

FORGE

BASIC SHIELD

MYTHOLOGICAL LORE:

From Greek hoplites to viking shieldmaidens, warriors all around the world rely on sturdy shields for dynamic defense. This shield build is modeled after the hoplon shield used by the soldiers of ancient Greece. These large, round shields were made with multiple layers of materials including wood, leather, and bronze, and were large enough to cover the warrior from thigh to neck.

Many legendary heroes have used their shields to great effect, like the mighty Ajax who went into battle carrying a huge, impenetrable shield made of bronze and 7 layers of thick bull's hide, or Perseus, who brilliantly used the reflection in his polished shield to see Medusa without being turned to stone. Shields can also bear important symbols and colors to show who the wielder is and where they come from, so be sure to decorate your shield to show the world who you are!

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Duct tape
- 2-3 large panels of cardboard
- Scissors
- Decoration materials (markers, paint pens, colored duct tape)

SAFETY PROTOCOL:

- Cover safe use of scissors
- Always have your spare hand clear of the path of the scissors.
- When scissors are not in use, store them securely in a safe location.
 - If handing scissors to another person, close them first and then hand them by holding the blade.

CHANGE IT UP

- Experiment with different shapes for your cardboard layers, like a tall rectangular tower shield, or a crescent shield, or the classic medieval knight shape.

OR

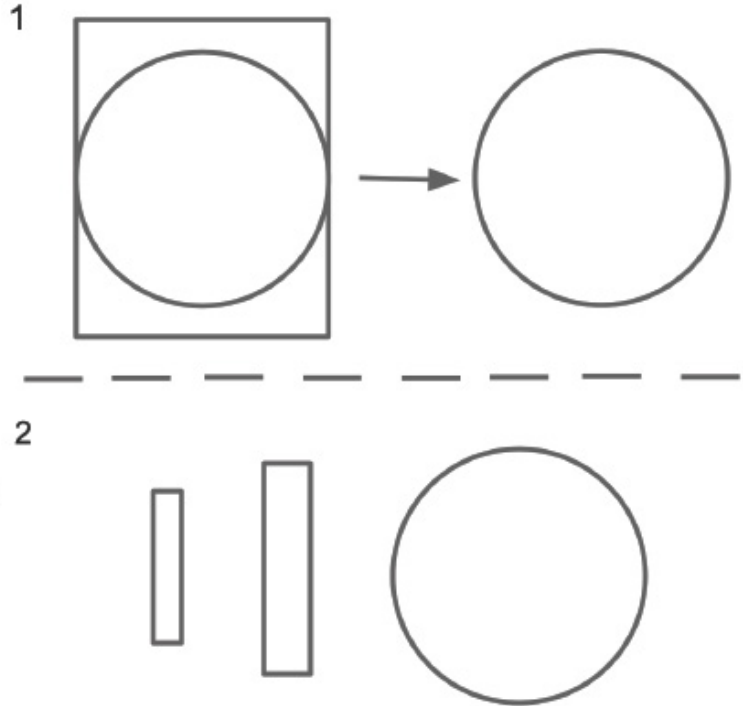
- For a smaller, quicker build, try making a buckler. Cut smaller circles, ditch the arm strap, and attach your handle in the center

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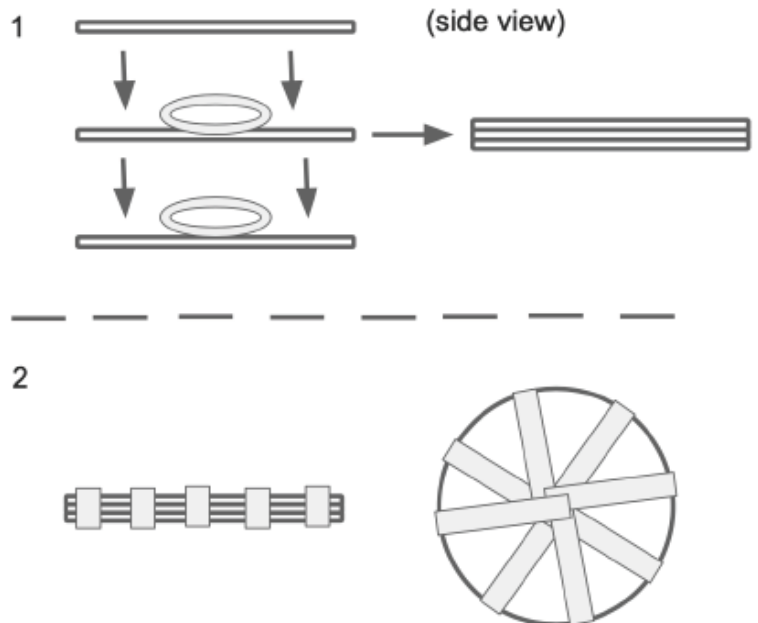
Cutting the Cardboard

