

HOMEMADE ROCKETS

The “photographic” rocket model

What you need

- Plastic container for photographic film (Fuji works best)
- A tablet of some effervescent substance
- A little water
- Small piece of cardboard
- Glue, tape, scissors

What to do

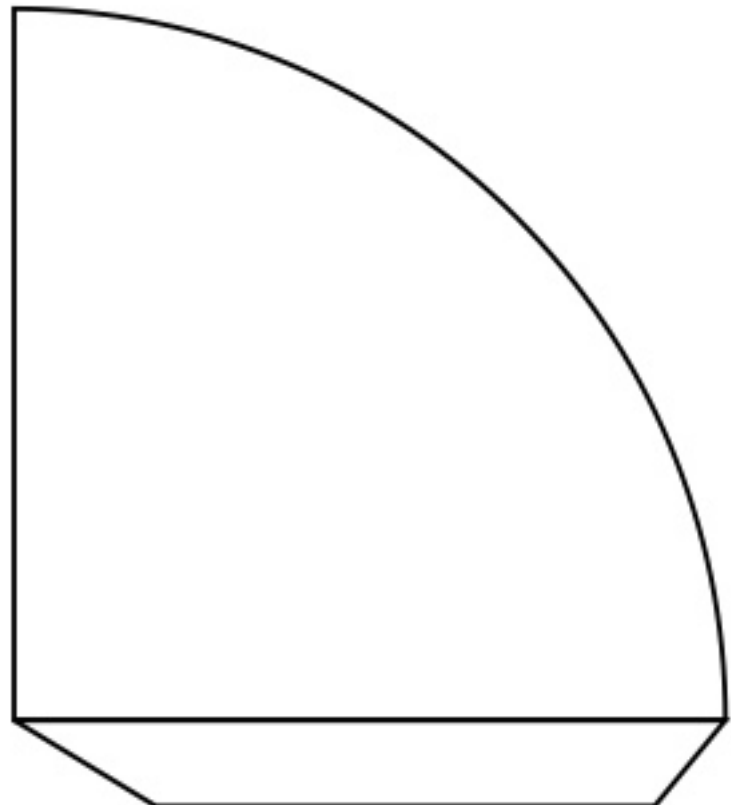
Cut the cardboard piece (Fig. 1), decorate and glue it to form the cone-shaped end of the rocket. Fix it to the container's bottom with tape.

Fill the container with water up to 1/3 of its capacity. Insert the tablet and close it quickly.

Leave it with the container's cover side on the ground. It will launch when you least expect it!



Fig. 1 Cone-shaped end of the rocket



The water bottle model

What you need

- A 50cc plastic water bottle, empty
- Water
- 15g baking soda, 30g cream of tartar
- Toilette paper
- A cork

What to do

Fill the plastic bottle up to 1/3 with water.

Add the baking soda and mix well.

Pack the cream of tartar inside a piece of toilette paper and close it carefully.

Introduce the cream of tartar inside the bottle and close it quickly with the cork. It is very important that the cork fits well the bottle mouth to prevent any leakages.

Leave the bottle in a bottom up position and wait until the baking soda and the cream of tartar react producing the gas (carbon dioxide) that will propel the “rocket”.

To help with positioning the bottle prior to the launch you can put it inside a plastic cup deep enough to hold the bottle, or build yourself a support system like the one on the picture using cardboard.



Tintin's rocket

You can also use a larger, 150cc plastic bottle, and decorate like the rocket Tintin used to travel to the Moon. You will need to increase the amounts of baking soda and cream of tartar (always in a 1:2 ratio) and a bit more of water, depending on how much the rocket weights in the end.

