

# How to make... a Sockbob

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Suitable for ages 8 + independent working

Suitable for ages 5 - 8 with adult help

When one of your socks decides to go off on an adventure to the land of lost socks, why not make a Sockbob out of the one that's left behind!

This puppet is so simple you could even make a whole family of Sockbobs.

## You will need:

- 1 odd sock
- Rice or dried beans
- String
- Paper
- Tape (I used masking tape)
- Beads or buttons for the eyes
- 2 x Kebab sticks with pointy ends removed
- Cardboard box card
- Some scrap carrier bag or other decorations
- Cup or a glass (optional)
- Needle and thread (I've included a non-sew option for younger children)
- Scissors
- Glue (I used a glue stick)

## Instructions

### Step 1: The body

Fill your sock up with rice/beans to about a finger-width below where the heel of the sock begins.

To make it easier I used a cup to hold the sock open and made a scoop out of a piece of paper folded into quarters.

Once it's filled up, securely tie a piece of string around the sock just below the heel.

The heel will become our face.

Leave the two tails of the string long enough for the arms (about 15cms each).



### Tip:

If it's a very big sock you may only want to fill it up half way with rice, then stuff the rest with shredded paper or scrap fabrics.

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## Step 2: The upper arms

Take a piece of paper and cut it into 3 strips. Each strip should be about the width of 3 fingers/5cms.

Cut 1 of the strips in half so you have 2x long strips and 2x short strips.

Take 1 of the longer strips and fold the end around the string. Use some tape to secure, then wrap the paper tightly around the string. I used glue stick to secure the end of the paper roll but you can also use tape.

Push the roll to the top of the string, leaving about 1 little finger-width gap at the top.

Sew the sock fabric around the string we have left at the top of the arm – this creates the shoulders.

Repeat on the other side.

**No sew option:** Skip the sewing the shoulder stage.

## Step 3: The hands

Cut out 2 hand shapes from cardboard – Make sure you have a pair not 2 left hands!

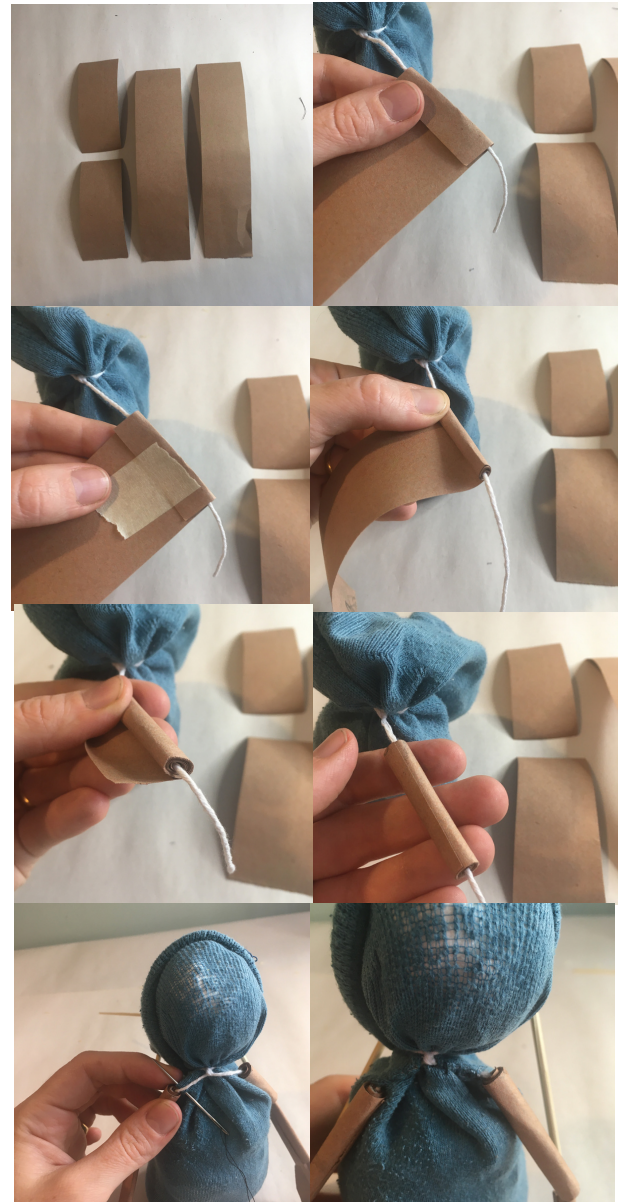
Cut 1 kebab stick in half to make 2 equal size rods for the arms – be sure to remove any pointy ends. Attach 1 hand firmly to each of the arm rods with tape.

