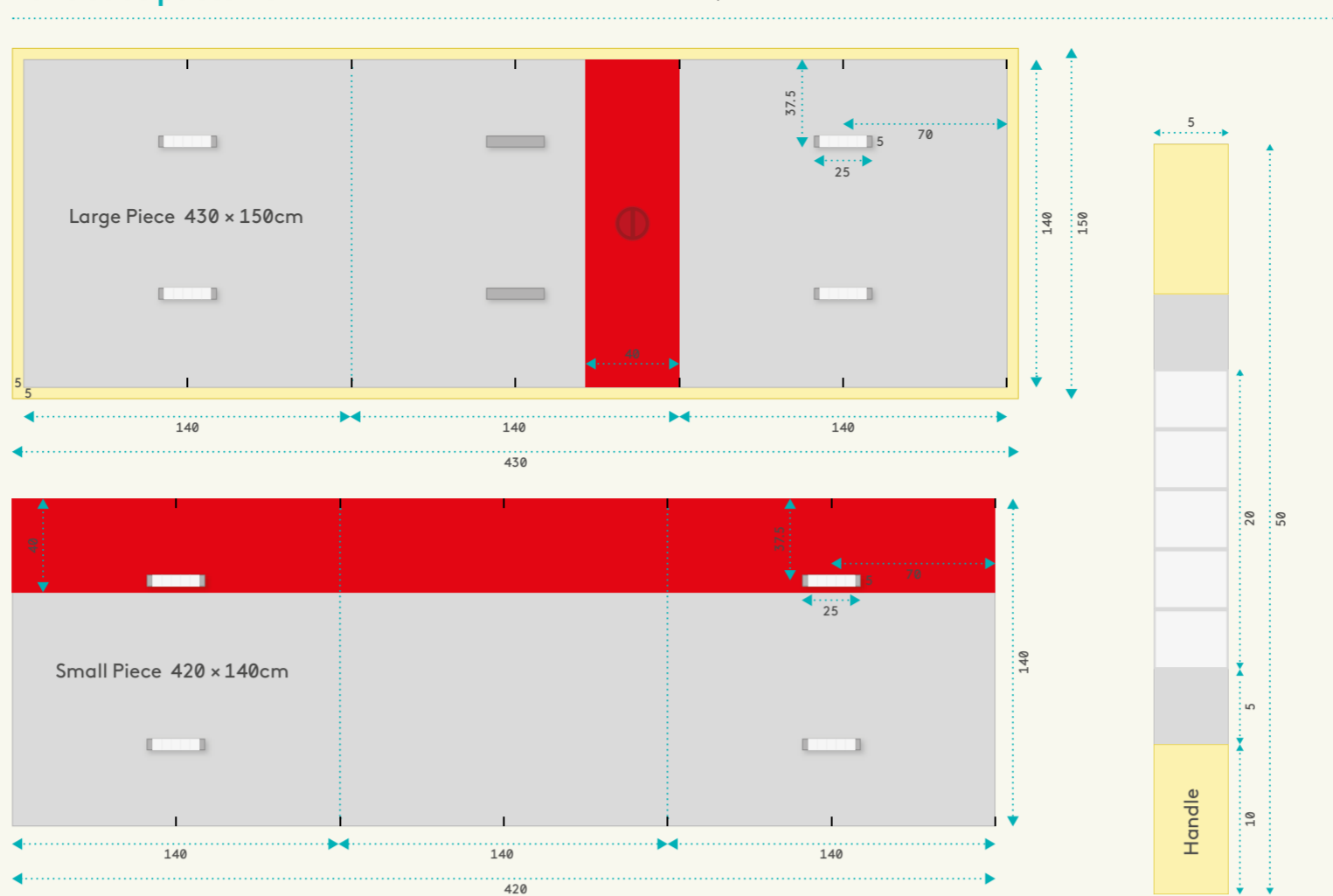


FABRIQUÉ À PARIS

Paris cube patterns



Imprint

This poster is about the "Fabrique à Paris" project initiated by Tools for Action.

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More instruction manuals can be found under:
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Fabriqu   Paris

Mylar insulation foil, double stick carpet tape, and velcro – these are the materials of contemporary barricades. In Paris, the city where the concept of a barricade originated, Tools for Action has invented a new type of inflatable blockade in preparation for protest at the 2015 UN Climate Summit. The inflatable barricades were made in Paris and sent to different locations around the world.

The word "barricade" comes from the French word "barrique" meaning "barrel". The first barricades were hollow barrels rolled out into 16th century streets, filled with stones and secured with metal chains. In November 2015, Tools for Action, a Berlin-based arts collective, developed a barricade with a similar construction principle. Modular lightweight sculptures made of insulation foil are filled with air and



attached together with velcro. A set of cube-shaped units (like cobblestones) can be quickly inflated at different locations, forming a line that hinders sight and movement when brought together en masse. They can be more than walls though – when people throw the individual cobblestones into the air, they turn a street into a spontaneous playground. In past interventions with inflatable cubes, some cubes landed on the police line during the 2012 May Day demonstrations in Berlin. The heavily armed police threw

the cubes back, unwillingly entering into an absurd game of catch.

