

A *tulipiere*, or bulb bowl, was used to grow tulips, crocuses, or hyacinths indoors. A bulb would be placed in each of the eight tubular 'spouts', which have access to a shared water reservoir. Tulips were especially popular in the Netherlands in the 16th and 17th centuries, when merchants from the East introduced them to the European market. This particular *tulipiere* was manufactured in London, England. It's made of a type of tin-glazed earthenware known as delftware. Want to make your own version using materials from home? Here's how...



Materials:

- Toilet paper or paper towel rolls
- Scissors
- Masking tape
- Other recycled materials like a tissue box or a plastic food container
- Paint, markers, construction paper, or tissue paper for decorating

Instructions:

Start by collecting materials from your recycling bin. Toilet paper or paper towel rolls are a must have for this project.



Arrange your materials to make the structure of the tulipiere. We used a tissue box, toilet paper tubes, a take out soup container, and a berry box. You can cut toilet paper tubes into different lengths, and play around with how you arrange the parts.



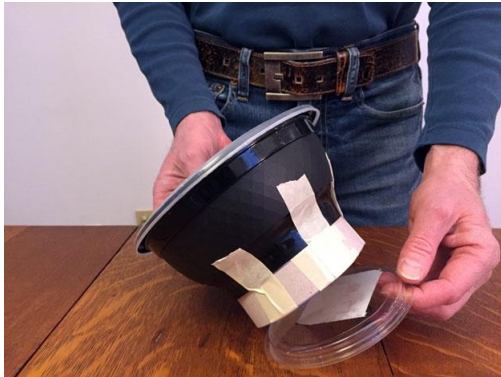
You can make parts out of cardboard as well. We made a cardboard ring to raise the height of the take out container so it looks more like the tulip holder in the Gardiner's collection.



Wrap one end of the toilet paper rolls with masking tape. Cut slits into the tape, so you can bend it to be perpendicular to the roll. Take the cardboard ring and tape it to the bottom of the bowl.



Put a lid of a plastic container on the bottom to give the piece a little extra width and height. At this stage, you can still be playing around what pieces you want to join together.



Tape the toilet paper or paper towel rolls on top of the container or tissue box. Make sure all the masking tape is pressed down firmly.



Using construction paper, tissue paper, or paint (we recommend acrylic), cover the piece in white. Just like we're now covering the various colours of the materials we used to build our tulip holder, the delftware potters used white glaze to hide the brown clay of their pottery.



You can decorate your *tulipiere* using as many colours as you want, or you can try a classic blue and white colour scheme like the one in our collection. Popular images to paint on tulip holders were flowers, birds, and landscapes.



Make some flowers to display in it, then take a photo and share it using **#GardinerFromHome**.

