

BUILD IT YOURSELF

Beautiful Balancing Butterfly

SUPPLIES: paper, pencil, scissors, file folder, colored markers, tape, 2 pennies, colored pencil, flat eraser

Locate the center of gravity to create a butterfly that balances on your fingertip. **HINT:** Go to www.nomadpress.net/resources to download a template of the butterfly.

1 Fold the paper in half. Draw half of the butterfly on the paper with the center of the butterfly on the fold. This way both sides of the butterfly will be the same. Cut out the pattern. Open it up and trace the whole butterfly onto the folder.

2 Be creative and decorate the butterfly with markers and then cut it out. Turn the butterfly over. In the exact same spot on the outer edge of each wing, tape a penny. These equal weights will allow the butterfly to balance. Make sure you use the same amount of tape with each penny because the tape has weight, too.

3 Move the butterfly's head around on your fingertip until you locate the center of gravity. You'll find it is probably near the front of the head. You'll know you've found it when the butterfly is balancing on your finger. If you can't get the butterfly to balance, use trial-and-error to move the pennies to a different spot on the wings and test the butterfly until you get it to balance.

4 Want to display your creation? Use a colored pencil for a stand. Make a platform out of a flat eraser. Jab the pointed end of the pencil into it. Balance your butterfly on the pencil's flat end. You can also try balancing the butterfly on other surfaces. Try the tip of your nose, the edge of a cup, or the corner of a table.

