



The Flying Crayons

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A lot of people I know are flying crayon rockets; clusters of crayons; crayons in a box; you know the ones I mean, where you get a crayon bank, add fins, an engine mount and make it into a rocket. There are even kits available for doing the conversion.

Not to be outdone, I decided I needed to get into the crayon craze. However, no fake crayons for me. I am going to do this with the real thing. Here you see my initial fleet of crayon rockets made from real crayons.



So, what do you need to build real crayon rockets? Well, real crayons, of course, and a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch drill. Add to that a little balsa wood, a launch lug, some paint and glue and you are there. Get a whole box of crayons as you are going to screw up a few figuring out how to drill a Micro Maxx sized hole in a crayon that is just slightly larger in diameter than the engine.

Building the Crayon

Step 1, wrap some tape around a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch drill bit, 1 inch back from the tip to mark the depth you need to drill to fit a Micro Maxx engine in the back of a crayon. Wrap a little around your fingers as well to protect them from the drill.



I tried drilling a larger hole that would fit a Micro Maxx engine tube, but there was just not enough crayon left after the drilling so I had to forgo the engine mount and insert the Micro Maxx directly into the wax. I was a little concerned that the heat of the engine might melt the wax and cause problems, but it turned out to not be a problem.

Step 2, Hold the crayon down on a steady platform and carefully drill down the center of the bottom until you reach your depth mark.



Try to not drill your fingers in the process. It gets blood on the crayon and you have to throw it out and try again. This is why you have a whole box of crayons to work with. Actually, if you use a red crayon, you can get away with drilling your fingers and not have to replace the crayon. Unfortunately, there is only one red crayon in a box.