

# Bamboo!

Oh so natural, and  
oh so versatile,  
Say HELLO to  
bamboo! Just check  
out these (oh so!)  
clever project ideas!



get crafty with bamboo!

{CREATIVE INSPIRATIONS *free* FROM HOBBY LOBBY®}

## Barely Contained

The artfully worn trend is in, and it couldn't be easier to create. First paint a wooden wastebasket and a bamboo stalk. Once dry, cut the bamboo into different lengths and sand off some of the paint to give it that age-old look. Then secure the bamboo to the container with strong glue.



**TIP:** A coat of varnish gives this organizer a subtle shine.





## ^ Trio of Tranquility

Doing double duty as home décor and a hint of illumination, this bamboo-bedecked candle trio adds calming charm to a soothing space. Spruce up your quiet place by trimming cane reeds to size and hot gluing them to candles. *Tip: To keep glue from dripping down the candles, apply it directly to the cane reeds.*

## « Green Light

It's all in the details with this rustic collection of candles. Staggering the heights of both the cane reeds and the candles lends interest and depth to this easy-to-create display. And layering a raffia bow over jute ribbon adds just the right touch of natural elegance.

### WARNING:

Never leave burning candle unattended. Burn on heat resistant surface. Keep wick trimmed to 1/4" and keep candle out of drafts to avoid smoking.

## « Bring Me Bamboo

Embellished bamboo puts a fresh twist on classic lantern light. To make your own ohm-inducing arrangement, remove the top from a lantern and fill it with floral foam (hot glued for stability). Add cut-on-a-slant bamboo, dried florals and red glass gems to cover the foam.



## Good as Gold

For a gilded arrangement of your own, you'll need a gold leaf kit, brushes and a plate. Simply follow the manufacturer's instructions for painting the gold leaf onto the bamboo. Once dry, pair the shimmering bamboo with an array of coordinating florals—we went with red sweet pea branches, curly vines and wispy feather picks.



*Serene Scene* Strike a pose—the lotus pose, perhaps—in front of this make-a-statement room divider. Made from baskets, lots of bamboo, topiary balls, tropical blooms and Spanish moss, this is the ultimate nirvana-achieving piece.



## » Hidden Light

Look closely, and you'll see a glow coming from these grapevine topiary balls. Strings of battery-operated mini lights (available in the Wedding Department), tucked inside each, turn this piece into a luminous marvel. We cut a few twigs from the balls to make room for the lights and moss and then added natural-looking blooms for a dramatic pop of color.

