
Bubble Mania: Fairy Wands with Rad Megan

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

- One of my favorite childhood memories is staring out at my mom, dad, and sister on the driveway from inside a giant bubble. I grew up with all kinds of activities, and bubbles were one of my favorites. I think every kid loves bubbles, maybe even most adults. So in this workshop, I am going to share the Redmiggan secret family recipe for bubble juice and show you several really easy bubble wands that are going to change your life basically and just make for a really fun outdoor day at the park, day at the beach, day outside. It's a great day to get crafty with bubbles.

Chapter 2 - Making Bubble Juice

Tools & Materials

- To make your own bubbles at home, you're only gonna need a few things, and chances are, you probably already have some of them in your kitchen. We are going to start with the bubble juice. And for that, we're going to need some liquid dishwashing detergent, some glycerine or light Karo syrup, water, and a giant bucket, or a bowl, or a bin, or just something to put your bubble juice in. And you're gonna wanna get some pipe cleaners. Those are available at any craft store. Some kitchen twine, this is also available at craft stores, at kitchen supply stores, most home goods have it. Sometimes it comes in really cute colors and stripey things that just sort of dress up your bubble wands. Drinking straws, you can get these as fancy as you want or just as straight-up plastic, bendy as you want. Whatever you have is gonna work fine. Wire, I've got some wire that I use for floral design, and also some jewelry design wire. It's just colorful, it's easy to work with, it bends really well. And even though it bends really well, I have a couple of wire manipulation tools just for cutting and bending. If you don't have these, it's not a huge deal. You can get these at any craft supply store as well. They make things just a little bit easier to work with. And to make our wrapped wire bubble wands, we're also gonna need to clean out the backyard and find some sticks. Find a drill bit that will fit into our cordless drill, and some wood glue. And then we will be all set.

The recipe

- Making your own bubble juice is exactly like making lasagna, in that everybody has their own variation and that's just the sign of a good recipe and pretty much the only way that making bubbles is like making lasagna. But there are two main ingredients that you will need for this recipe, and they are water and liquid dish detergent. I wanna talk about water. I like distilled water. You can get this at the supermarket. It goes in an iron, no minerals in it at all. It's gonna make for a nice, lightweight elastic bubble. The next ingredient is the soap, and that is what you have probably noticed when you're washing dishes little tiny bubble float around. You need liquid dish detergent, and I tend to use Dawn. I find that it is my favorite, just the regular old blue stuff. Don't bother with the antibacterial. In fact, I would avoid it. I would also avoid the kind that you pump out and it gets really foamy. That's not going to get you bubbles. That's just going to get you dish soap, and that's not what you're looking for. So, I like Dawn, but Palmolive and some of the others work well also. And the last secret ingredient for bubble juice is, you can use one of two things. I'm gonna tell you the pros and cons of each. We have glycerin that comes from the drug store, and we have light Karo syrup that comes from just about any supermarket. And what this does is it really adds

strength to your bubbles. So if you want to make some big bubbles you're gonna need to invest in some glycerin or some Karo syrup. Karo syrup is a little, this is the corn syrup, it's a little bit cheaper than glycerin, but I don't always love using this because A, it's a little bit more sticky, and B, the sugar breaks down over time. So, if you have a bunch of bubble juice that you're making it might not last summer after summer. So, it's a good option in a pinch because it is a little cheaper, but I tend to prefer glycerin. And that is because, like I said, it lasts for a very long time and because the way the molecules react in the glycerin with the water, it just strengthens your overall bubble. It makes it more supple, and when you're going for those big bubbles that's what you want because you want to be able to put a kid inside of a gigantic bubble. You're not gonna be able to do that without the aid of this. The ratio that you're going to use for all these different ingredients is, it's going to vary, but it's gonna be about 10 parts water, two parts liquid dish detergent, and one to two parts glycerin or the corn syrup, whatever you can kind of experiment with that and see what you like. You're going to notice that the humidity in the neighborhood that you live, the time of year, you know, the way the air is that particular day, all these different things are factors in how they're going to relate to your bubbles. So, you might have to experiment a little bit, but a good rule of thumb is 10, two, and one to two. So, the last thing I want to tell you about this is that when you're pouring all of your ingredients together you need to start with your water. So, you're gonna pour that into your bucket first and then add the dish detergent and then add the glycerin. And once you've got that all together, it's gonna be a nice, clear, blue, or whatever color your soap is liquid, and it also makes for a really great hostess gift. You can just throw it in a little jar, put a little sewing trim around it, and just, you know, it's a great thing to show up at a summer party with. Everybody loves bubbles, and that is my favorite recipe. So, let's figure out how to make some wands and start using this stuff.

