

# DIY Soft box for Speed lights

## By

### Robert Snary

The idea for this project came about after I started doing Bubble Photography as although I have got an umbrella soft box with modifier not everyone has the luxury so I thought and saw various types of soft boxes I realised that one could be made for a speed light in best "Blue Peter" style using cardboard duct tape and tin foil. My prototype was built from corrugated card but my final model was made from Black Foam Board as it was lighter and more rigid.

#### Materials

Two sheets of A3 Black Foam Board

Aluminium Foil

Rubber Band or Velcro Straps

Duct Tape

White Translucent Material (old plastic shopping bag without Logo)

Spray Glue

First cut the boards so you can get the following pieces out of them

Two top and bottom pieces

The template is below note it is not to scale. You will need to carefully score the coating of the foam board on the dashed red lines on the outside of the bends (i.e. score the red lines one each board

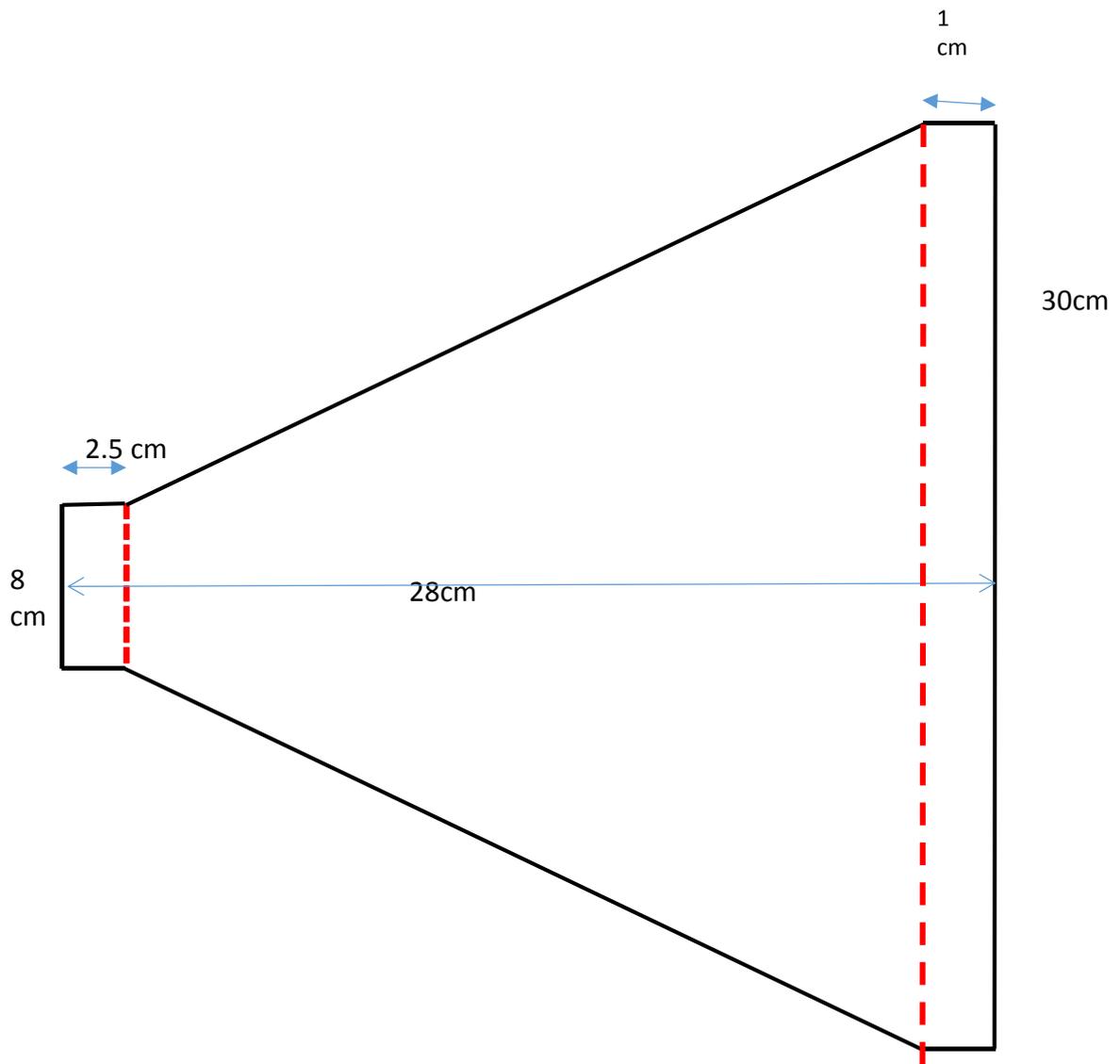
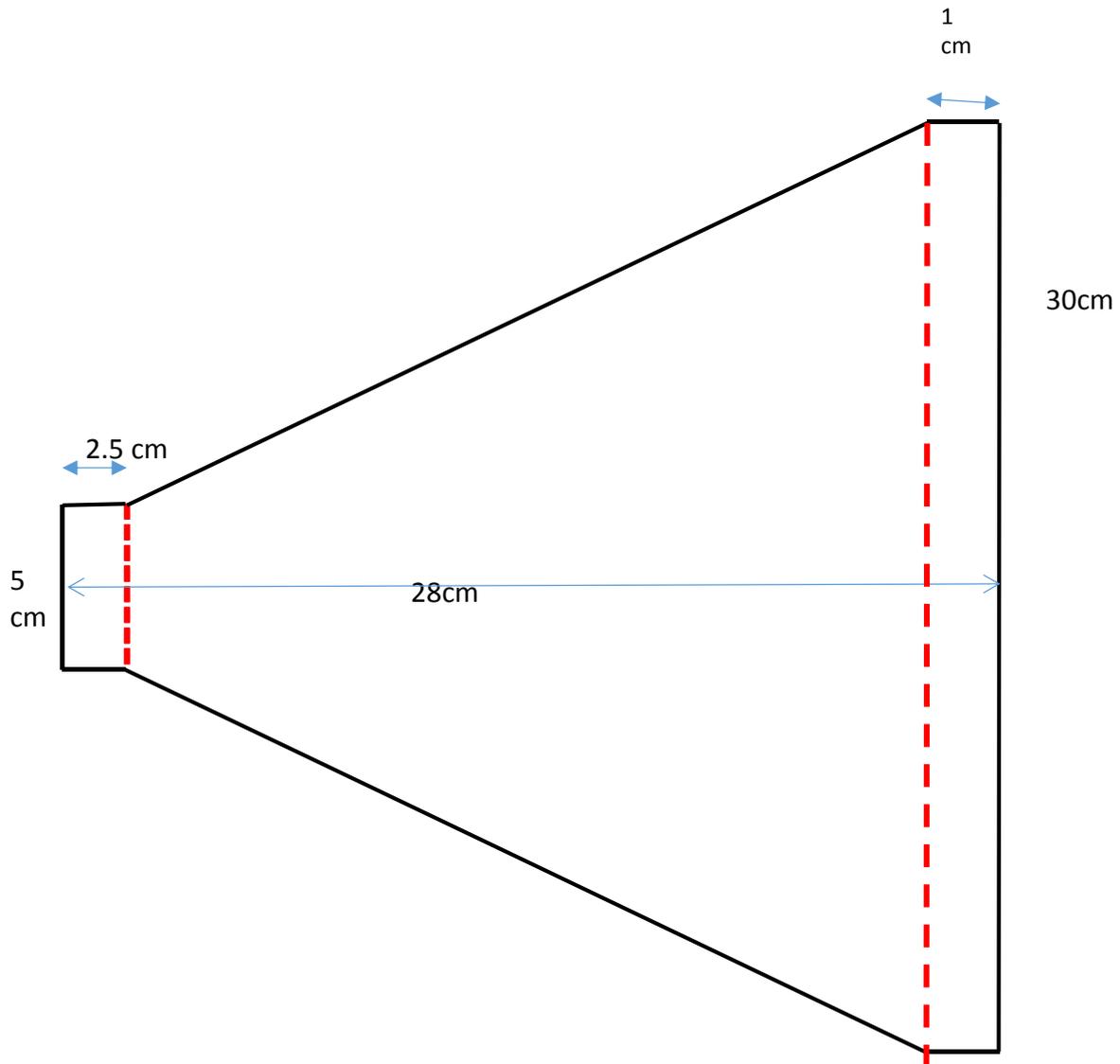