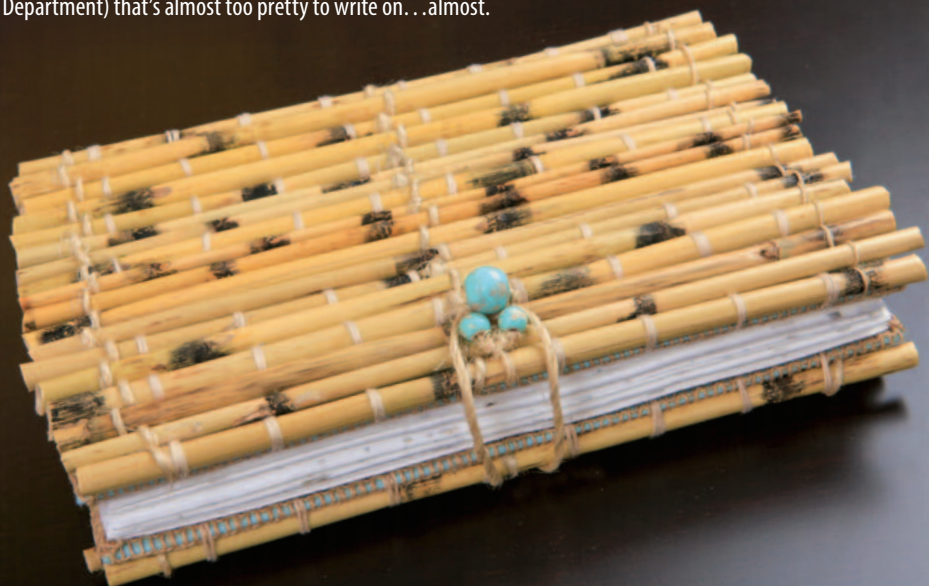


**Natural Wonder** For this nature-inspired beauty, remove the bottom from a basket, discard the bottom piece, and stack the basket on top of another basket. Then fill the baskets with floral foam and poke the bamboo into it. Cover the foam with moss, and add embellished topiary balls, secured with wire and hot glue.



*Come to Order* Get a little Zen where you get things done—with a scattering of unique bamboo accessories. For this one-of-a-kind timepiece, we tucked bundles of zebra bamboo (painted red) between a wooden circle and a round craft mirror. What time is it? Bamboo time, people.

**Bamboo Bound** From your innermost desires to the weekly grocery list, you need a place to store your thoughts. And this bamboo journal will certainly keep your secrets safe. The book is made of painted mat board and covered in tied-together sticks of zebra bamboo. Inside is beautiful handmade paper (available in the Scrapbooking Department) that's almost too pretty to write on . . . almost.



### Tray Chic

This avant-garde tray is made from a basic bulletin board. We painted the edges of the board and the ends of the bamboo red. Then we used tacky craft glue to secure stalks of zebra bamboo to the board and bamboo poles to the sides. Sturdy and stylish!



## On the Rack

Relaxation rooms are made for calming activities—like reading magazines. And what better place to store your reading material than in a handmade magazine rack. Ours is made from sturdy bamboo poles, cut to size and laced together with leather cording. And that's a wrap!



## «Box of Bamboo

Turn a basic wood box into a work of art with zebra bamboo. We simply removed the lid from a box and used double-sided adhesive and hot glue to secure bamboo to all sides. The inside is lined with patterned paper, making it both pretty and practical.



**Right as Rain** This rainy day project is worth every drop of effort. The handmade rain sticks feature two kinds of bamboo, some bright mini feathers, and handfuls of small glass beads. Check out the complete supply list and detailed step-by-step instructions on the pages that follow.





- Wood Glue
- Coarse Sandpaper
- Assorted Paint Pens
- Paintbrush
- Clear Acrylic Polyurethane
- Plastic Cup (to hold Polyurethane)
- Circle Template
- Craft Knife
- Cutting Mat
- Hot Glue
- Crimp Ends (for Feathers)
- 20 Gauge Jewelry Wire
- Chain Nose Pliers
- Wire Cutters

## supplies:

(Makes 3 Rainsticks)

- 1 Large Bamboo Stick
- 1 Sheet Balsa Wood (3" x 36" x 1/16")

- 2-3.5 oz. Packages of 6/0 Seed Beads (makes rainsticks)
- 1-2 Packages Mini Indian Feathers

- 1 Package Zebra Bamboo
- Ruler
- Permanent Marker
- Handsaw
- Power Drill (1/4" Round Wood Drill Bit, 3/4" Paddle Bit)

**1.** Using a ruler and a permanent marker, mark the bamboo for cutting. Mark three sections, each containing two joints. Cut 3-4" beyond each joint.



**2.** Use the handsaw to cut the bamboo at the marks.



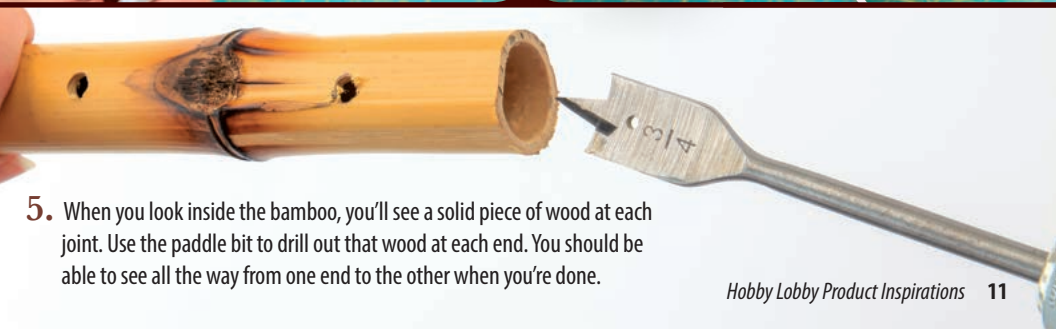
**3.** Mark the bamboo for drilling. Mark for evenly spaced (approx. 2" apart), parallel holes.