Then cover the tape with paper to match the hand.

Bend the fingers to make the hand more 3D.

### Tip:

I used corrugated cardboard and made sure the ridges went across the hand so that I could curl the fingers to make it a 3D shape. You could also use other types of card or even a recycled plastic bottle.





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## Step 4: The lower arms

Take 1 of the smaller strips and tape 1 of your arm rods across the end with the hand touching the paper (as pictured).

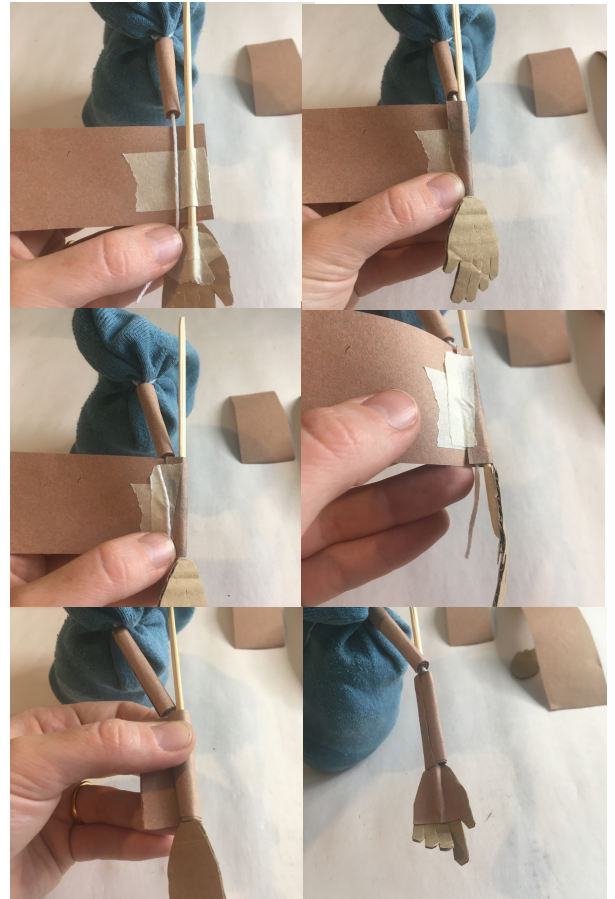
Place the string alongside the kebab stick and fold the paper to enclose it. Tape it closed.

Pull on the loose end of the string until the paper touches the upper arm roll you just completed.

Tape the tail of the string back onto the paper and cut off any excess.

Now roll your paper around the kebab stick and the string in the same way we did for the upper arm. Glue the end down.

Repeat on the other side.



## Step 5: The head

Take 1 kebab stick and cut it in half. Tape it to the corner of a length of kitchen towel 3 pieces long.

Scrunch up the paper around the stick to make a ball for the head, add more paper if it's too small. Secure it with tape.

Insert the ball into the sock heel. The heel is now our face!

Pull the ankle of the sock tightly over the ball and tie it securely with some string.



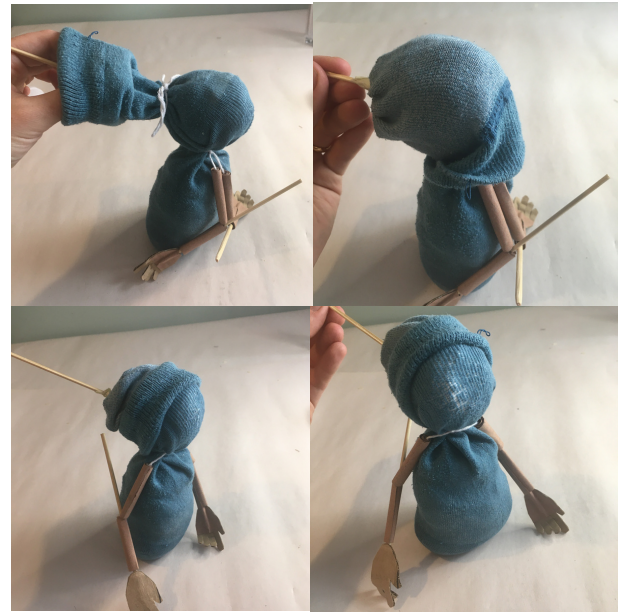
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## Step 6: The Hat

Pull the ankle back over the head once and then fold back on it's self to create a hat.

