



Margit Rigden's regular projects for youngsters to have a go at with a bit of adult help - or for grown-ups to play with on their own! This month's card is a balloon made by simple iris folding.

Balloon full of folds

GET READY...

- White A5 card folded in half
- 2.5cm wide paper strips in different lengths and in four different colours
- Sticky tape and glue
- Scissors
- Ribbon bow
- Peel-off greeting

G°

- 1 Copy the balloon template and cut out. Stick to a scrap of card and cut out again.
- 2 Use the template to draw the balloon onto your card and cut out the aperture (please let an adult help you with this).
- 3 Copy the template with the number sequence and place face down over the aperture so you can see the numbers from the inside.
- 4 Cut your 2.5cm wide paper strips and fold them in half. You need four colours. Length is not important but make sure the width of 2.5cm is kept.
- 5 Before starting to stick the strips down it helps to colour code the template with the numbers on.
- 6 Follow exactly the number sequence: No.1 first, followed by No.2 and so on. Stick each strip down with a piece of sticky tape and cut strips slightly larger than needed so they overlap.
- 7 With all 23 strips stuck down, carefully remove template and turn your work over. Now choose a holographic image to close the centre 'eye' and decorate to your liking or as example.

From the back your completed balloon will look something like this. It's usually covered by an insert.





The balloon could be worked on a separate piece of card then stuck to a folded base card.

8 For any type of iris folding you need to cover the back, usually by gluing an insert firmly over the folding strips and leaving the right side free for your message.

However, you could do the balloon on a separate piece of card, decorate the edges and stick to the front of a folded card. In this case no insert is necessary.