**4.** Using the 1/4" bit, drill the bamboo at the marks. Instead of drilling all the way through the wood, drill corresponding holes separately. This will keep the bamboo from splitting.



**5.** When you look inside the bamboo, you'll see a solid piece of wood at each joint. Use the paddle bit to drill out that wood at each end. You should be able to see all the way from one end to the other when you're done.



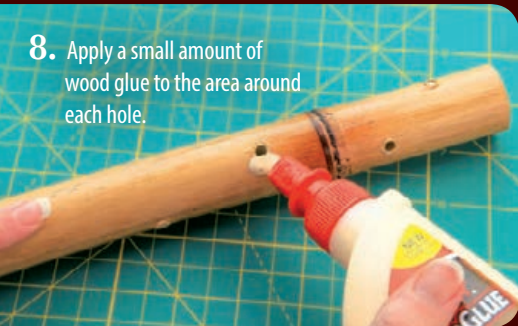
**6.** Slide pieces of zebra bamboo through each set of parallel holes, as shown. Slide until you have a snug fit.



**7.** Saw off the excess bamboo on each side.



**8.** Apply a small amount of wood glue to the area around each hole.



**9.** Use your finger to force the glue into the spaces around the holes. Allow glue to dry.



**10.** With sandpaper, smooth the entire piece of bamboo.



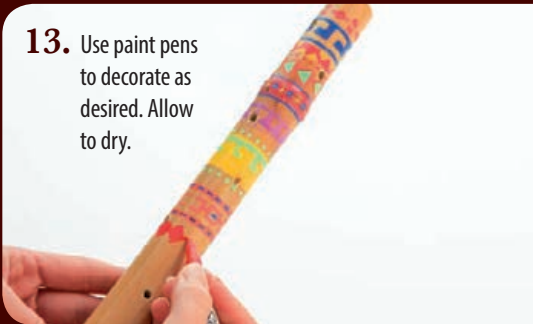
**11.** Be sure to sand over the holes to smooth any excess wood glue.



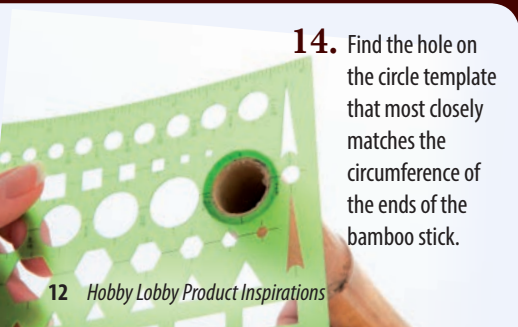
**12.** Sand the ends to eliminate rough, sharp edges.



**13.** Use paint pens to decorate as desired. Allow to dry.

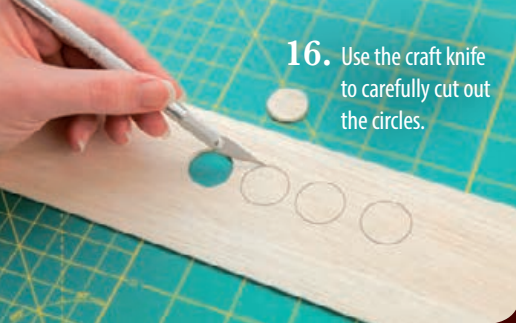


**14.** Find the hole on the circle template that most closely matches the circumference of the ends of the bamboo stick.