Secure this with a couple of stitches on either side of the head.

**No sew option:** Don't secure with stitches but you might have to adjust the hat every now and then



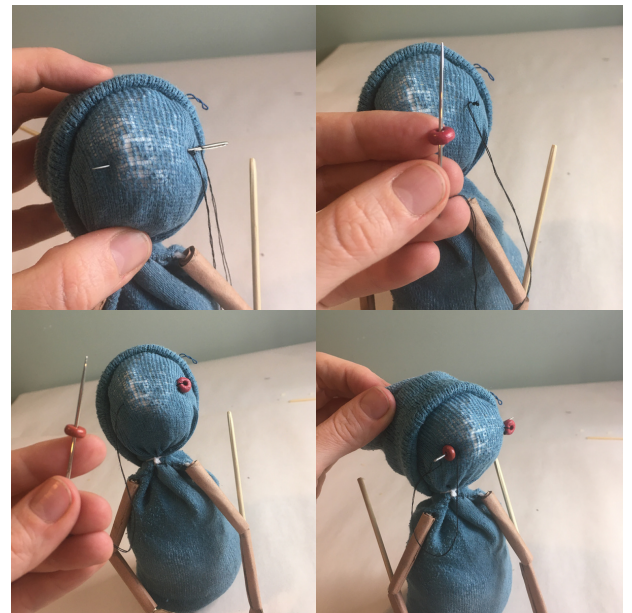
## Step 7: The Eyes

Mark where you want the eyes to be. Using a long needle, with a big knot in the end of some thread, push it through the head from one eye to the other.

Thread your first bead onto the needle and sew back through the head. Thread the second bead onto the needle. Pass the needle through the head again pulling it quite tight.

Stitch back and forward a 2-3 more times to make it extra secure and then tie a knot to secure your thread.

**No sew option:** you can also draw on eyes or use stickers.

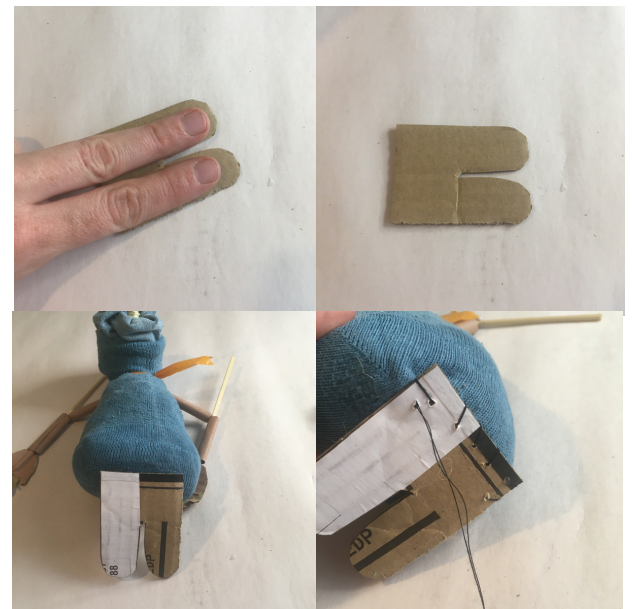


## Step 8: The Feet

Cut your feet out of the same material as your hands. I used my fingers as a template - See picture. Make sure you keep the feet connected at the back to make a pair.

Sew the feet onto the bottom of the body along the back edge and a little way along the sides.

**No sew option:** You can also glue or tape on the feet.





# How to make... a Sockbob

## Step 9: Accessories and decoration

I made my Sockbob a little scarf out of a strip of carrier bag.

You can add any clothes or decorations you want to make your Sock Bob your own unique design.

**Ideas:** Maybe a cape?

Rainbow stripes on the arms, hands and feet?

How about a duck beak?



## Step 10: All finished

Enjoy you're new Sockbob.

Why not make a whole cast from all your odd socks?!

**#Sockbob**