

How to make... a rod puppet

By Garlic Theatre

Suitable for ages 7 - 11 independently working

Suitable for ages 3 - 6 with adult help

You will need:

- A cereal box or other similar card
- Scissors
- Tape - masking tape is best, sellotape will also be fine.
- Two shoe laces or some string
- Paint brushes and paints or felt tips and pencils
- Ideally 4 x2p coins for the feet and 2x1p coins for the hands, as these are heavy and the puppet will walk really well. You could also use dried beans
- A stick or a pencil
- Newspaper or paper



Instructions

Step 1:

Cut out a simple triangular flat shape for the body out of card, with a straight line at the top and bottom so the arms and legs are easy to attach.



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Step 2:

Attach a shoe lace or string for the arms at the top of the body shape using tape.

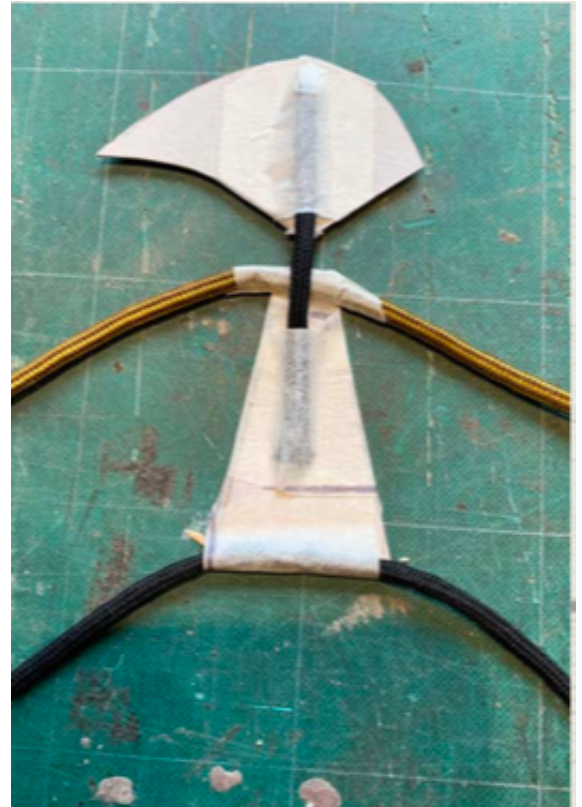
Then attach another shoe lace or string for the legs at the bottom of the body shape using tape.



Step 3:

Cut out a simple head shape out of card - it's best to make it quite big so you can attach it to the body easily.

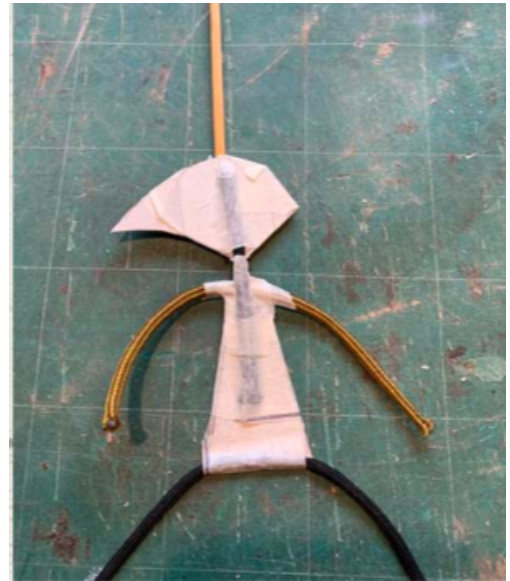
Then attach the head piece to the body with a bit of string or a shoelace, using tape.



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Step 4:

Attach the stick to the top of the head with tape.



Step 5:

To fill out the body of the puppet, look at the body and scrumple up some newspaper to make a sausage shape of the same size. Then cover it with tape.



Step 6:

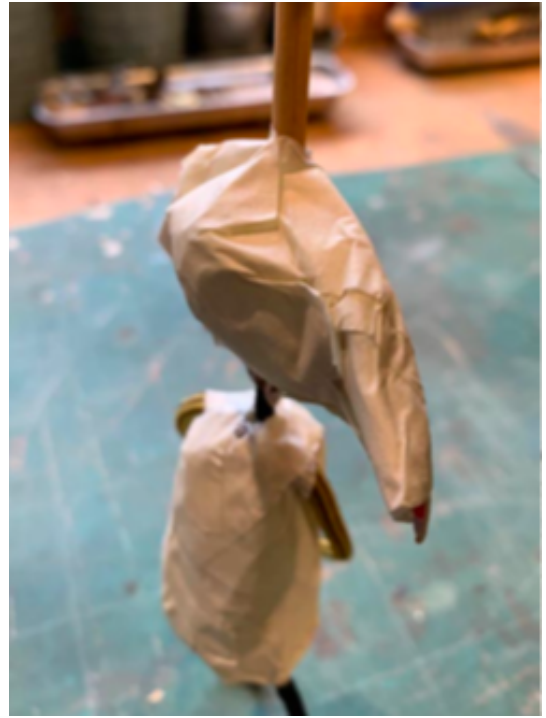
Do the same for the back of the body and then attach both sausage shapes to the front and back using tape.



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Step 7:

Look at the head of the puppet and scrumple up some newspaper in the same size and shape. Cover with masking tape and attach to the back of the head.



Step 8:

To make the feet, attach 2x2p coins to the end of each shoelace with tape, and try to make sure the shoelace is attached to the middle of the coin so that the puppet can stand easily. If you don't have coins you can attach anything you have that is a small weight.

For the hands, attach 2x1p coins to each end of the shoelace with tape.



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Step 9:

To make the eyes, nose and mouth you can paint them on, use felt tips or cut out the features in card and then stick them on.

Paint the body with colour or use felt tips. You could stick on pieces of cloth or old clothes for the puppet's clothes, if you like.



Step 10:

Now you've made your rod puppet, you can make it wake up, move around and even dance to your favourite music. Why not give it a name and start to think of some ideas for a story about your rod puppet? Have fun!

