

What you will need

- 2 plastic 2 liter soda bottles
- 1 10-12 inch wooden dowel
- 1 brown pipe cleaner
- 12 inch or longer green ribbon
- Orange or green acrylic paint
- Paint brushes and clean up materials
- Marker
- Hole punch
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Wood burner/screwdriver/drill for drilling holes
- Sealant (Optional)

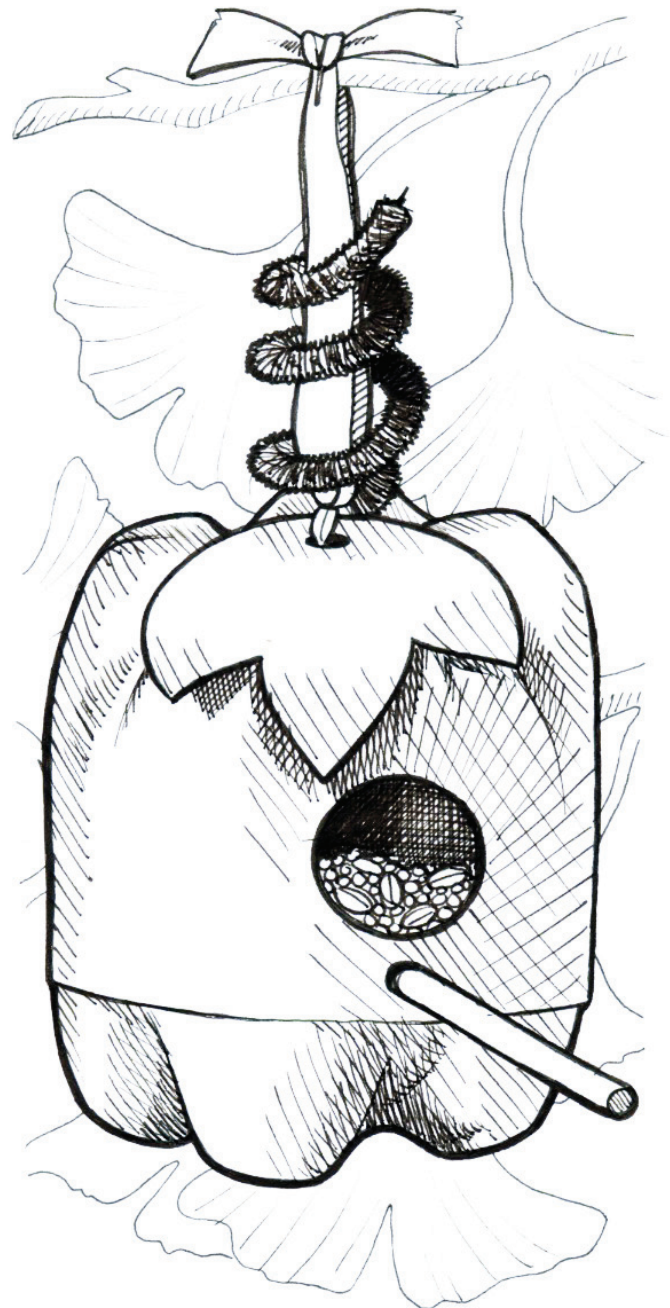
Let's get creative

Note: Adult supervision is needed when using a drill, scissors, and hole punch.

Preparation Notes.

- 1** Find the area on the plastic bottles near the bottom where the sides start to flatten. Use marker to mark this spot on the first bottle. On the second bottle, measure up 1.5 inches from the flat area and mark here.
- 2** Using scissors, cut along the marked lines. Take the smaller piece and punch a hole close to the edge. Punch another hole directly across on the other side. You can use the dowel rod to check. Fit the larger piece on the inside of the shorter piece and mark where the holes are, then take apart and punch.
- 3** On the large piece, trace a circle with a bottle cap above the punched holes to make a window and repeat on the other side. Punch holes inside the circles as an access point for the scissors and cut out. Using a drill, make two holes on the top of the tall piece for the ribbon to go through.

Pop Bottle Pumpkin Bird Feeder



Instructions Continued..

4 On the leftover plastic, draw a leaf shape with the marker. Make sure the leaf runs horizontally so that when cut, the curl will look natural. Cut the design out with scissors and punch a hole at the back end. Paint two coats on all of the pieces and allow to dry. For a more weather-proof paint job, apply a coat of sealant before moving on.

Assembly Notes.

- Take the green ribbon and feed one end through one top hole and out the other and pull so that the ends are evenly outside the pumpkin.
- Feed the leaf down one ribbon to the pumpkin and tie the ribbon over it.
- Grab the pipe cleaner and tie it to the knotted ribbon. Use your finger to shape the pipe cleaner to a curl and wrap around the ribbon. Tie the ends of the ribbon.
- Fit the pumpkin pieces together so that the top piece is inside the bottom and the punched holes line up.
- Insert the dowel rod through the punched holes and fill with birdseed.
- Hang outside for the birds!

Don't waste the extra plastic!

Use the leftover bottle from step 2 to make a 'Pop Cloche'! A cloche is a miniature greenhouse contraption designed to protect young plants from cold, bleak, or windy weather in order to hasten their maturity. A cloche prevents critters such as raccoons and squirrels from trampling or eating seedlings, and provides warmth and humidity during an unseasonal frost spell. Not only that, it prevents potted plants from becoming enveloped in mud cakes formed during torrential spring rains, and forms a barrier against insects and slugs.

Simply press a plastic bottle with its bottom cut off into the ground around a tender plant, sinking it an inch down for stability. Any bottle will do, even milk jugs for bigger plants! The bottle will act as a shield to wind, rain and insects, a blanket from the cold, and will trap water inside so that your plant won't get thirsty! When it's warm out, make sure the caps are unscrewed to let out some of the trapped heat.

