

Mini-roundhouse!

This issue's YAC Attack is our most ambitious project yet! Have a go at building your own mini-roundhouse; a perfect Christmas holiday activity for you and your friends. Good luck – and do send in pictures of your roundhouses!

You will need:

- MDF board 30cm x 30cm and approx 8mm thick
- Drill
- Eight lengths of dowel 12cm long, 10mm in diameter for uprights
- Eight lengths of dowel 25cm long, 8mm in diameter for roof structure
- Hacksaw
- Hammer (optional; our pegs needed a bit of a whack!)
- Glue to hold dowel uprights in place firmly
- Twigs or lolly sticks to make struts in-between roof beams
- Garden twine for binding
- Scissors
- Willow or hazel lengths for wattle walls (you might find some in your garden or at your local garden centre); or you can use basket weaving canes available from craft shops
- Clay for daub (you could add straw for authenticity!)
- Raffia or similar material for the roof thatching
- An adult to help!

Pre-preparation

You may need to soak the willow/hazel lengths overnight to ensure that they are flexible

Method

1. Draw a circle about 25cm in diameter onto your base.
2. Ask an adult to drill eight holes around the edge of your circle at regular intervals. The holes must be big enough for your 10mm dowel lengths to fit in tightly.
3. Ask an adult to help you cut your dowel into the correct lengths for both the roof and uprights using a hacksaw.
4. Glue your upright dowels (10mm diameter) into the base. Leave them to dry so that they are secure before you build your wall.



5. Weave the willow lengths in and out of the uprights to build your wall, leaving one section between two

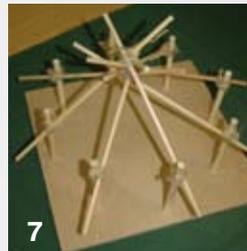
uprights as a doorway. Leave about 3cm at the top of the uprights sticking out; this is where the roof will join on.



6. Time to get mucky! Daub the walls using clay. Wait for the daub to dry before adding the roof.



7. Add the roof by lashing the 8mm dowel beams to the upright poles using twine. Tie the beams together where they meet in the centre. For the example picture, we added the roof beams before building the walls.



8. Add struts of twigs or lolly sticks in between the beams; these are necessary to give stability and allow thatch to be tied on.

9. Tie the raffia into small bundles and then, working from the bottom up, tie these bundles onto the beams and struts to thatch your roof. In this example picture, we thatched the roof before daubing the walls.



10. You've now finished building your roundhouse! Well done!



Extra Ideas!

- You may want to test your handy work! Place a sponge inside your roundhouse, and pour a known quantity of water over the roof to simulate rainfall. Squeeze out your sponge to see how much 'rain' got through!
- Once you've finished your roundhouse, why don't you paint it and decorate it with Bronze Age or Iron Age designs?! Visit the YAC website at www.yac-uk.org for some ideas.