1. Cut the cardboard panels into circles slightly larger than the demigod's torso. You'll need at least two of these circles, but a third will make your shield extra sturdy.
2. Cut two strips of cardboard, sized roughly as pictured in relation to your circles.
 - a. One should be narrow enough to use as a handle.
 - b. The other should be wider and longer to be used as an arm strap.



Assembling the Shield Body

1. Stack your circles form the body of the shield. Putting a loop of duct tape (sticky side out) between the layers will help keep the shield sturdy.
2. Wrap additional duct tape around the sides to keep everything secure.
 - a. If you have enough time and duct tape, wrapping the entire face of the shield with tape will make it extra durable.

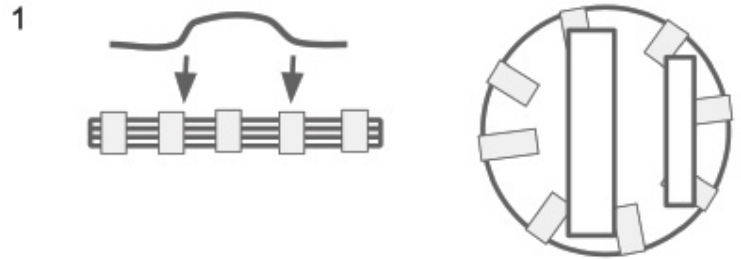


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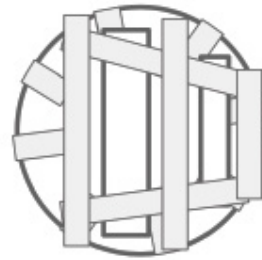
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Adding the straps

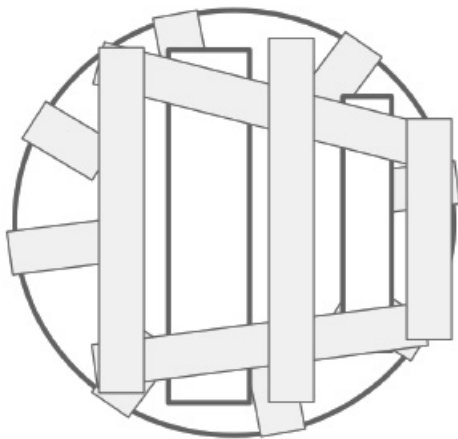
1. Bend your handle and arm strap into a shape roughly as pictured, so the ends are flat and the middle arches up. Place them on the back of your shield with the handle close to edge, and the arm strap near the center.
 - a. Use your arm to measure the spacing between the straps. When gripping the handle, the arm strap should sit across your upper forearm.
2. Tape the straps on. Use plenty of tape to keep them secure, long strips in a criss-crossing pattern is the most effective.



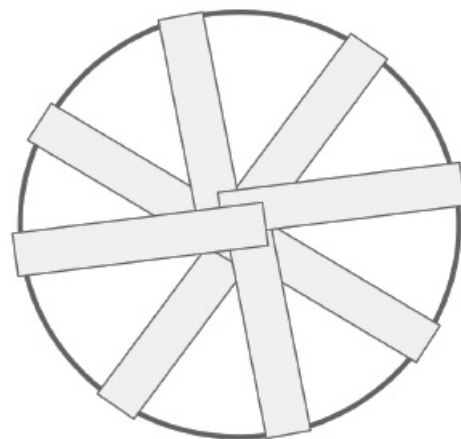
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Finished Product



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Front

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