

Activity: Drawing with Tape

Tape is line. Depending on the tape you have, your line could be thick or thin—or both, if you have a variety. You could have a choice of many colors of line, or just one. You can cut or tear it to any length you want, so your lines can be short or long.

Materials: Masking tape; paper; scissors, if cutting tape will be easier than tearing.

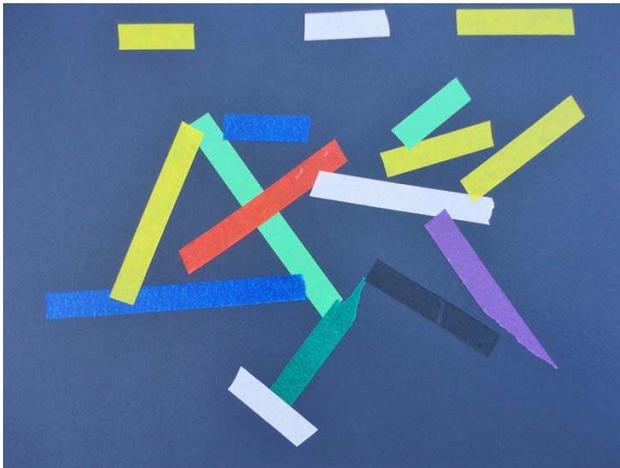
Challenge 1: Try drawing with nothing but tape. You might decide to create an abstract design, or you may use your line to draw something representational. Colored masking tape is available online at dickblick.com, discountschoolsupply.com, and other retailers. I've found solid-color washi-style masking tape at Target. If you find patterned tape washi tape, you might want to experiment to see how patterned lines affect your composition. If you can only find the standard beige masking tape, use it to make a design on colored paper (black would be especially striking).

Challenge 2: Look at Mondrian's last, unfinished painting, *Victory Boogie Woogie*, either online (<http://www.gemeentemuseum.nl/en/collection/item/4444>) or in a book of his works (see Resources, page 26). If you look very closely, you'll be able to see that the painting includes bits of colored tape as well. Mondrian used colored tape as part of his working process, to try out ideas; if he liked it, he'd paint over his canvas to match. Try using tape in some or all of Mondrian's chosen colors—red, blue, yellow, black, and grey—to “sketch” out a composition. If you'd like, try to re-create it using paint. Or perhaps you'd like to use a different color scheme? Give yourself limits, as Mondrian did, and choose only a few colors of tape to work with.

Gallery: Drawing With Tape



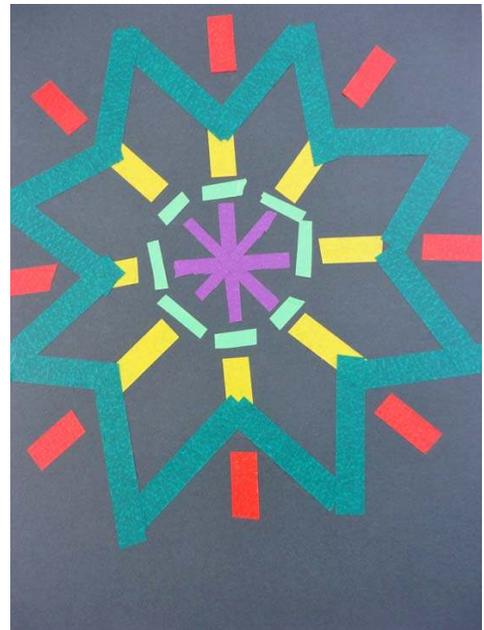
Above and below, abstract tape drawings by 5yo.



Above, tape drawing design by 11yo.



Above, representational tape drawing by 9yo:
"Firefly at night."



Above, tape drawing mandala by adult.

Making a painted copy of tape compositions proved challenging—but not impossible! Start with a fairly simple tape design, and recognize that the painted version won't be an exact copy. This activity was a great exercise in close observation, as well.



Above, an adult's abstract tape drawing (right) and painted copy (left)—a challenging exercise!

Left, the same exercise by a 9yo, with the tape drawing above and the painted copy below. This involved close observation and problem-solving, such as how to show the white tape over the black, when the white paint wouldn't show up over black? (He painted the black line in segments.)

Right, a 5yo's version of this exercise, with the painted version on the left and the tape version on the right. This involved some color mixing to match the pink and light green tape, and careful observation to re-create the colored lines in relation to one another.

