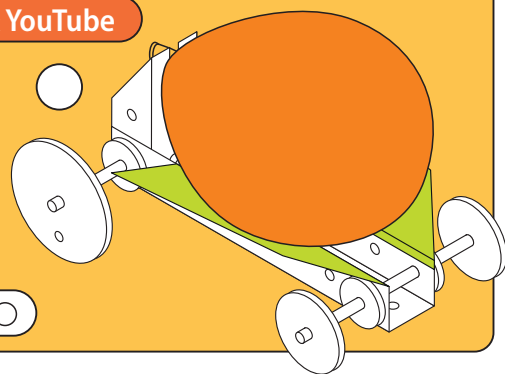




Visit TechCard at techcard.co.uk & Instagram & YouTube

Balloon Racer

Make and Create: Skill Level ● ● ● ○ ○



Build a high speed balloon powered racer propelled by moving air!

Explore how the elastic material turns air into potential energy.

See how to make with TechCard on our website.

The balloon is a battery of stored energy.

The car continues forward after the balloon empties due to momentum.



The escaping air generates thrust which propels the car forward.

[Assembly videos on YouTube!](#)

Parts to make 1 model

Structural Parts

TechCard Beam 1

Mechanical Parts

25mm Disc 4
40mm Wheel 2
60mm Wheel 2
200mm Dowel Axle 1
100mm Dowel Axle 1

Additional Materials

A5 Size Thin Card

You will have parts left over towards other models.

Parts to make 10 models

Structural Parts

TechCard Beam 10

Mechanical Parts

25mm Disc 40
40mm Wheel 20
60mm Wheel 20
300mm Dowel Axle 10

Additional Materials

A5 Size Thin Card x 10

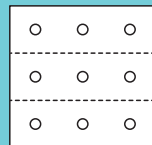
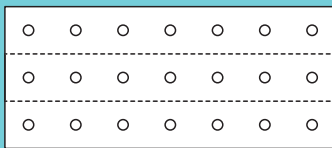
Based on pupils sharing off-cuts between them.

Make the Balloon Racer

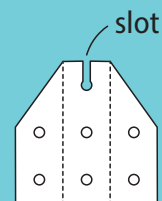
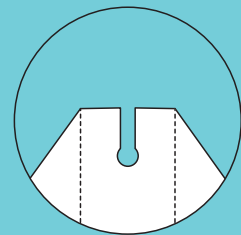


Before you start see
'Make with TechCard'
on our website.

1 Prepare the chassis.



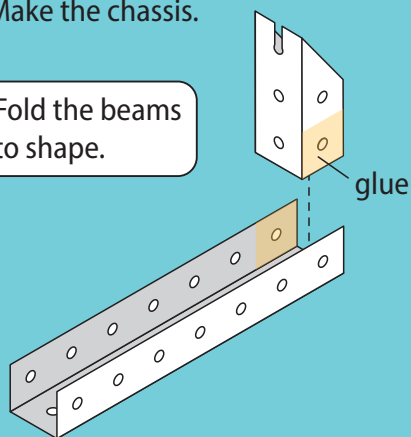
Cut a 175mm beam and a
75mm beam from a beam.



Cut the 75mm beam to shape
and cut a slot as shown.

2 Make the chassis.

Fold the beams
to shape.

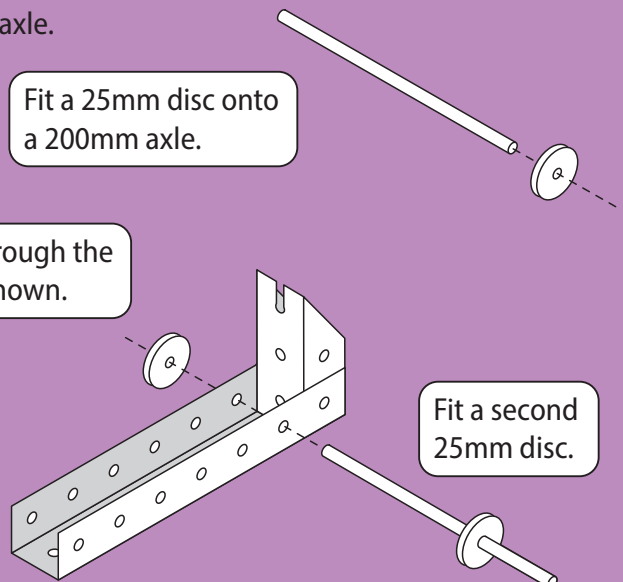


Glue the 75mm beam into the end
of the 175mm beam as shown.