Chapter 3 - Kid-Sized Bubbles

Making large bubbles

- Good job. So this is one of my favorite childhood memories. Kiddie pool, hula hoop, being a little kid, and gigantic bubbles. This is what my mom used to do for us, me and my sister, and I am hopefully going to do this for you right now. So I have my lovely assistant Margo, and she is standing in a little plastic tub of just plain old water outside of the kiddie pool. That's because we're in a park, little grassy bits, little natural elements are bound to get stuck to your feet. It's not great for your bubble solution, it's going to weigh down your bubbles and potentially pop them quicker than you would like. So, can I have your hand please? Since I am going to help you in, take a step, and how about right here for me? - Aw this is warm. - It's warm? Good, okay keep your feet together. Bubble juice is really slippery, so be sure that your lovely assistant, slash victim, is comfortable and can stay in one place. I got you, are you okay? Alright. So let's see. We're going to take our hula hoop and just kind of make sure all the edges are covered in bubble juice. You're hoping for a day that isn't crazy windy, because that's going to blow your giant bubbles all around. Ready? Let's see if we can make this happen. Oops. Let's try that again. Did you see that? You were in a bubble. Let's do that again. (happy cheers) And that is how you put a real, live child into a giant bubble. Did you like that Margo? - Yeah. - Alright.

Chapter 4 - Making Bubble Wands

Kid-friendly wands (straws and strings)

- Now that we have our Bubble Juice recipe, I am just going to go ahead and pour all of my

ingredients into this big tub, and I'm starting with my water, and I'm doing this now, just because, like I said previously, your Bubble Juice recipe is going to vary depending on the humidity, depending on the time of year, time of day, so it's going to require a little bit of trial and error to get that perfect consistency. So, I'm just going to put in 10 parts water and then the two parts detergent, the liquid dish detergent, and you can use any measurement that you want, you can use teaspoons, cups, liters, however much Bubble Juice you want to make. Okay, so now I've got my water in, and now I'm going to add my liquid detergent. I did a little basic math earlier and I came up with about 80 cups of water to 10 cups of the liquid Dawn detergent, and about five cups of glycerin. Now that is going to give me a huge amount of Bubble Juice so I wanted to cut that in half, and I went 40 cups of water, five cups Dawn and two and a half cups of glycerin, and that is going to give us enough Bubble Juice that I'm actually going to be able to put a live child into a huge bubble. One more note about making Bubble Juice, is that you can often make it a day ahead of time, before your party or beach trip or wherever you may be going and that will just allow everything to kind of stabilize and come together, it's not totally necessary, if you want to have a bubble party in a pinch, but it is helpful and it will give you those really elastic bubbles that will just float off into the ether. I'm also going to add a little bit more glycerin. It makes them more supple and stable and it makes them more rainbowy, which I love. Now I'm just going to stir that all together and let's see, it looks like we are getting some nice rainbowy bubbles, so now that brings us to a couple of really easy bubble wands for kids. You've probably seen me using this little flower. What is this, my little pipe cleaner flower and I've also got a little bunny here. These are so easy for kids ages practically two and up. It really just is a great inclusive toy and tool, because that way little brother/little sister can play with bubbles just as much as the big kids. So with your pipe cleaner, all you're going to do is just take and it's so easy to bend, you can just make any shape to your heart's content. Awww! You just want to make sure it's fully closed, so that your Bubble Juice can grab the entire edge of the pipe cleaner. So this is a great way to make a really easy bubble wand for kids. There's one more that I love doing and makes a slightly larger bubble, and that uses two drinking straws and our kitchen twine, and all I have done here is just thread the string through one of the straws, through the second straw, and just tied a really basic knot, and when I'm ready to use this, I put it into my solution, stir it around a little bit, then lift it out and pull it back. This is a great way to get you hooked on really big bubbles, and we have an even bigger bubble coming up.