"Red lines are not for crossing"

A red line is drawn across these inflatable barricades, symbolizing the demands drawn up by the Coalition 21, a network of 130 civil-society organisations. The red line entails a drastic and immediate reduction of greenhouse emissions and a recognition of the historical responsibility of industrialized countries. It also demands the installation of a monitoring

system with the authority to penalize transgressors, and sufficient financing from more economically developed countries for a global transition to clean energy, including compensation for the suffering and loss that climate change has caused.

The original idea was to form an inflatable blockade in front of the UN conference in order to strike a mark for the demands of the Coalition 21. But when terrorist attacks struck Paris on November 13th, plans changed.

A state of emergency was declared and the right to protest suspended for three months, spanning the duration of the UN summit. These measures banned a march for climate justice that had anticipated the arrival of more than 200,000 people from all over the world, and allowed the government to put many political organisers under house arrest.

In the aftermath of the attacks, Tools for Action sent inflatable barricade kits to climate-activist groups around the world, in places such as Portland,



New York and London. This tactic addresses the fact that climate change is a global problem that needs a site-specific direct response.

The barricades were assembled by hundreds of helping hands, connecting French farmers opposing a destructive airport, locals from the Montreuil neighbourhood in Paris and solar panel engineers from California. The construction studio in the social center Jardin D'Alice was a meeting point for discussions, skill sharing, and imagining how this simple tool can be used.

Working with inflatable objects over the years, we still find ourselves intrigued by the moment when a small bundle expands to large proportions, floating in the air and defying the laws of gravity. With the inflatable barricade we want to provide a concrete tool for direct action and to create space for wonder and enjoyment. This instruction manual will help you to get started. For more information, contact us!

Tools for Action
 Paris, 8.12.2015

How to make an inflatable cube

Tools and Materials

→ Mylar insulation foil (we use Parotec 150g/m² from the company folnet) → Double stick carpet tape (5 cm wide) → Scissor → Knife → Gaffer tape → Plastic bottles for the valve (we use the plastic containers of the local Berlin supermarket used to store cabbage with a bottleneck of 10 cm. The advantage of a wide bottleneck is that you can inflate and deflate the object faster.) → Roller (not necessary but makes life easier) → Red plastic vinyl for the red line → Ruler → 12 V fan (we use the TMC Bilge Blower, available at Conrad Electronics) → 12 V battery

For the mass production of inflatable cubes, we created our own tools and templates, so it becomes easier to create the same shapes over and over again. This instruction manual is meant to give you an insight in the process. For a more detailed instruction manual, please visit our website → www.toolsforaction.net



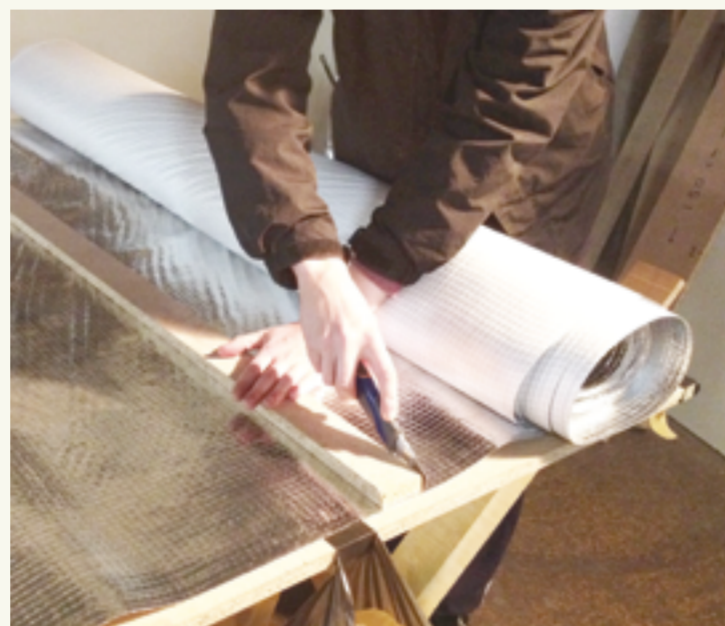
Mark & Cut the Smaller Piece

→ Markers, ruler, knife

This piece, called the Smaller Piece, will end up being 140 x 420 cm.

Please follow these steps to cut it:

- 1) Roll the foil out on the table, silver side up.
- 2) Draw guide marks along the long edges. Mark every 70 cm and 140 cm, until you reach 420 cm. On the top edge, mark your guide marks 10 cm in towards the center. On the bottom edge, just mark along the bottom.
- 3) Cut the foil at the third 140 cm mark (420 cm).
- 4) Cut 10 cm off the top edge of the foil.
- 5) You should now have a piece of foil that is 140 x 420 cm.



