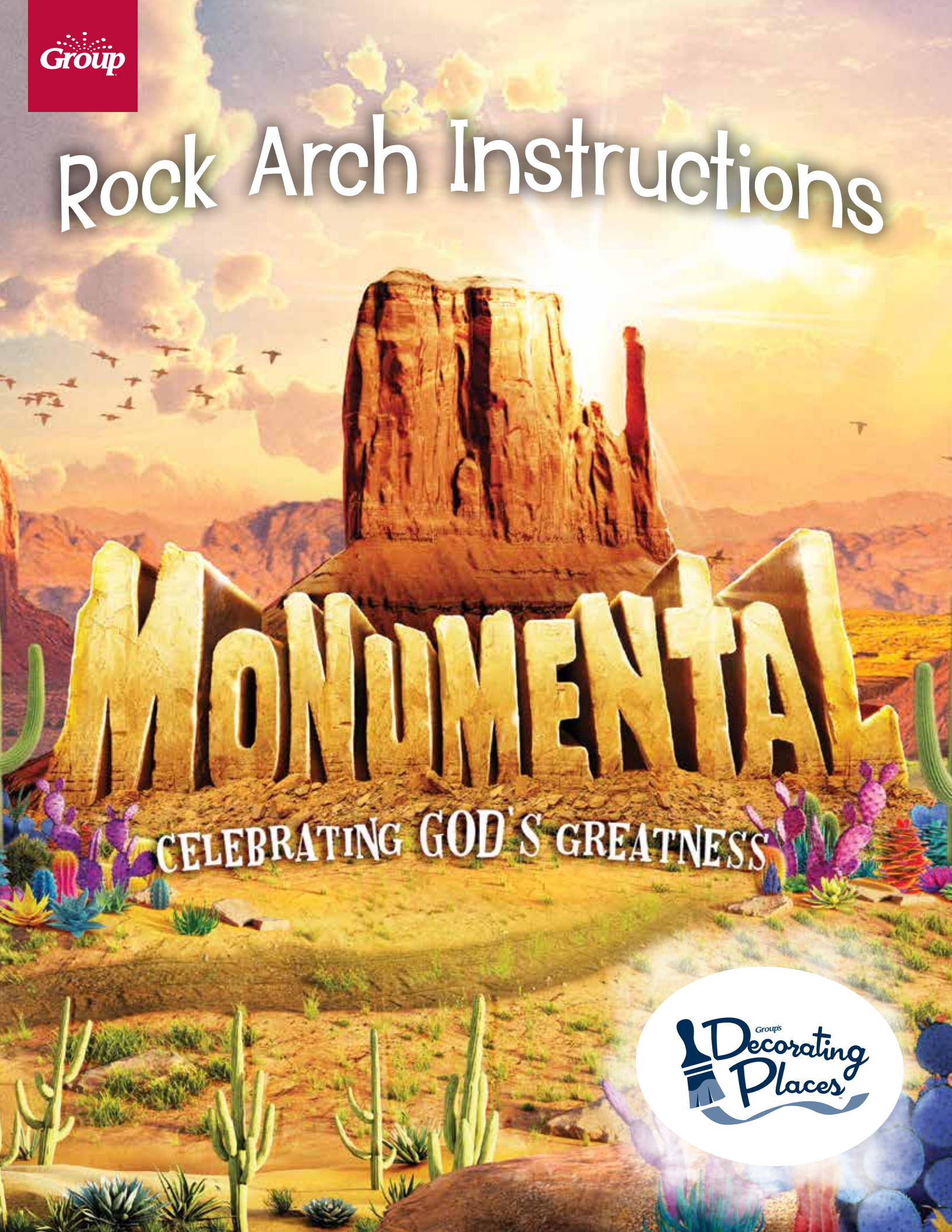


# Rock Arch Instructions





# Rock Arch

## Materials:

- ♦ boxes
  - ♦ 1 dishwasher box (27 in. x 27 in. x 35 in.)
  - ♦ 5 small boxes (17 in. x 11 in. x 11 in.)
  - ♦ 4 medium boxes (21 in. x 15 in. x 16 in.)
  - ♦ 1 large box (27 in. x 15 in. x 16 in.)
  - ♦ 1 extra-large box (24 in. (L) x 20 in. (W) x 21 in.)
- ♦ packing tape
- ♦ 3 carpet tubes, 4-in. diameter (6'4", 6'8", 7'6")
- ♦ screws (#8 x 1-in. Phillips 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 in x 3 ft. x 50ft. or 100 ft.
- ♦ paint colors: Brown, Orange, rusty orange, black and white (We used Bear Rug, Tart Orange, and Rusty Gate from Behr.)
- ♦ paintbrushes
- ♦ paint sponge
- ♦ plastic wading pool
- ♦ water
- ♦ large tarp
- ♦ drill
- ♦ scissors
- ♦ utility blade
- ♦ jigsaw
- ♦ Cool Connectors\*



## 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 6-ft.-long piece of the Ram 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 tarp. The Archway will use about 10 of the 6-ft. lengths of Ram Board pieces.

**Step 1:** Build 2 side columns by stacking boxes. For now, just stack them but do not attach them together. The columns should look different from one another and be different heights. To help create a rocky randomness, we used some boxes on their sides or opened the flaps. (Refer to the diagram to see the box size and dimensions we used for each column.) Tape flaps open or closed as needed.

**Step 2:** Mark with an X where the carpet tube will pass through each box of the column. The carpet tube is the support to hold up the arch. Cut a 4-in. circle in each box to allow the carpet tube to pass through.

