



How to make... a puppet bunny from a tea towel

by Matt Hutchinson

Younger children will need some help with this, but ages 8+ should be fine to work independently.

This characterful and speedy-to-make puppet makes a great play companion for younger children. For older children this is a responsive table top, doll-style practice puppet to hone their manipulation skills either on their own, or in a puppetry team.

No cutting or glueing required, and parents/caregivers can have their tea towels back at the end!

You will need:

- a rectangular tea towel
- 5 elastic bands (could also use hair ties, sandwich bags ties or give this a go with string etc)



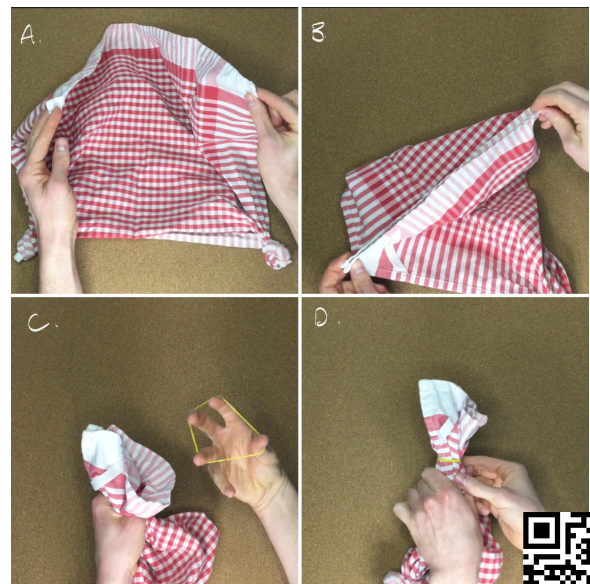
STEP 1: Lay the tea towel with the longer sides facing you. Take hold of a "bottom" corner and tie a loose knot into the body of the fabric. Keeping hold of the bottom corner tab, squeeze and force the knot towards the corner, getting smaller and tighter as you go to form a foot. Repeat on the other side.



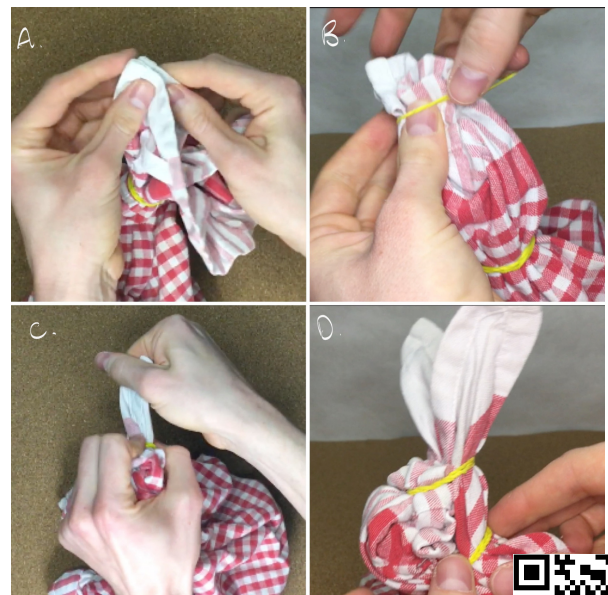
(If you get stuck, scan the code with the camera in your phone and see each step in action...)



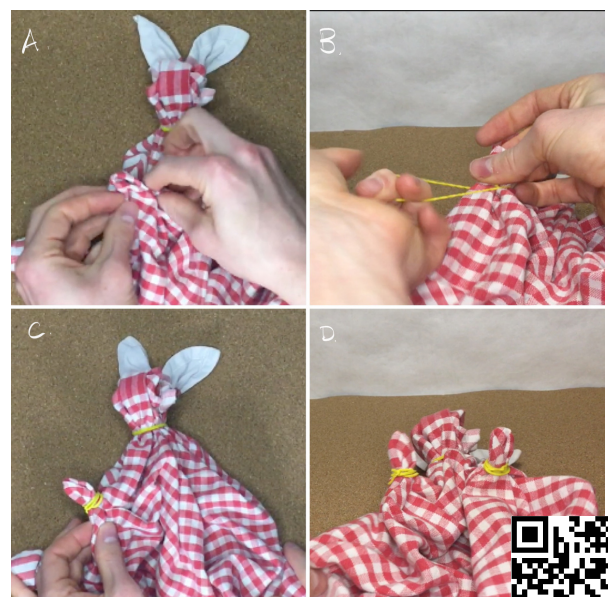
STEP 2: Taking hold of the other “top” corners together, bring the remaining fabric in the middle in to meet them. Keep hold of this bunch before securing a band about 10-12 cm down from the top. This will form the base of your neck. If you find this is in the wrong position a bit later, you can always move it by sliding it up or down.



STEP 3: To make your head and ears, secure another band at the top of the bunch slightly below the two tips of the corners, and across the main bunch of the fabric. Then force this band down to form a head and face, and pull the ears out of the top. Take a moment to tweak the ears and give your face a bit of a sculpt.



STEP 4: To make front paws lay your bunny down on it’s “back”. Working down from the neck, make a pinch in the fabric about 5-8cm down (depending on how big your tea towel is) with your thumb and index finger. Secure with a band. You can always roll the band back backwards or forwards to adjust the size of your paw. Repeat on the other side - make sure they are even!



STEP 5: For a tail, turn the bunny over onto its front and bring the feet together to find the half way point in the bottom edge of the fabric creating a standing up “point”. Use your last band to make a bind about 5cm down from the top of the point. Then “roll” the fabric that is sticking up, back on itself towards the main body of the bunny and the band you have just put on.

Stand your bunny up and have a look. Now is the time to make some tweaks and adjustments to make sure things look how you want them to.



Depending on your tea towel, and the size of your knots and bunches to make your features, you'll find you can create lots of different characteristics. Some bunnies are very floppy and love to lollop, and others are very springy and bouncy. Have fun and experiment!