

# Mr Shaha's MARVELLOUS MACHINES

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Have you seen the balancing bird in *Mr Shaha's Marvellous Machines*? Here is a printable version of this activity using a spaceship design by **Sai Pathmanathan**, author of "Utterly Jarvellous", a book filled with science activities you can do at home.

### For this activity, you will need:

- Colourful pencils or crayons
- A piece of scrap card from a cereal box or similar
- 2 small coins of the same type
- Scissors
- A roll of sticky tape or masking tape
- A glue stick

"This is just one of the activities from *Mr Shaha's Marvellous Machines*, a book filled with simple instructions for building toys which fly, spin, whizz, and pop. Mr Shaha says that we don't have to be buying new stuff all the time, instead we can make our own stuff and learn about engineering and science at the same time. Construct more of Mr Shaha's Marvellous Machines to discover the joy of making, and develop your creativity, scientific thinking, and problem solving skills."

### Method:

- 1 Decorate the template using the pencils or crayons.
- 2 Using the glue stick, stick the template onto your piece of cardboard.
- 3 Cut the spaceship out of the cardboard.
- 4 Using small loops of sticky tape, stick a coin underneath each of the front "wings" of the spaceship, in front of the cockpit.
- 6 Bend the wings downwards.
- 7 Bend the cockpit downwards.
- 8 Balance the spaceship on your finger.
- 9 Try adjusting the position of the coins if it does not balance.
- 10 Try balancing the spaceship on other things!

If you enjoyed making this, check out [alomshaha.com/machines](http://alomshaha.com/machines) for videos and other free resources for making lots more toys at home!

Sai Pathmanathan's book "Utterly Jarvellous" contains lots more science activities you can do at home.

