

MARDI GRAS MAMBO

Create this festive piece for Mardi Gras and Carnival-themed parties, and incorporate the moon-masks into centerpieces for a unified atmosphere. You can even change the colors to black and gold and include star-printed balloons for a formal evening event.

Materials:

- 12 9" "Crescent Moon" metallic gold Microfoil shapes
- 2 ea. 4" emerald green & quartz purple Microfoil stars
- 14 11" gold latex balloons
- 7 ea. 11" "Mardi Gras Masks-A-Round" emerald green and quartz purple latex balloons
- 7 ea. 260Q gold, emerald green and quartz purple latex balloons
- Qualatex BalloonRibbon
- Qualatex hand air inflator & heat sealer
- SDS base plate & conduit
- Cool glue
- Feather boa

Instructions:

- Insert the conduit into the base plate.
- Make a four-balloon cluster using two 11" gold and one green and one purple "Masks-A-Round" latex. Air inflate the two gold to 10" and tie the necks together to make a pair. Repeat with the "Masks-A-Round" latex, then twist all together to make a four-balloon cluster.
- Separate two balloons in the cluster, push onto the conduit just above the base plate, and twist the two balloons together.
- Air inflate three more clusters to 9", 8", and 7". Wrap them onto the conduit, rotating each to make the pattern shown.
- Air inflate three more clusters to 9", 8", and 7", and wrap onto the top of the conduit as shown.
- Cover the exposed conduit with the boa, then wrap the ends around the clusters to secure.
- Make a gold, purple, and green curly 260Q using a cylinder with an uninflated 260Q band tied around one end. Stretch out the 260Q to be curled by fully air inflating and deflating it. Slip the end under the band and wrap it around the cylinder, stretching the 260Q a little but not wrinkling or twisting it. Air inflate it and tie.
- Tie each end of the Curly 260Qs together, then wedge one end into the top 7" cluster. Wrap around the exposed conduit, and secure by wedging the other end into the bottom 7" cluster.
- Fully air inflate six purple and six green 260Qs, let out some air to soften, and tie. Tie into pairs and wrap all together into one cluster, then wrap under the top 10" cluster. Wedge each 260Q between two 10" latex and pull up to secure.
- Fully air inflate six Gold 260Qs, let out some air, then tie. Tie into loops, then tie the loops together into pairs. Insert under the purple/green 260Qs. Wedge each loop between two 10" balloons and pull up to secure.
- Glue the "Crescent Moons" together to make "moon-masks," then glue onto the column to finish.



Estimated cost:
Under \$20
Labor: About 20 minutes
Suggested retail price:
\$85-\$100

Original design by Cam Woody, CBA, of Pioneer Balloon Company. All balloons featured are Qualatex brand balloons, and the photo and recipe are courtesy of qualatex.com. For even more balloon ideas, visit "Balloon Ideas" and "Instruction Sheets" on qualatex.com, or call (800) 771-3968.

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