**Step 3:** Cut a cradlelike notch in the top of each carpet tube to allow the crossbeam to sit snugly. Make sure the height of each carpet tube will allow all the boxes to be threaded on it and stick out of the top of the column about 6 inches to allow the carpet tube of the crossbeam to rest on top. For each column, stack the boxes onto the carpet tube. Be sure the notches in the vertical tubes are turned to allow the crossbeam to sit comfortably in both notches. Adjust the distance between the 2 columns to fit the crossbeam.

**Step 4:** Build the crossbeam using the same technique as the pillars. Build the boxes, determine the placement of the boxes, mark where the carpet tube will pass through, and cut holes in the boxes to allow the boxes to be threaded on the carpet tube. To keep the structure from falling over, build another. Note that the top of each column should be level. Both ends of the crossbeam should be level.





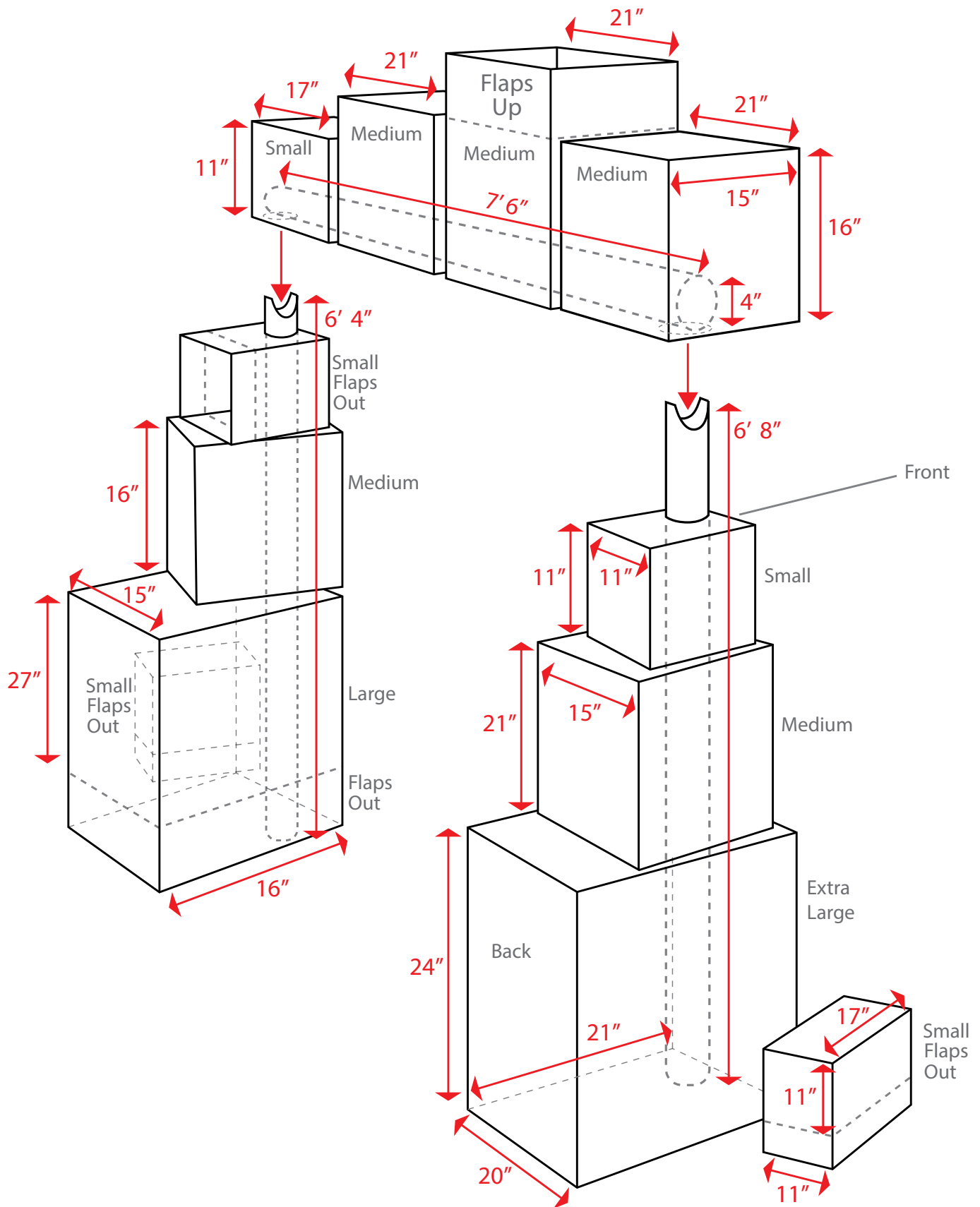
**Step 5:** Set the crossbeam into the cut notches of the column tubes. This may require repositioning the columns a bit to get the distance between the columns just right. Secure with screws. Be sure to leave a way to get to these screws when you want to disassemble and move the structure. (See picture.)

**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 will sit. Begin to cover the crossbeam. (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, 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. To move and reposition the structure, it is important that each piece (the 2 columns and the crosspiece) be covered separately. To cover seams and add texture and shape, simply add smaller pieces of the Ram Board where needed. Continue this process until the front of the arch is all “rocked” in Ram Board.

**Step 7:** Paint by using a sponge and dry brush. Begin by adding dark brown (Bear Rug) paint to the creases and crevasses of the “rock.” Add oranges (Tart Orange and Rusty Gate) and 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.



## Rock Arch



# Rock Arch

