



Kathy McNeil's Story Totem Fabric Sticks. www.kathymcneilquilts.com

Supplies:

Gloss finish Mod Podge 16oz.

Foam brushes 3' wide

Bucket of water and rags for clean up.

Strips of fabric in varying widths 4- 5" long to wrap around to back of the stick. 4" for the narrow strips of wood.

Suggest a variety of 1' to 4" wide.

Cut 2" and 3" wide strips of wood -in lengths that will fit the scale size of the wall you want to hang them on. They look best when hung staggered.

Be sure to include a variety of bright colors, patterns and prints. You will want a nice value contrast too. Very light to medium dark. The Mod Podge tends to darken the fabrics so be careful with too dark colors... they may end up just looking black.



Audition as you cut strips. Lay them out, side by side on sticks. Repeat in different places across all the sticks to maintain unity. When you are pleased- draw pencil lines across the wood strip with the width of the matching strip - minus 1/2 " This will keep you horizontally oriented as you go. Each strip will overlap on both ends about 1/4 ". Pick them up in order and remember which is top and bottom. The bottom and top strip will need to be extra wide to cover the stick on all sides.

Use 4 push pins, (two on each end) to hold the stick away from a plastic table cover. Generously paint both sides of the stick and edges with Mod Podge. Place on the push pins to keep the glue from wiping off onto the plastic, when you lay it down to dry.

Begin at the bottom and slide the first strip of fabric into position. Gift wrap the bottom of the stick with the fabric. Trim as needed. Paint over with Mod Podge. *The horizontal marks on the wood should prevent careening off at an angle. Smooth all the wrinkles and air bubbles out.*

It will be Messy!! Continue over lapping strips, painting extra Mod Podge as you go. (Staple the first one in position on the back if it is sliding too much.) The Mod Podge goes on white, but will dry clear. Make sure you have all edges covered and the fabric is sticking securely to the wood. Allow to dry overnight. It may take two weeks to "cure" and not be tacky. I hung mine in 3 days without a problem. Bruce drilled screw holes at an angle into the back and then put screws in the wall at the same angle. The wood strips just slid onto the screws..