT size straw and wooden coffee sticks 5-1/2" long will be needed
- ✓ Strapping tape or adhesive Velcro might be needed to make a more secure connection between the cups

Maker Totes

Quick-to-make holders for various learning materials



Using binder clips allow cups, or other containers, to be quickly attached to each other to form multiple section totes or holders for different materials. While the holders will not nest they can be designed to stack 2 or 3 high.

Assembly

1. Place 2 cups so that the rim of one rests on top of the other cup's rim, see above.
2. Press the handles of a small binder clip together to open the binder clip and place over the location of the overlapping rims.
3. Place a third cup so the rim touches the rims of the other two cups. Place the rim of the third cup under the rim of the cup that overlaps the other cup. Add a small binder clip as in step 2.
4. Position the third cup's rim over the rim of the unconnected cup and add a binder clip. Note by having a cup's rims alternate being over one cup then under the other cup rim will give the cups a slight twist and a more stable base.
5. For three cups arrangements a spoon's handle can be inserted into the gap between the 3 cups starting from the bottom of the cups. Pull the handle up through the gap until the bowl part of the spoon snaps into place against the side of a cup as shown above to the left.
6. For a 7 cup holder continue connecting cups around one central cup as shown above to the right. For shorter cups the slanted sides will tilt the cups outward in a sort of flower petal arrangement. The slant will make the taking out of smaller items easier.
7. To make a handle cut a section of cording or yarn and tied into a loop. Position one side of the loop under two opposite binder clips, unclipping and clipping the binder clips as needed.
8. Alternately a handle can be created by inserting a FAT sized straw into the 4 binder clip handles of two binder clips on opposite sides of the central cup. Cut the straw just past the outer handles. Insert one or two 5-1/2" long wooden coffee stirrers into the straw to make the handle more rigid.
9. Fold the binder clip handles that are free to move down into the attached cups.

Note the cups could also be positioned in two rows of three and connected together.

There are lots of other possible arrangements using this system so explore!

To Do and Notice

Binder clips can vary in holding power and sometimes additional materials will be needed to create a more secure connection between the cups. This will be especially true if the cups are filled with heavier items or subjected to rough handling.

- The binder clip handles that are folded down against the cup sides can be taped to the inside of the cup using packing tape to provide a more secure connection.
- Alternately before the binder clip is put over the overlapping cup rims fold a 1 inch section of adhesive Velcro, or equal, over the overlapping cup rims. The binder clip can then be clipped over the Velcro. The Velcro will help keep the binder clip from slipping up and off the sides of the cups.