

How to make... a toilet tube and cup puppet

By Ruby Saide

Suitable for ages 10+ with adult help

You will need:

- 1 tube from the inside of a toilet roll
- 1 large paper cup
- Hot glue gun
- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Tape
- String
- Small length of wire
- 2 wooden rods or bamboo skewers



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Instructions

Step 1:

Start by making a firm crease down the centre of the tube. Twist the crease from side to side to create a triangular shape on the tube, then fold the space underneath backwards to create a nose shape.



Step 2:

Take the bottom of the tube that has been pushed back and fold it up, creating a mouth for the face. At the top of the nose, fold and push down the tube to create a line for the eyes. Make sure all folds are as firm as possible!



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Step 3:

Make a small hole in the back of the tube and push one of the wooden rods into it. Fix the rod in place securely with some hot glue and let the glue dry completely.



Step 4:

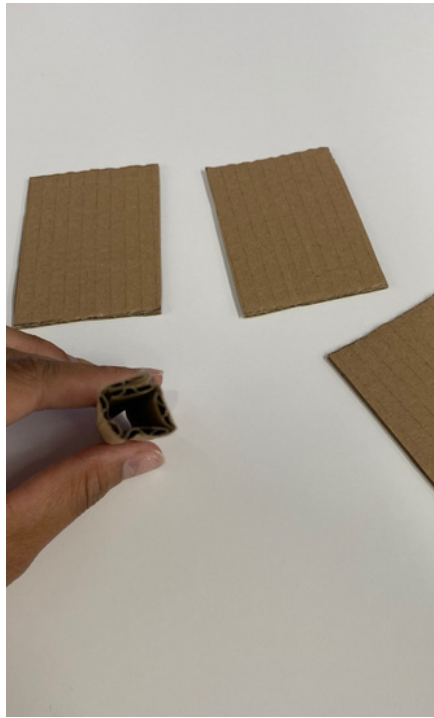
Take your paper cup and place it rim down. In the top half of the cup cut a hole in the back, big enough to allow for movement of your head rod. Make a small hole at the top of the cup and push your head rod through, making sure it goes out of the hole at the back.



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Step 5:

Take your cardboard and cut out four 9x6cm rectangles. Fold the rectangles into tubes and tape them shut so they hold together.

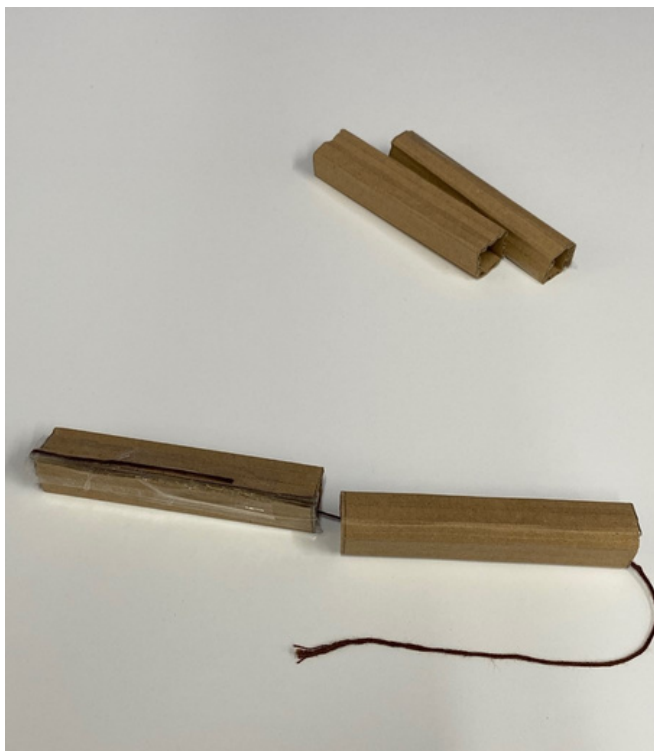
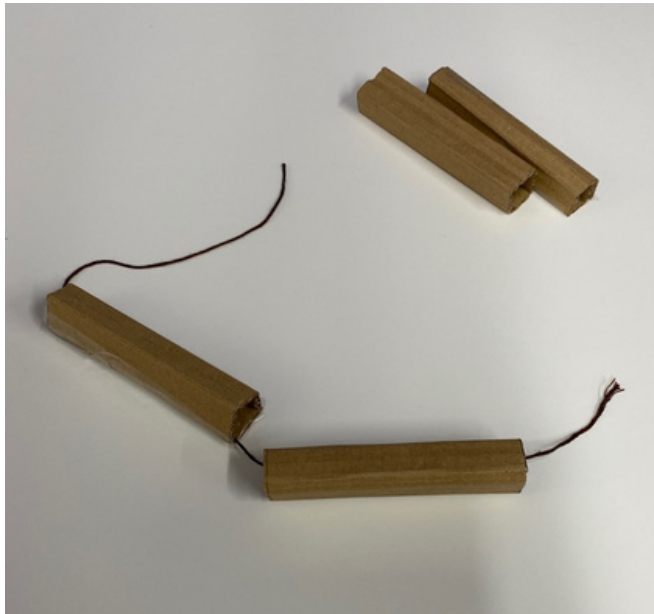


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Step 6:

Cut a length of string long enough to fit through two of the tubes and some excess on either side. Feed the piece of string through the two tubes so a short length sticks out on each side.

On one end, pull up the excess string and tape to the side of the leg. Remember to leave some excess on the other side! Repeat for the other leg.



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Step 7:

Take the other end of the string and tape inside of the cup. Do this for both legs and make sure to place them correctly so they line up with the face. Your puppet should now have legs!