Found Objects Wands

- It's relatively inexpensive to make a giant vat of bubble juice and it can be really inexpensive to make your own bubble wands, or in this case find your own bubble wands. I have a few things that I just brought from home, I was kind of looking around the house for found objects that we could use for bubble wands today and I was shocked at how many things I actually came up with. The first thing I found was at the end of my arm, my hands. You get your hands nice and soapy, just put 'em together. And you've got a great built in bubble wand, you'll never lose it, so that's a plus. The other things that I found around my house, were these berry boxes and if you dip this in, you can get some really nice, just kind of like a massive amount of tiny bubbles. So that's really fun, I mean that would keep me occupied for at least an hour or two. And I'm not even a five year old anymore. And then while I was in the kitchen I found a couple of slotted spoons and I had a hunch that these would be great. You're not gonna get huge bubbles with them, but with the amount of holes in these slotted spoons you're definitely guaranteed a lot of bubbles. The next thing I found in my kitchen, I was kinda thinking about how many holes I had with these slotted spoons, so I found this

net bag that I use for the farmer's market, it's a little grungy, it's a little old, there's a hole in it, maybe not so useful as a bag anymore. Unless you're looking for a bag of bubbles. It you are I've got that for you. (laughs) I don't know you guys, I just love bubbles, they're just really fun, they just make you feel like a kid again. How could you not love this? The last thing I had in my kitchen, was actually something that was on it's way into the recycling. Normally I snip these things up, they come on six-packs of water or soda, these are the things you always see in the news, like killing off wildlife, well that's a bummer but you can turn it into something fun, by taking this thing and dipping it into your bubble solution. And... Making a wand out of it. Having a blast with trash, you guys. Okay, so, you kinda get the point, anything with holes in it can be used for bubbles. One more recycling thing, I cut the edge off of this giant juice container and when you dip that in, this is just a great megaphone of bubbles for kids. Running out of air! Oh, what else do I have here? For all you crafters out there you probably have some of these little spools of thread. Those make nice little bubble wands. The last thing I found, I actually found at a craft store, I didn't know what it was, but somebody today told me it was for dream catchers. So, anyway, these are just some ideas for fun, found objects with bubbles. It's a great way to make different bubble wands without spending a lot of money.

Wire wrapped wands and handles

- Once you become sort of a bubble connoisseur you might be ready to make your own bubble fairy wands. And that is what I'm gonna show you how to do today. What you're gonna need is some of this jewelry wire it comes in a variety of colors. Or floral wire, as well. The thing that you want to keep an eye out for I know it's easy to get sucked into all those gorgeous colors. But, when you make a bubble wand out of a very thin gauge wire, and then give it to a five-year-old, you are going to end up with something that just looks a little bit, um, squashed. Or, I don't know, demolished. Which is fine, it's still fun. But if you want a bubble wand that's going to last kind of a long time or even one afternoon, then you might want to use I'd say like 12 gauge wire, or even thicker. You're going to end up needing some kind of wire manipulation tool. So, I have some great heavy duty snips. And this is going to just cut all of my little loose edges that aren't gonna get straightened out properly. And then I also have some flathead jewelry wire tools. And some round tipped jewelry wire tools. These are just great for putting really nice coils in our wire. So I just want to show you a really basic design. I am going to go ahead and just cut this right off. Like so. It comes off really easily, hold on to these little bits, you don't want those to end up on somebody's bare feet. And I do just cut them off, know it might seem a little bit wasteful. I'm usually more thrifty with my materials but it's just really hard to get all the kinks out of wire like that. So I'm going to unwrap a good portion of this. And, the key with a good bubble wand, a good fairy wand, is that you want a giant circle. So that all of your bubble juice can be captured on all the sides. So I'm just going to kind of smooth out the edges a little bit. And, I'm gonna take this tool and just kind of grab it and wrap it around the base a few times. As tightly as I can just so that I know I have a really firm closure. And I'm gonna do the same thing on this side. Even though this wire looks really thick it's craft wire and it's bending really easily. So, it's not like you went out and got some heavy duty industrial wire. This is still something that is pretty user friendly to work with. So, I am going to just get these little loose ends here. I'm gonna try to grab those and smush them down as much as possible. For me, making wire fairy wands, bubble wands, is not always about the beauty of it. But just sort of the functionality of it. So, I do want it to look pretty cute. And what I'm gonna do just to get more surface area I think I'll take another color. And this is my floral wire. You can see it's the same 12

