

British Dragonfly Society Education

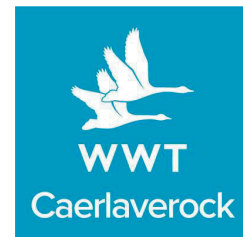


How to make a willow dragonfly lantern

Equipment

- Willow (soaked in water for 24 hours before)
- Masking tape
- Tissue paper
- Clingfilm
- Cellophane (coloured and clear)
- Sponge
- PVA glue
- Tubs of water
- Cane with wire wrapped tightly around one end
- Cable ties
- Scissors
- Tape measures
- Secateurs
- Balloon lights/torches/tea lights
- Wire

With thanks to:



Activity

Body

1. Make 12 circles from willow, tying the ends together with masking tape:

Number of circles	Diameter	Body Area
4	15cm	Thorax/ head
7	8cm	Abdomen/ eyes
1	6cm	Abdomen



2. Take two 15cm circles, put one inside the other at right angles and tape together. This is the head.

3. Take two 8cm circles, put one inside the other at right angles and tape together. Repeat this with two more circles. These are the eyes.



Picture credits:Top: Frédéric Barszezak,Neil Phillips, Pam Taylor, Mark Tyrell, Mark Tyrell.

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4. Lay out the circles on the table in the correct order:

Abdomen (8cm)

Abdomen (8cm)

Abdomen (8cm)

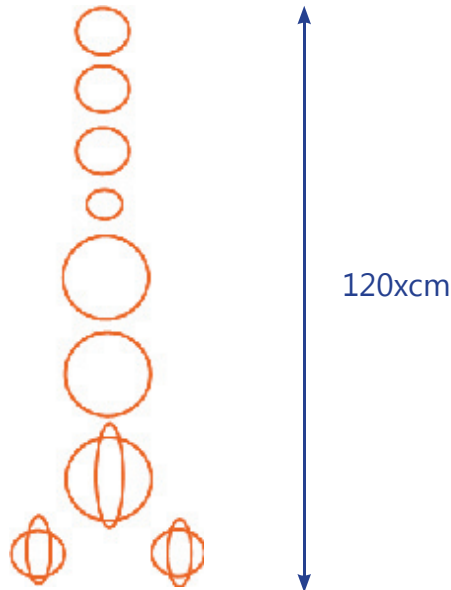
Abdomen (6cm)

Thorax (15cm)

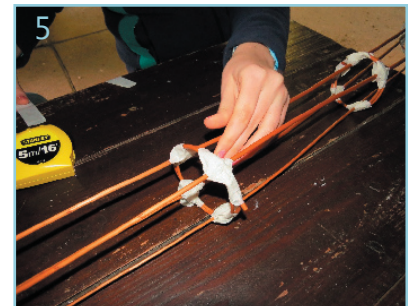
Thorax (15cm)

Head (15cm)

Eyes (8cm)



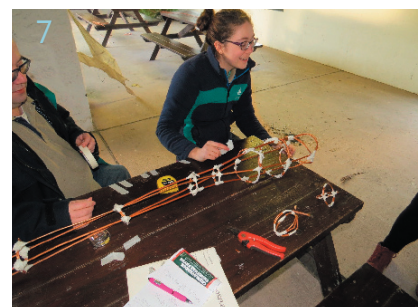
5. Take a full length of willow and thread it through the abdomen and thorax circles with the thinner end towards the abdomen. Tape it to each circle down the length of the thorax and abdomen. Do the same with 3 other lengths of willow.



6. Tie the thicker end of willow to the 'head'. Do this with each of the 3 other lengths of willow.



7. Tape the eyes to the head – tape one on either side of the head to make a damselfly or tape both eyes to the front of the head to make a dragonfly.



8. Now the body structure is complete you can move on to the wings!

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Wings

9. Take one length of willow and bring the two ends together to create a loop. Attach the ends to the main structure. Do this with 4 lengths of willow to create 4 wings. Tape together the 'top' of each opposite wing and the 'bottom' of each opposite wing. To strengthen the wings, tape another thick piece of willow across both sets of wings.



10. Your willow structure should look like this.



Tissue Paper

11. Mix PVA glue with water (50:50)
12. Cover the table with clingfilm
13. Using a sponge, put the mix on the table
14. Lay tissue paper on top and use the sponge to cover the tissue paper
15. Lay the pieces of tissue paper over the willow structure to coat it completely.
16. Leave to dry for one hour (turn over after 30 minutes)
17. Repeat the process, covering the willow structure with a second layer of tissue paper and glue.
18. Decorate the dragonfly with coloured cellophane, sticking it to the tissue paper. Leave to dry.
19. Attach the cane to the top of the structure using the wire and cable ties.
20. Put a torch or balloon lights inside the structure, by making a small hole on the underside.



Picture credits: Top: Frédéric Barszezak, Neil Phillips, Pam Taylor, Mark Tyrell, Mark Tyrell.