Diagram 1 Side Pieces

Then cut the two side pieces in a similar manner



The 2.5cm wide flaps and the 1cm flaps should be masked off on the side with the red scored lines then sprayed with glue, I used Spray Mount Adhesive as it didn't affect the foam core, then the aluminium foil should be stuck to the board with the shiniest side uppermost. Try to avoid too many creases and I "burnished" the foil down with a duster then leave to set.

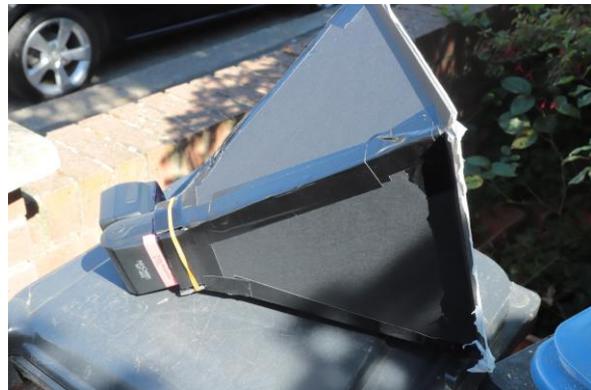
Duct tape should be used to reinforce the hinge that is left on the shorter tabs by sticking it to the board on the opposite side to the foil.

Now using Duct Tape on the long diagonal sides stick the pieces so a cone is formed with the aluminium on the inside. It isn't a bad idea to use your flash gun as a former to try and keep the pieces as square as possible. The 1cm wide sections can then have double sided tape stuck to them and the white plastic bag should be carefully opened and placed across the large opening and stuck place with the double sided tape try to get this as crease free as possible.

The Speedlight is held in place with a rubber band or Velcro strap

The offcuts of foam board can be useful for making stands for backgrounds. Or for holding things in place.

The soft box isn't elegant but it does work and it is cheaper than buying something you may not need that often.



This was my prototype and I have changed the sizes (in the diagrams) for the throat where the flash gun mounts so it is a little easier to slide on and off. You may need to change the sizes to suit your flash gun but the overall weight is a few ounces and is easy to hand hold and won't put any strain on the flash.

DIY Photography!! Cheap Skate Style ☺

Robert

Robert Snary 020 8360 6555, 07885 040097 or [g4obe@icloud.com](mailto:g4obe@icloud.com) or [robert.snary@bt.com](mailto:robert.snary@bt.com)