

How to Make the Sparkle Wands for the “God Bless the USA” Routine

These are simple wands that, when shaken, give the look of fireworks bursting into the air. They are perfect for routines to patriotic songs like “God Bless the USA,” by Lee Greenwood, or “Coming to America,” by Neil Diamond.

When making the sparkle wands, I used two things - different colors of Christmas tinsel bought at Hobby Lobby (this tinsel was thin) and the other wider tinsel came from the bottoms of those mylar banners that hang down from doorways or ceilings. (You can buy them in packages at Party City.) I just cut all the mylar tinsel off of the banner and used it in my wands.

To make the wands –

1. Put several strands of tinsel together and lay them out flat. However many strands you use decides the thickness of the wand. Remember, it will fold in half and double the thickness when you are done.
2. Take a pipe cleaner and run it the opposite direction under the tinsel.
3. Bring the two ends of the pipe cleaner together and start twisting it tightly down by the tinsel. (You can even place a little bit of hot glue down at the bottom of the pipe cleaner to help hold the tinsel in.) Keep twisting the pipe cleaner until it is entirely twisted together and looks like one piece.
4. Take the cardboard tube (I used one of the round tubes that are on the bottom of hangars that come from the cleaners.) and place some hot glue down inside the tube.
5. Stick the pipe cleaner down inside the tube where the hot glue is and hold it there. Make sure the pipe cleaner is all the way down as far as it will go.
6. Let the wands set for a while before using them.
7. The wands will last longer if you tell the students to grab more in the middle of the wands instead of the ends. If shaken too hard at the ends, the wands will snap and the cardboard tube will break.
8. If you cannot get enough cardboard tubes, think about cutting the ones you have in half right from the beginning. I think the shorter ones last longer anyway. You may have to cut off the pipe cleaner if it sticks out the bottom of the shortened tube.