MAKING A KIDS COPENHAGEN PANEL OVEN

A variation on the original Copenhagen design by Sharon Clausson

Sunlight is your fuel. Learn to use it to cook delicious foods.
The Kids Copenhagen has smaller 11” square reflectors that direct light into the cooking space. Smaller amounts of food can be prepared using this oven.
It’s a great learning tool that can cook a variety of recipes.
For recipes and more, visit GDSnonprofit.org/solar-education-project
BEFORE GETTING STARTED

Safety Guidelines for Solar Cooking

SAFETY DURING SOLAR COOKING

SAFETY: When you direct light using reflection, the light waves are concentrated. Do not look at the light reflecting off the shiny surface. This can lead to damage to your eyes, especially if this occurs over a long period of time. Use good sunglasses for protection.

SAFETY: Solar cooking produces the same results as cooking on a burner or in a gas or electric oven. The cooking pots and food will be very hot. Handle with potholders. Be careful when handling hot liquids to prevent splashing.

SAFETY: Sunlight is the fuel for solar cooking. You cannot cook food if the sun is not visibly shining.

SAFETY: Focused sunlight can cause burns or fires. Do not allow your reflectors to become focused on anything other than the cooking space. When you are not cooking, close the reflectors or cover them.

D.A.R.E. will help you remember the basics of successful solar cooking.

D.A.R.E.
Direct: Direct light to cooking space.
Absorb: Absorb light & convert it to heat by using the color black.
Retain: Retain the heat using a heat trap.
Eat: Eat delicious solar cooked food.
MAKING A KIDS COPENHAGEN PANEL OVEN

Gather materials:
- Poster board 22”x28” (one sheet)
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue
- Reflective material (foil, interior of snack bags, etc.)
- Masking or duct tape (optional)
MAKING A KIDS COPENHAGEN PANEL OVEN

Trim poster board to make one square 22” x 22”.

Attach reflective material to one side of the poster board only.

Examples of reflective material: aluminum foil, self adhesive vinyl, and the interior of chip or snack bags. Material can be applied with glue.
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Turn the poster board over, shiny side down.

Find and mark the center of the square poster board.

*Hint: This can easily be done by folding in half vertically and then horizontally.*

Make a mark 3 ½ inches from the center along each fold.
Using the ruler and a pencil, draw lines from one mark to another. This will make a small square within the larger square.
Cut along the line from the edge of the poster board to the marks made.
MAKING A KIDS COPENHAGEN PANEL OVEN

Fold along the lines that created the small square.
This creates the base for your cooker.

Raise each panel up. Form a funnel by overlapping the panels with one another. Join together with a sturdy clip.
SETTNG UP THE KIDS COPENHAGEN PANEL OVEN

Practice aligning the panels toward the sun. When the oven is facing the sun properly, a perfect shadow should form behind.

Use a small black metal pan for cooking.
Place the pan of food inside a heat trap such as an oven bag or two small inverted pyrex bowls.
Set the pan of food with heat trap on the base of the panel oven.
In direct sun, this oven can reach 250F. Low temperature cooking takes longer. Allow more time for food to cook thoroughly.

If the sun is low in the sky, lower the front panel slightly or completely so as not to block the sun from shining on the cooking space.

Photo credit: Matteo Muioli

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IT’S TIME TO COOK WITH THE KIDS COPENHAGEN PANEL OVEN

Try something simple, such as rice or vegetables to get started. You can use an oven thermometer to monitor temperature inside your cooking space.

To see the Kids Copenhagen cooking eggs, go to GDSnonprofit.org, click on Solar Education Project then Oven Plans.

Happy Solar Cooking!

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