Whale Toy Crayon Holder

The whale toy crayon holder is made from a 2x4 or other material of the same size. There are plywood templates available at meetings to help draw and position holes on the whale. You can also print and cut out the templates that are at the end of these directions.

If you are an experienced woodworker, go to it! If you want more advice than that, read on.

Cut Out Your Workpiece(s)

Cut your workpiece slightly oversize to allow room to mark and cut out the whale shape. 7 3/4" x 3 1/2" is a good size.

Draw the Whale Shape

There are three parts to the whale template. Parts 1A and 1B are used to draw the shape of the whale. Place both Parts 1A and 1B on the workpiece so that they fit tightly together. Hold each part in place with one of more fingers of one hand. Slide the templates down so that the flat bottom of the whale is aligned with the flat bottom of your workpiece. Slide the templates to the mouth side of the whale so the template is flush with the end of your workpiece. With a pencil in the other hand:

- Draw around the outside of the two parts of the template.
- Mark the center of the whale eye.
- Draw a light line where indicated to mark the depth of the drill bit for the crayons.

Remove Part 1A and keep Part 1B in place and trace along its top edge. You can draw this line with a Sharpie. If you want, you can draw this line with a pencil and do something fancier to mark this line.

Mark and Drill the Holes

The Part 2 template is used to mark the position of the holes for the crayons. Put the Part 2 template on the top of your workpiece. Slide the template to the top edge closest to the whale's mouth. Use a pencil or pen to mark where each of the twelve holes will be drilled.

Put a 3/8" bit in your drill. A drill press is highly recommended. Stand your workpiece upright. Place the bit on your drill press slightly in front of your workpiece and even with the mark to show how deep the hole should be. Lower bit until the tip of the bit is even with the light pencil line you made earlier. Set the depth stop on your drill press.

Carefully position your workpiece so the bit is centered on the the first mark you made on the top of the workpiece. If you have a fence, slide the fence up to the back of the workpiece. You can now drill the first hole. If you are using a fence, slide the workpiece along the fence until the bit is centered over the next hole in the line of three. Drill the second hole. Do the same with the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth hole.

You should now be able to reverse your workpiece so the other long side of the workpiece is against the fence. Position the drill bit and drill the seventh hole. Continue as before with holes eight through twelve

Erase the light line that you drew to indicate the depth of the drill bit.

Ta Da! You are now ready to proceed with cutting out the whale.

Cutting Out the Whale Shape

Remember **not** to cut the line from mouth to fin to tail. Just cut the outside of the whale.

A bandsaw might be the easiest way to cut out the whale. If you have access to a belt sander and/or an oscillating sander you can cut out the whale shape, leaving a little extra that you can sand off. There are a few small areas that you will have to get with the bandsaw rather than sanding. You might want to cut the shape with a bandsaw, sand, and then come back to the bandsaw to get into those last small, tight places.

If you don't have power sanding equipment try to cut as close to the line as you can (without cutting into the line). A rasp and/or sanding block might help even out the edge of your cut.

The Eye of the Whale

You are now ready to deal with the whale's eye. Drill a hole just about 1/16" deep, centered on the mark you made for the eye of the whale. If you drill too deep you will drill right into a hole that you drilled earlier from the top for a crayon. On the top edge of the whale you can measure the distance from the face of the whale to the holes that you drilled.

Repeat drilling on the other side of the whale. Flip your template and mark the hole again if you haven't already done that.

There are small, round, brown pieces available to use as the iris of the whale. They are heavy paper, which is why your hole for the eye should be 1/16" deep. That will keep the iris below the surface of the whale so it is less likely to be accidentally (or on purpose) removed by a child.

The iris looks good below the mid point of the eye and close to the mouth side.

Iris Placement

Round Over

The hard edges of the whale should be rounded over to make them a little safer for children. You can use a router if you are careful. Another option is to use sandpaper.

Templates:

Center of 1/2" hole for eye (1/16" deep or less).

Draw a light line here to mark depth of drill bit for crayon holes.

Whale Template Part 1A

Whale Template Part 1B

Top Front of Whale

Whale Template Part 2

Small holes mark center of the 3/8" holes for the crayons. Drill before cutting whale shape.