

Instructional Guide



Mini Cine: Instructional Guide

This is an instructional guide for building a Mini Cine. Included in this guide is an explanation of what a Mini Cine is, how to build your own Mini Cine, and possible uses for a Mini Cine.

What is a Mini Cine?

A Mini Cine is a device for soliciting Mini Movies in a portable fashion and can be used in conjunction with a Mini Movie Fest (MMF). Put a laptop in the back to preview Mini Movies and upload directly from a passerby. A Mini Movie is a low quality digital film clip taken with a digital still camera, videophone, or any other device in which the creation of moving images is not the primary function, and a MMF is an event for screening a selection of Mini Movies before a live audience.

How long will it take?

Set aside one day for construction and paper mache coating. Once the design was set, this took us 4-6 hours. Allow it to dry overnight and then proceed with painting - this took another 2-3 hours. If you're speedy you might be able to get it done quicker!



Construction Tools and Materials

Laptop Computer (with a USB jack for most recording devices to plug into), Cardboard and Newspaper (found free at a local recycle center), Acrylic paint (any quality; found at any hardware or art supply store), Glue (any kind should do), Utility Knife (cheap snap-off blade), Paint Brushes (cheap 1" brush for larger areas, small detail brush), Tape (cheap packing tape), Ruler and Strait edge, Pencil and Sketch paper, Medium size mixing bowl, Flour and Water.



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Step-By-Step Visual Guide

1. Use the laptop to determine exterior length, width and height of your box. We used a 15" PowerBook for our measurements. The length should extend 8-10" beyond the laptop body (enough for somebody to squeeze their hand in and use the mouse pad). The height should be determined by looking at the laptop from an imagined viewer perspective. We simply placed the laptop on a table, stood at a logical viewer distance and measured the height of our line of sight, while considering clearance for the height of the computer and an angled ceiling. In our case 21.5". Figuring the width of your box is a little different. We built an interior wall structure that helped mask off the screen of the laptop in the back of the Mini Cine. This meant we made the exterior width of our box 5" more than the width of the laptop, 2.5" on either side.



2. On the front of your Mini Cine create a rectangular hole for the viewing. This should be slightly wider than the screen dimension. We measured 1" from the top, 1" from either exterior side. This keeps things proportional and allows full view of the screen. To create stadium seating create a grid on your measured cardboard and cut little tabs. Attach the seating a little above the base of the box, again allowing space for the laptop to fit and hands to use the mouse pad.



3. Adding details to the architecture of the Mini Cine is a nice touch. This can take many forms. We went for the classic cinema look with a little Russian accent. A little research on cinema exteriors always fuels the imagination. Most older cinemas include a marquee and ticket booth. We even added a little side pocket for flyers that mimics a typical movie poster display (see front cover). You should include access to the laptop from the front and back. We made a large flip door in the rear and two hand sized doors at the entrance.



4. After you've created the structure it's time to paper mache! This is a very cheap and simple way to seal all the cracks and create an even textured coat to the Mini Cine. Making paper mache is simple. Combine flour and water in a mixing bowl to the consistency of Elmer's glue. Lightly coat newspaper strips of different sizes and apply to the box. Once the paper is dry you're ready to paint. Go crazy with the paint. After it dries you're ready to hit the streets (see back cover).



In the future our designs might include some wheels, a handle, speakers, and interchangeable marquee letters. You might add that viewing and participating is FREE! If you make a Mini Cine, please send us your experience.