



Recycled dragonfly art

*Diane Turner gets creative
with bed legs.*

PHOTOS: DIANE TURNER

I **REALLY** enjoy the insect life that visits my garden, especially dragonflies, which are such delicate creatures. I also think art is a great way to capture nature while brightening up your garden. Combining these ideas led me to create homemade dragonflies, which are certainly bright and could also be made into butterflies.

Use bright colours to paint the bed-leg body.



One

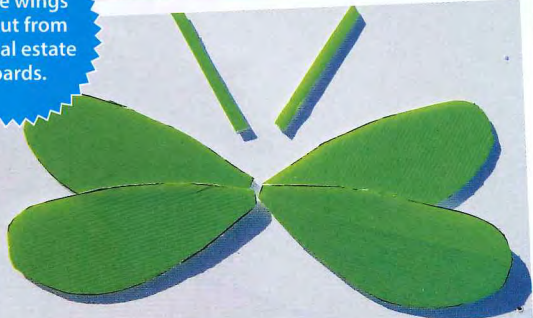
I found bed legs at my local Salvation Army Family Store, where they were \$2 each. You don't have to use bed legs, as old chair legs or stair spindles would work just as well. Make sure you remove any varnish with sandpaper and then give the legs a wipe down with a damp cloth to get rid of any dust before you begin to paint. Try to find recycled materials for the wings as well.



Trace around your wing design then cut them out.



These wings are cut from old real estate boards.



Use drawing pins or screws to fasten wings and eyes on to the body.



Two

The materials you use for your wings and eyes can be different thicknesses to mine, so use the best fasteners for the job. Milk bottles can be cut into wing shapes – it helps to use a template.



I cut up yoghurt pot lids to make eyes.

Old electrical wire is also useful for creating the feelers. Just drill a hole and push it in.



The copper inside the electric wire can be used to decorate wire wings.



Three

The wire wings are a bit fiddly to make, but they do look very delicate close up. Take old wire coat hangers, cut off the hooked hanger part and bend into shape. Weave some thin copper wire around the frames to imitate the veins in a dragonfly's wings. The copper will lose its shiny gleam over time. You could also try weaving with wool or string.

Four

Each dragonfly will have its own personality and can be as whacky and bright as your imagination will allow!



The bodies can be decorated with paint as well.

This one has buttons threaded onto wire for the feelers.

Decorate your wings with anything you like. Glass beads on this one.



Five

Let your dragonflies loose in the garden. Fishing line is almost invisible and can be used to tie your creations to hooks on a fence. I still have some legs left so I am sure there will be more dragonflies popping up on my garden walls. I would love to see some photos of your creations.