

QUICK AND EASY OCTOPUS

Sell this clever creature alone for party favors that are just swimming with fun! Tie it to a sand balloon weight for darling bouquet and centerpiece bases. And, incorporate it with floating balloon fish, seaweed and other clever creations for under-the-sea and luau theme parties.

Materials:

- 1 11" Polka Dot latex balloon
- 2 5" Friendly Eyeball TopPrint latex balloons
- 4 260Q orange latex balloons
- 1 260Q diamond clear latex balloon
- Qualatex Hand Air Inflator

Instructions:

- To make the octopus' legs, fully inflate an orange 260Q, and release the air to stretch the balloon. Wrap the uninflated balloon around two fingers, making sure not to wrinkle or twist the balloon. Then, inflate the 260Q again to create a spiral and tie. Repeat with the other three orange 260Qs.
- Gather all four 260Qs into a bundle, grasping them at the center point, and twist all four 260Qs together.
- Air inflate the 11" latex balloon for the octopus' body. Tie it into the center point of the 260Q bundle.
- Air inflate two 5" Friendly Eyeball TopPrint balloons to about 3" and tie them together. Wrap the eyes around the intersection of the "body" and "legs."
- Make a series of bubbles in a diamond clear 260Q. To make them, first inflate the 260Q to 6" and tie. Make three or four 1½" bubbles at the knot end, twisting each bubble several times in the same direction. Tie the finished piece into the intersection of the body and legs.



Preparation time: About five minutes
Materials cost: About 65 cents
Suggested retail price: \$5-\$10

- NOTE: Hold the first bubble with the little finger of one hand to prevent the bubbles from untwisting. Continue making ½" bubbles, twisting each bubble several times until almost all of the balloon is used. End the chain of bubbles by twisting the first and last bubbles together. If all the bubbles are twisted the same way, the chain will twist itself into a cluster.

Octopus design by Don Caldwell of Whittier, Calif. All balloons featured are Qualatex brand balloons. Photo and recipe courtesy Qualatex.com. For even more creative and profitable balloon ideas, visit Qualatex.com or call (800) 771-3968.

Party & Paper Retailer invites you, the retailers of the party industry, to create one-of-a-kind balloon recipes exclusively for our readers. If you are interested, e-mail Sarah Schwartz at editorial@partypaper.com for more information.