

You will need:

- A4 piece of patterned paper, wallpaper or plain paper to decorate
- Cardboard tubes (e.g. toilet roll or kitchen roll holders)
- Washi tape ([buy from Amazon](#)) or paints to decorate if using plain crackers
- Optional: Cracker snaps ([via Amazon](#))
- Ribbon or string to tie
- Craft knife
- Scissors
- Glue
- Fillings – tissue paper hats, toys, games, jokes

To make:

- 1.** Begin by decorating the outside of your cracker as you wish, then set aside until it's dry. If you're using patterned paper you can leave this step out.
- 2.** Make sure your A4 piece of paper is positioned face down on a table and so that the longest sides are at the top and bottom. Position your cardboard tube in the centre of the paper, lengthwise, cutting to shape if necessary.
- 3.** At each end of the tube, score your paper softly with a pair of scissors, making sure not to cut through the paper. Alternatively, cut small diamond shapes out (templates can be found online). This will make it easier to create your cracker ends.
- 4.** Wrap your paper around the cardboard tube, overlapping the edges slightly and gluing in place to create one wide tube. The cardboard tube will give your cracker extra structure so it won't fall apart.
- 5.** Carefully twist one side of your cracker around the ends of the cardboard tube, secure it with festive ribbon and feed your cracker snap through.
- 6.** Gently add your cracker fillings, being careful not to overfill, and secure the other side of your cracker with a ribbon. Place on your table to welcome guests with your handmade Christmas crackers.

Your guests will love the extra effort you've gone to with the decorating and they'll soon want to make handmade crackers of their own!