3 Fit the rear axle.

Fit a 25mm disc onto
a 200mm axle.

Pass the axle through the
chassis where shown.



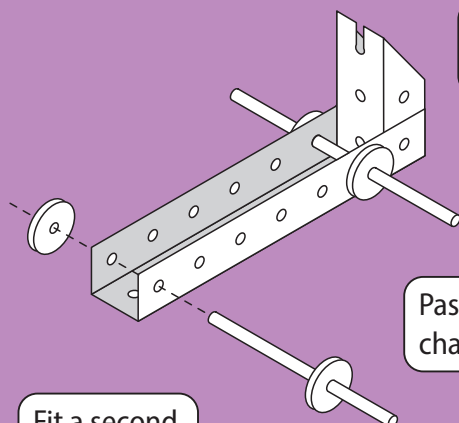
Fit a second
25mm disc.

4 Fit the front axle.

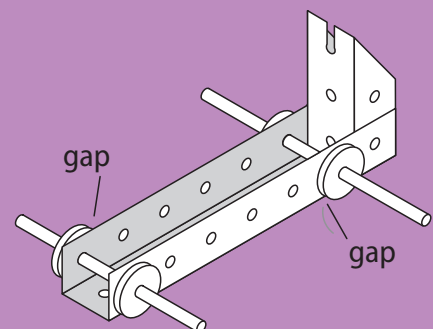
Fit a 25mm disc onto
a 100mm axle.

Pass the axle through the
chassis where shown.

Fit a second
25mm disc.

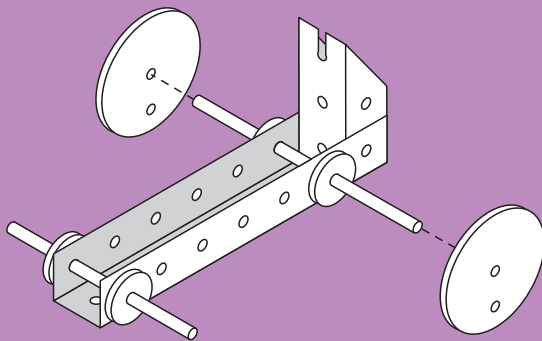


5 Check the axles.



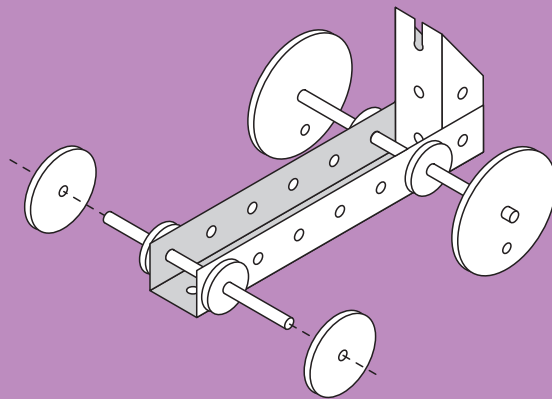
Check the axles are centred and there is a
gap between the discs and the chassis so
the axles turn easily.

6 Fit the rear wheels.



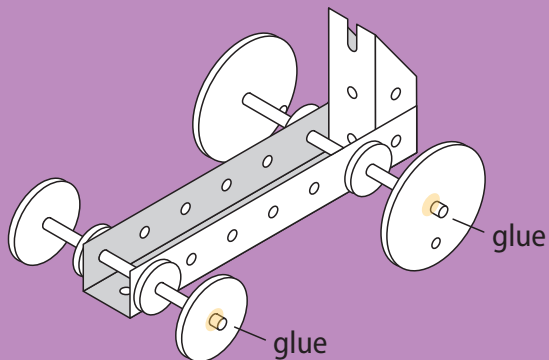
Fit two 60mm wheels to the ends of the rear axle.