gauge as the other. And I'm just gonna add just a few more little accents inside of my big silver circle. And I'm using another color just to mix it up a little bit. I know it's not always about the look of something but I've got to use some kind of contrasting color. Give the kids something to fight about when they reach for their bubble wands. And I'll give it a snip. And maybe in this one I'll put a little bit of a coil into it. And then I'm just going to do that by grabbing one end and grabbing one end of my wire and then just sort of jumping it along and I think I'm gonna make this into a little coil. So it's just going to be one of my little design elements. I don't really have a plan in mind yet. And, you, of course, are welcome and encouraged to think about what kind of design you would like. That will often make it a lot easier to accomplish when you're working with wire. I tend to like things that are, you know, it's just fun to work with. Like a heart, or a flower, kids will love them. And it's easy to make little animals, little bunnies, and things like that. Right now it looks like I'm starting to make a little snail. And. Where shall I put him? So, let's just put this coil in here. I think I'm gonna put a few different kinds of circles in here so that when I lift my bubble wand up I get a ton of bubbles out of it. So, what I'm gonna do is just grab another little piece of wire and I'm just gonna start attaching my rings. This is an old bit. Chop that off. It's always interesting crafting in the great outdoors. We've got wind and weather. It just makes it more fun. So I'm just going to kind of take these heavy duties. And I really want to make a tight closure so this thing doesn't come apart the next time I give it to a five-year-old. So grab it and really pinch it together. Put your weight into it. I'm gonna do it with this side too. Grab it. Pull it around. If you are a jewelry crafter and you love working with wire, I apologize for my clunky completely un-elegant jewelry skills. Mine extend to bubble wands. I'm going to add this other circular copper ring that I got at the craft store that I was told is for dream catchers. And I just want to add more just more dimension to my craft ring. So I want to add another color. Take a little snip. And throw this guy in here. It's starting to look like kind of a crazy face. So, I'll go with that. I just grab this together. Jewelry wire is so so soft, it's really quite nice to work with. It does come in a variety of colors they're just really fun. So okay, I'm just going to clean this up and I don't really want to put a ton of time into the design of this. Which I know sounds like it goes against everything. You love and believe in the crafting world. But for me, what my goal with this wand is is just to get as many little circles as possible. So I'm going to need to bend this in and see what happens. Maybe we'll make this into some kind of funky looking heart. Actually, I kind of like that. I'm gonna squish this together. Make it a little tighter. Push the bottom slightly. I think we are almost ready to call the design element of this. And ooh, all I really want to do is just all I really want to do is get this ring attached to my heart. Oh my gosh, that looks so clunky. But I kind of like it. I'm not mad at it. All right. But what it needs it needs it needs a lot of stuff. It needs some love. It needs finesse. But it's not getting it here. So what I'm gonna do instead is give this thing a little bit of a base. Because we are going to attach this to a stick. Look what adding this little stick does to my fairy wand. It just takes this sort of unloved, awkward hmm, fairy wand and makes it look a lot better, actually. And now you can tell it's a tool, it's used for some fun. So, I am going to just add a little base to my fairy wand. And we're gonna stick that into the stick and we are going to be ready to party with these things. So all I've done is just grabbed a little bit more of this heavy wire around the base of my wand. And that is just so I have a little bit of metal to actually stick into the wood. So, this design, it looks crazy but, I mean, that's gonna make the kids go great, right? Like, anything that you make is gonna look probably better than that. And it sort of looks like a cool abstract face, right? Like, this is what I kind of like when I go shopping. So, now all I need is a nice straight stick. We're in a park and there were several little twigs and sticks that were great to choose from. You actually don't need too many power tools for this. I borrowed some of these drill

bits from my garage. And all I'm going to do is just kind of eyeball the different sizes. And just get a feel for the general thickness of my wire, and the general thickness of the drill bit. I'm gonna put that into my cordless. And normally when I'm playing with power tools I would say, like, wear your goggles and be sure you got a nice safe area. But if you're crafting in the park you just throw caution to the wind. I'm just kidding, be safe. Now I need to drill a hole into my very straight stick. So I have selected one I'm bracing it against something so that I don't accidentally drill into my hand. It may happen anyway so I'm gonna put my hand down further. Now that I have my hole I'm gonna test and see if it actually does fit my wire. Okay, that's a pretty good fit. But it is a little bit floppy. So I don't know if it's gonna be five-year-old proof, or not. So what I'm going to do is just put a little dab of wood glue. I'm just gonna pull this out again. Dab a little bit, woo I got a lot. And this is just gonna help my wire stay inside of my wood stick forever and ever. The only thing with this wood glue is that it needs about 24 hours to set completely. So, if you have your bubble party going on today maybe you use some found objects, or some string and drinking straw bubble wands. And tomorrow, go crazy with the fairy wands. Because this thing will be ready and it's going to make a million bubbles. (girl laughing)