A Montgolfi....What? (Hot Air Balloon)

1. Use posterboard or other stiff material to make a gore template as shown in figure 1.

2. Put template on top of 10 sheets of tissue each at least nine (9) feet long. Cut around the template to make the ten gores needed.

3. Decorate the balloon using felt tip pens and/or designs cut from colored tissue. WARNING. Do not use pens with water soluble ink, it dissolves the tissue. The rule is, if the ink stinks, it is OK.

4. Slide the top gore #1 about a half inch to the side of gore #2 as pictured in figure 2.

5. Carefully, I repeat CAREFULLY fold the margin of gore #2 OVER gore #1. Now glue that fold of #2 to #1. A glue stick works best. ROSS Pritt works well.

6. You have one edge of gore #1 bonded to one edge of gore #2. Now slide the 1-2 combination about a half inch to the side of gore #3, moving in the opposite direction as before to alternate glued edges. As before, fold the open edge of #3 over #2 and glue. Be careful here to NOT glue the free edge of #1 to #3. BE CAREFUL TO KEEP THE FREE EDGE OF #1 FREE. (figure 3)

7. Continue alternating and gluing 4 over 3, 5 over 4, etc. until the only free edges are one on #1 and one one #10. Glue these together. Congratulations you have made a paper bag.

8. Grab about six inches of the ragged looking top, the small end, and tie it with string. Also tie a loop in the string.

9. Use two all wire coat hangers to make a loop that will fit inside the base and glue it in by overlapping the tissue about one inch.

10. Using the loop in the string hang the balloon and inflate it with a hair dryer or small fan. Check for unglued seams, holes, and tears and reglue or repair with small bits of tissue.

11. Inflate the balloon using a propane cook stove with a piece of six inch diameter stove pipe over the burner. Two or more people are required for this step. Indoors, three good hair dryers will fly the balloon in a gym. Four is better, and three heat guns is even better.

12. When the balloon inflates and begins to be buoyant, you are holding it DOWN, not up, do the most important thing of all.......let it go.

NOTES:

Tissue can be found most anywhere in packs of 10 sheets 20" by 28". These come in many colors but must be joined to form the 9' gores. It is easier to buy a roll of jewelers tissue20" wide by a hundred or more feet long. You can have any color you wantas long as it is white.

Order from:

Mr. Darryl Clark
Crystal Tissue Company
Middletown, OH 45042
513-423-0731
(a 20" x 9" dia roll costs about $35)

If the order takers at Crystal Tissue give you a hard time. Ask for Mr. Clark, he will clear your order.
The hoop is made by cutting away the really bent parts bending circular and taping together to fit. Size varies with glue joint overlap.

After the first three gores are bonded the others are easy. The learning curve drops rapidly.