7 Fit the front wheels.



Fit two 40mm wheels to the ends of the front axle.

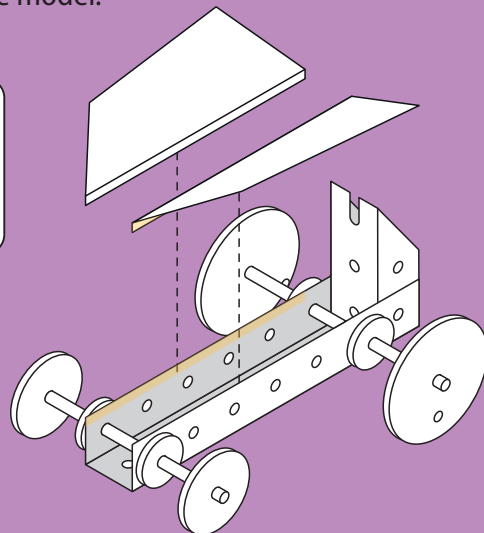
8 Glue the wheels.



Check the wheels are straight and glue.

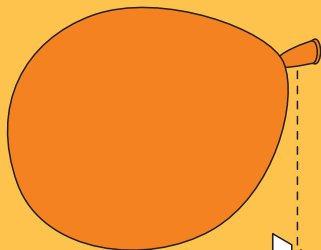
9 Finish the model.

Cut, fold and glue the panels into position.

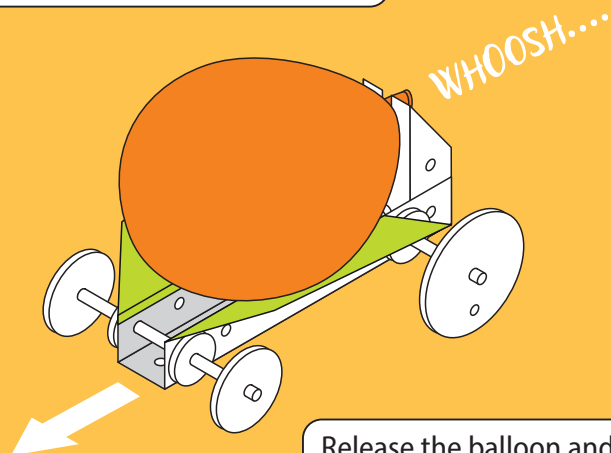


10 Operate your Balloon Racer!

Race on a smooth floor or large table. Inflate the balloon.



Use two hands to pinch and stretch the neck of the balloon and lower it into the slot as shown.



Release the balloon and the car will race forward!

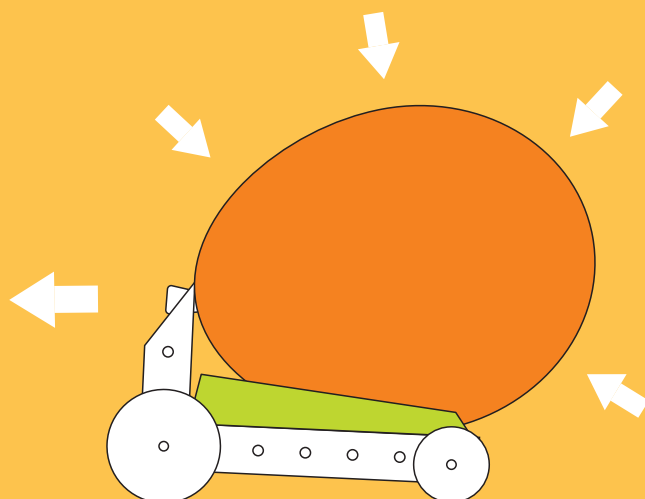
11 How it works!

As you inflate the balloon, the rubber material stretches and the balloon gets bigger.

The balloon material tries to return to its original size and presses on the air inside.

The air inside is 'under pressure' and when the nozzle is released it rushes to escape the balloon.

The fast moving air creates 'thrust' which propels the car forward.



Card Panels

Print and cut along the solid lines and fold along the dotted lines of the two panels.

25mm
25mm

Alternatively, copy the panels onto thin card and cut and fold in the same way. Or you can design and make your own body panels!