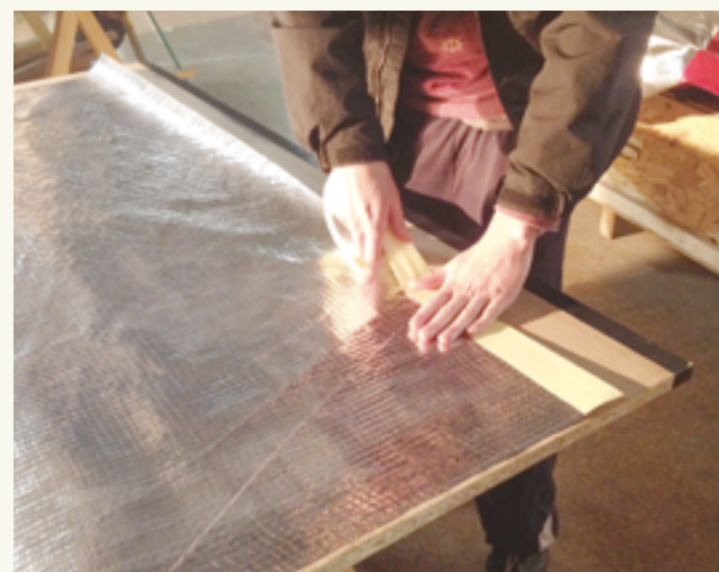
Mark & Cut the Larger Piece

→ Markers, ruler, knife

This piece, called the Larger Piece, will end up being 150 x 430 cm.

Please follow these steps to cut it:

- 1) Roll the foil out on the table, silver side up.
- 2) Put a strip of double stick tape along the short edge of the foil on the silver side.
- 3) Draw guide marks along the long edges using the inside edge of the double stick tape as your zero point. Mark every 70 cm and 140 cm, until you reach 420 cm.
- 4) Put a piece of double stick tape along the second short edge on the silver side.
- 5) Cut the foil at 430 cm. This is the outer edge of the double stick tape.



Double Stick Tape

→ Double stick tape, roller, scissors

Put double stick tape on the long edges of the Larger Piece, on the silver side.

- 1) Overlap the tape at the corners. Begin by peeling back the wax paper on the corner of the double stick tape you stuck on the short edge in Step 3.
- 2) Layer a new strip of tape on top and extend the new strip of tape down the long edge.
- 3) When you reach the second short edge, overlap the tape on the corner.
- 4) Cut off end of the tape with scissors.
- 5) Roll over the top of the tape to remove air gaps.
- 6) Repeat on other side.



Make the Handles and Insert

→ Velcro, double stick tape, roller, marker, scissors, knife

Make 10 handles. 8 with velcro and 2 without.

- 1) Cut a strip of foil to 5 x 50 cm.
- 2) Put 10 cm of double stick tape on either edge.
- 3) Adhere a 20 cm area of velcro in the middle of the handle, made of strips of "hook" and "loop".
- 4) Use the pattern diagram to mark the positions of the handles on the cube.
- 5) Cut slits that are 5 cm long. Slide the double stick tape on handles through the slits and then stick them onto the white side of the foil. The velcro should be facing out.
- 6) Reinforce the front, inside and back of handles with gaffer tape.
- 7) Roll with roller.



Make the Valve and Insert

→ Plastic lid, double stick tape, scissors, marker, gaffer tape

- 1) Cover the clear plastic part of the valve in double stick tape. Put vertical strips of the double stick tape on the outside of the plastic. Overlap the strips so to prevent air gaps.
- 2) Cut vertical slits in the taped plastic. Cut every 1–2 cm vertically.
- 3) Trace the lid in the center of red line on the Larger Piece.
- 4) Cut out this circle to make a hole.
- 5) Flip over the Larger Piece, so the white side of foil is facing up.
- 6) Put the clear plastic opening through the hole.
- 7) Stick the double stick tape on to the white side of the foil.
- 8) Reinforce the inside with gaffer tape.
- 9) Roll with roller and smooth with fingers.
- 10) Flip the foil back over, so the silver side is facing up.
- 11) Put the red lid back on. The red lid should be on the silver side.



Assemble the Inflatable

→ Roller, gaffer tape, scissors

Stick the inflatable together by attaching the double stick tape on Larger Piece to the Smaller Piece.

- 1) Begin by attaching the Larger Piece to the Smaller Piece so the red lines connect. The double stick tape should attach to the white side of the Smaller Piece.
- 2) Then attach each side, one by one. It is helpful to only peel back a little of the double stick tape at once. Try to make the 140 cm guide marks match up.
- 3) When you are folding a corner, cut an incision across the double stick tape to allow you to fold the corner. Reinforce above the incision with gaffer tape on the white side.
- 4) At the end, roller the double stick tape to remove air bubbles.



Inflate

→ Fan or vacuum cleaner, battery, hose, gaffer tape

Use a fan with a hose attached or a vacuum cleaner on reverse to inflate the cube.

- 1) Stick the hose into the valve opening.
- 2) Wrap gaffer tape around the gap between the hose and valve.
- 3) Inflate
- 4) Quickly remove gaffer and hose and screw on red lid.
- 5) Have fun playing with your inflatable!