**15.** Apply clear acrylic polyurethane with a paintbrush. Allow to dry.





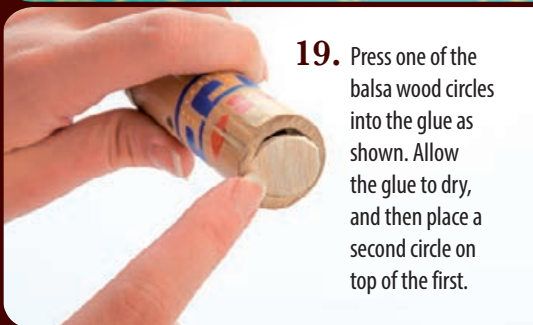
**16.** Use the craft knife to carefully cut out the circles.



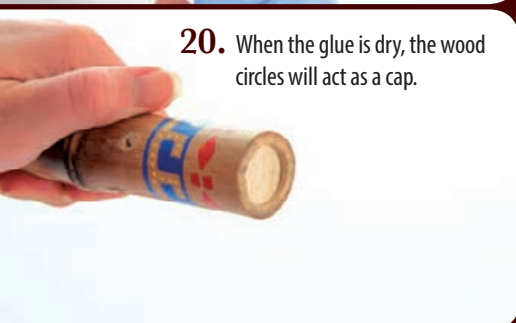
**17.** Sand the edges of the circles until they fit smoothly (but snugly) into the ends of the bamboo.



**18.** Apply a line of hot glue to the inside edge of one end of the bamboo.



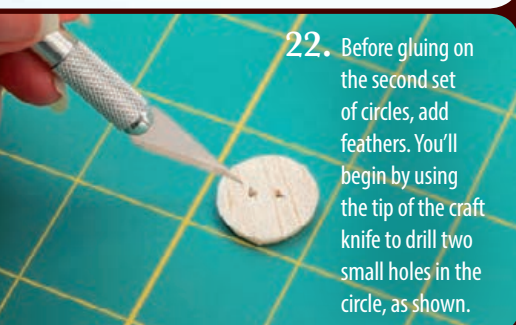
**19.** Press one of the balsa wood circles into the glue as shown. Allow the glue to dry, and then place a second circle on top of the first.



**20.** When the glue is dry, the wood circles will act as a cap.



**21.** Pour approximately 1/3 of the beads into one end of the rain stick.



**22.** Before gluing on the second set of circles, add feathers. You'll begin by using the tip of the craft knife to drill two small holes in the circle, as shown.



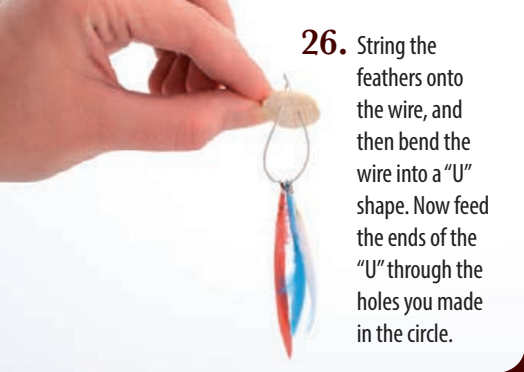
**23.** Place a bead of hot glue and a feather inside each crimp end.



**24.** Use chain nose pliers to close each crimp.



**25.** Use the wire cutters to cut a 2" piece of wire.



**26.** String the feathers onto the wire, and then bend the wire into a "U" shape. Now feed the ends of the "U" through the holes you made in the circle.



**27.** Twist the ends of the wire to secure.



**28.** Bend the wire sharply to one side, and then trim the ends as needed.



**29.** Apply a generous dab of hot glue to secure.



**30.** Cap the other end of the stick. Add the unaltered circle first, and then add the feathered circle, as shown.



**31.** The finished project will look something like this.

**32.** Repeat steps to make two more rain sticks.

Now you're ready to make some music, some fun, and maybe a little rain too!

