



CD SPACESHIPS

It seems with every year of teaching, at least one student would be enchanted by spaceships and astronauts. Here is a simple but wonderful way to give expression to this interest. It also works for making alien spaceships. Children have the incredible capacity to use these materials to create their own personal narratives.

Ask the children:

- » “What kind of spaceship are you going to make?”
- » “What can your spaceship do that other spaceships can’t?”
- » “Who’s in your spaceship?”
- » “Where are they going?”

WHAT YOU’LL NEED

- » Blank or old CDs
- » Small glass bowls
- » Assorted metal loose parts (paper clips, washers, bolts, etc.)
- » Nontoxic heavy matte gel medium
- » Craft sticks
- » Wooden peg forms
- » Metallic paint (silver for astronauts, green for aliens)
- » Paintbrushes
- » Sharpie pens
- » Trays or cookie sheets

CAUTION

Please be mindful of the loose parts you choose for this project. We used screws with points; if you have children who could hurt themselves, choose small bolts instead. Every child has different developmental needs. Honor those needs and err on the side of safety.



THE INVITATION: SHINY METAL PARTS

A buffet of shiny CDs and loose metal parts is a visual feast for children to get excited exploring this art medium. Scooping the gel matte medium out of the container into little bowls with a craft stick will help control the amount used. Having additional blank CDs displayed on either a tray or the original CD holder allows children to have access to more when needed at the reach of their hands.

WORKING SPACES

I like to make a buffet of all sorts of loose metal parts by putting them in glass bowls, so the children can see what is inside. I set up a tray for each child with three CDs and a bowl of gel medium with a craft stick. For step 3, I give them each a wooden peg form, silver or green metallic paint with a paintbrush, and a Sharpie pen for drawing the faces.

THE PROCESS

STEP 1: Decorate the CDs with Loose Metal Parts.

Set up an invitation to glue loose metal parts onto the CDs. It takes three CDs to form the spaceship. The loose parts are glued to one side only. You can also use liquid glue for the process of decorating the CDs.

Important: For the simple assembling of the spaceship, attach two screws or bolts on either side of the CD with gel medium. Liquid glue will *not* work. This will help hold the top two CDs in place while the children construct the ship.

Let these dry completely before moving on to step 2.





STEP 2: Assemble the Spaceship. Put the CD with the two screws or bolts on the table as the base of the ship. Apply gel medium to each side.

Apply gel medium to the top of one of the two CDs that will form the top of the ship. Next, place both CDs just inside the gel-covered screw or bolt. Press together. Let dry overnight.

STEP 3: Make the Astronaut or Alien. Have the children paint the wooden peg form. Let dry completely.

Next have the children draw the face on the astronaut, or alien, as well as any other details they desire.

EXPLORATIONS

Set up a small storytelling tray. Acrylic box frames are economical and make great trays. Let the children add items for telling space stories.



ART-MAKING TIP

This is a highly engaging activity for spaceship-intrigued children. Don't limit their ideas and thoughts about how to take this project in new and different ways. This project was originally the idea of a five-year-old. Support children's ideas and allow for their ideas to fail. You might be surprised at what they come up with!