

Cracking!

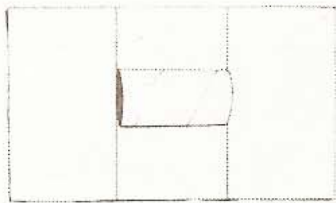
You will need

To make four crackers

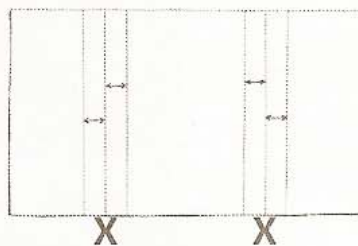
- Four magazine covers/thick wrapping paper
- Four toilet roll tubes/two kitchen roll tubes cut in half
- Four cracker snaps (national craft chain)
- Hobbycraft sell 20 of these for 99p)
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Double-sided tape or glue
- Ribbon

1 If you have an eye for detail, tailor your crackers to your guests' interests by using appropriate magazine covers: glossy magazine paper is the ideal thickness for crackers, and it might give you something to talk about at the table. If you want to use wrapping paper instead, make sure you use good-quality stuff – the thin paper won't pull as well. You will need a piece about 210mm by 297mm for each cracker you want to make.

2 Lay your glossy paper, front page facing downwards, on a flat surface. Place the toilet roll tube in the middle and mark where either end finishes. Draw two lines from the top to the bottom of the page.

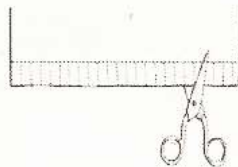


3 Draw four more lines, 2cm and 4cm from the lines you just drew. Lightly score each of these lines – this will make it easier for you to assemble the cracker later.

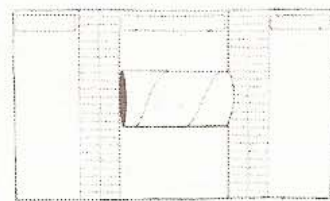


4 Fold the paper along one of the middle lines (as marked X above) and snip 1cm towards the pencil line.

Repeat these snips, 1cm apart, until you reach the end of the line. Repeat this at the other end.



5 Stick a piece of double-sided tape along one long edge of your paper, missing out the space between the three lines at either end. You can use glue for this, but it's far messier. Position the toilet roll tube in place, between the two pencil lines, and wrap the paper around it, securing with double-sided tape. If you are using glue, you will need to hold the paper together until it dries.



6 Fill your cracker with a cracker snap and one of our top-notch Christmas jokes below – if you want, make a gold crown (see page 14) and add a small gift.

