

SWEET BIRTHDAY SURPRISE

This creative concoction is the perfect birthday gift for all ages. It features long-lasting Bubble Balloons accented with value-added features like 260Q "candles" and 160Q "frosting."

Materials:

- 3 22" "Birthday Candles & Frosting" Bubble Balloons
- 2 ea. 5" Pale Blue, Dark Blue, Lime Green, Green, Spring Lilac and Purple Violet Latex balloons
- 1 ea. 260Q Pale Blue, Dark Blue, Lime Green, Green, Spring Lilac and Purple Violet Latex balloon
- 3 160Q Chocolate Brown Latex balloons
- 260Q Scrap
- Qualatex BalloonRibbon
- Round Container
- Weight

Instructions:

1. Cut two small holes in the lid of the round box. Tie a 260Q scrap onto the weight, and pull each end of the 260Q through a hole so that you can tie the weight tightly onto the underside of the lid.
2. Use a latex regulator to helium inflate the three Bubble Balloons, just until the wrinkles and seams disappear (so each Bubble is round like a beach ball). Tie the Bubbles' ribbons onto the 260Q attached to the weight.
3. To make a "candle," fully inflate the Pale Blue and Dark Blue 260Qs, letting a little air out to soften them. Tie the necks together. Measure 4 inches from the knot end of the balloons and twist. Pinch the knot of the balloons and the twist together to make two loops. Grasp a loop in each hand, and twist in opposite directions. Twist the 260Qs around each other to form the candle. When you reach the desired length, secure the 260Qs by twisting them together. Deflate and tie the remainder.
4. Inflate two Pale Blue and Dark Blue 5-inch latex to 4 inches and make a four-balloon cluster. To do this, inflate and size two balloons, then tie the necks together. Repeat to make a second pair, and then twist the two pairs together. Wrap the cluster around the neck of the Bubble, as close to the Bubble as possible. Wrap the uninflated ends of the 260Qs onto the four-balloon cluster to complete the candle. (TIP: Wrap the Bubble's ribbon through to the ends of the twisted 260Qs.)
5. Repeat Steps 3-4 to make two more candles with the remaining colors, and attach them to the Bubble Balloons.
6. To make the 160Q "frosting" around the "cake," inflate a 160Q, leaving about 4 inches uninflated. Pinch the balloon 1 inch from the knot end and twist several times to make a bubble. Repeat to make enough bubbles to circle the container, twisting each bubble several times in the same direction. (TIP: Hold the first bubble with the little finger of one hand to prevent the bubbles from un-twisting.) Wrap the bubbles around the container, and secure the chain by tying the knot and the last twist together. Trim the excess balloon.
7. Repeat Step 6 to make another chain of bubbles and wrap it around the container. (TIP: If the bubbles won't stay in place, secure them with cool glue or Glue Dots.)
8. To make the 160Q "bow" on top of the cake, inflate a 160Q, leaving 4 inches uninflated. Starting at the knot end, twist a 4-inch bubble, sharply bend the bubble in half, and twist the ends together. This creates a 2-inch loop twist. Repeat to make four more 2-inch loop twists. Twist, deflate and tie the excess. Arrange the loops and tie the bow onto the top of the lid using the 260Q attached to the weight.
9. Decorate with curled BalloonRibbon.



Estimated Cost: About \$17
Labor: About 15 minutes
Suggested Retail Price: \$35-\$45

All balloons featured are Qualatex balloons from Pioneer Balloon Co. Photo and recipe are courtesy of Pioneer. For even more balloon ideas, visit "Balloon Ideas" and "Instruction Sheets" on www.qualatex.com, or call 800-771-3968.

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