

Group

# Balancing Rock



Decorating  
Places



# Balancing Rock

## Materials:

- ◆ boxes
  - ◆ 3 small boxes (17 in. x 11 in. x 11 in)
  - ◆ 1 medium box (21 in. x 15 in. x 16 in)
  - ◆ 1 XL box (27 in. x 15 in. x 16 in)
- ◆ packing tape
- ◆ 2 carpet tubes (5 ft. 6 in.)
- ◆ 30 screws (#8 x 1 in. Phillips Drive Modified Truss Head Zinc Self-Drilling Screw 193-Pack)
- ◆ 50-ft. roll of Ram Board (This is a thick paper—almost cardboard—sold in rolls in home improvement stores; it is used to protect flooring during construction.) 42 m x 3 ft. x 50 ft. or 100 ft. (100-ft. roll does both the Arch and Balancing Rock)
- ◆ paint, we used the following Behr colors:
  - ◆ Bear Rug
  - ◆ Tart Orange
  - ◆ Rusty Gate
  - ◆ White
  - ◆ Black
- ◆ 3-in. paintbrushes
- ◆ paint sponge
- ◆ plastic wading pool
- ◆ water
- ◆ gloves
- ◆ marker
- ◆ large tarp
- ◆ Christmas tree stand or any other sturdy stand for a 4-in. tube
- ◆ Cool Connectors
- ◆ drill
- ◆ scissors
- ◆ utility blade
- ◆ jigsaw



## Directions:

**Prep Step:** Paint Ram Board that will be used to cover the box structure. Begin by placing 2-3 inches of water in a wading pool. Pour in  $\frac{1}{4}$  gallon of dark brown (Bear Rug) paint, and mix the paint and water together. Dip a 6-foot-long piece of the paper board in the pool, completely saturating it. It will have dark spots that grabbed more of the paint than other spots. That's okay! Scrunch, gather, and wrinkle the wet paper board as you lay it out to dry on a large tarp. The Balancing Rock will use about 6 of the 6-foot lengths of the Ram Board pieces.

**Step 1:** Cut a carpet tube to 5 ft. 6 in. Cut a 4-in. notch in the top (see picture).

**Step 2:** Stack a small box on top of an x-large box that has been laid on its side. Find the center of each of the boxes and cut a 4-inch hole to allow the carpet tube to travel through the center of the boxes. Note that the x-large box only needs a hole in the top middle of the box. The stand (a Christmas tree stand works great) and tube will fit nicely inside the x-large box. Secure the tube in the stand. Add weights to the stand to help it hold the weight of the crossbeam. Once the tube is secure in the stand, stack the small box on top.

**Step 3:** Build the crossbeam (Balancing Rock). Determine the placement of the boxes, and mark where the carpet tube will pass through each box. Cut 4-in. holes through both ends of the boxes to allow the boxes to be threaded onto the carpet tube. The vertical carpet tube will meet the horizontal crossbeam and be attached in the middle box. This box and others will need access from the back, so we cut access doors in the back of all 3 boxes. Once in position, secure all the boxes together to keep them from spinning individually.

**Step 4:** Set the crossbeam into the 4-in. notch in the top of the vertical tube. We intentionally offset the center a bit for a more dramatic look. You may need to add counterbalance weights at this point to help balance the top section. A little practice with the amount and position of the counterbalance weight is needed (resealable plastic bags full of sand, small weights, or dumbbells will work). Mark the position and secure with screws (see picture). It is helpful to have two people, one to hold and steady the structure and the other to add weight until it is balanced.



**Step 5:** Once the position and angle are determined, make a mark on the vertical tube where you will need the Ram Board to stop on the bottom section. After that position is determined, detach the main crossbeam and lay it on a flat protected area of the floor to begin covering with the pre-treated Ram Board.

**Step 6:** Secure the Ram Board to the base boxes using Cool Connectors. Simply push them through both the Ram Board and cardboard box. Start at the bottom, wrapping and securing as you go. Make sure to add plenty of bows, crinkles, and crevasses to create a fun rock look. Work your way up, making sure to overlap the edges for good, clean coverage. Work your way up to the top and the mark you made where the crossbeam/Balancing Rock sits. Begin to cover the crossbeam/Balancing Rock now (we found it much easier to cover while on the ground). Start on one end and wrap toward the other end. We attached an edge of the Ram Board on the top back and then pulled down over and around the front and under the boxes, attaching on the back bottom. Again, make plenty of bows, crinkles, and crevasses.

**Step 7:** Paint the bottom section fully, then add the Balancing Rock and paint in position. Using a sponge, begin by adding dark brown (Bear Rug) paint to the creases and crevasses of the “rock.” Add oranges (Tart Orange and Rusty Gate). Continue to dry brush and sponge to get a stone texture of oranges and browns. Don’t be afraid to mix the paint. When dry-brushing onto damp paint, the colors will blend well for a cool effect.





## Balancing Rock Dimensions