Step 8:

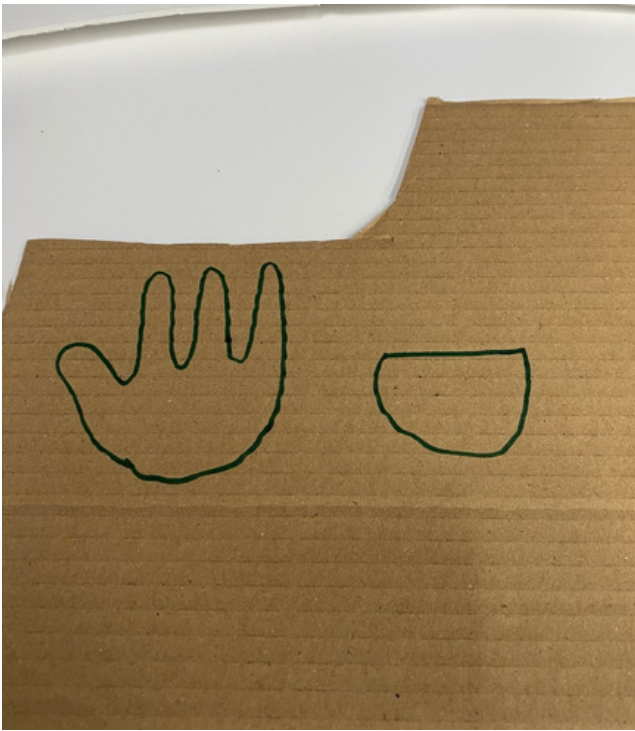
Cut two 8x6cm rectangles out of your cardboard, and tape them into tubes using the same method as the legs.



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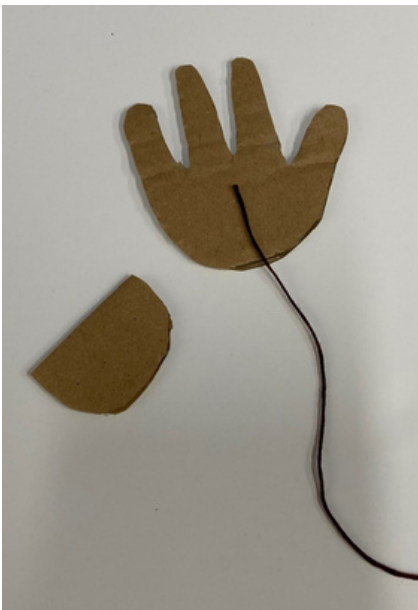
Step 9:

Draw a hand shape and an extra shape to fit into the palm onto some cardboard. The hand shape may need to be bigger than you think! Cut these out.



Step 10:

Cut a length of string long enough to fit through both arm tubes with some excess on either side. Place one end of the string into the centre of the hand and cover with hot glue. Add the palm piece on top and allow to dry completely.



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Step 11:

Once the hand is dry, thread the string through the two cardboard tubes. Make a hole in the side of the puppet and thread the string through the hole and out of the back, taping the excess in place.



Step 12:

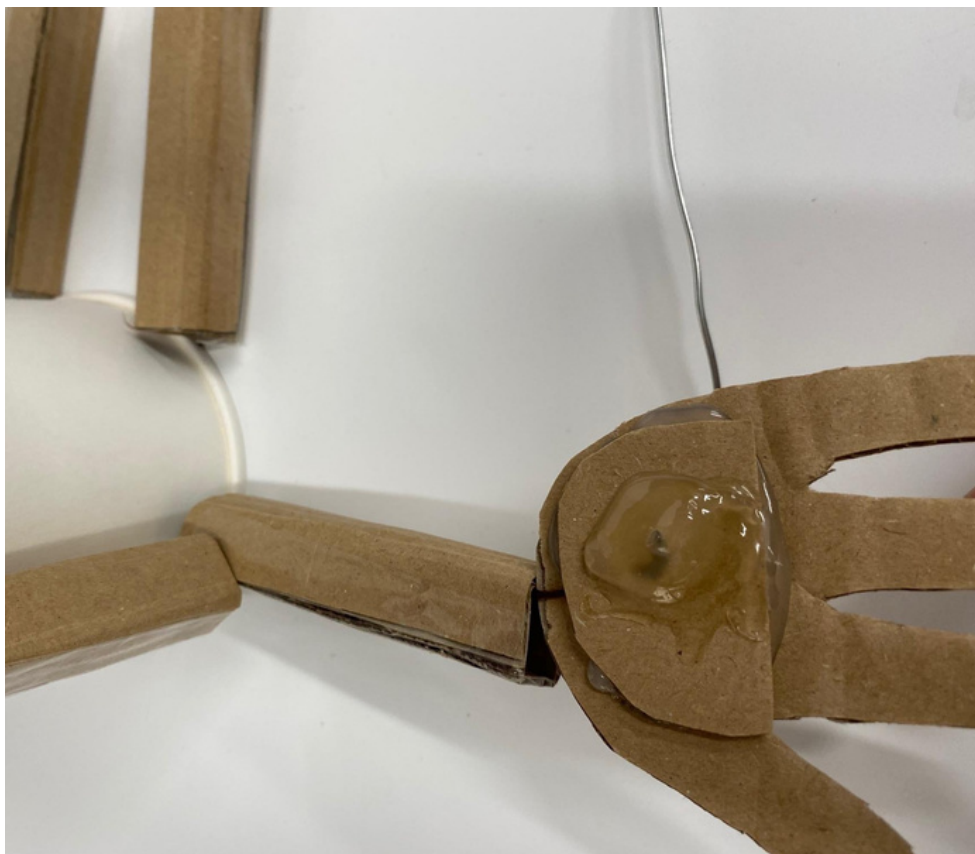
Poke a small hole through the centre of the hand. Take your length of wire and create a small curve at the top of one end.



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Step 13:

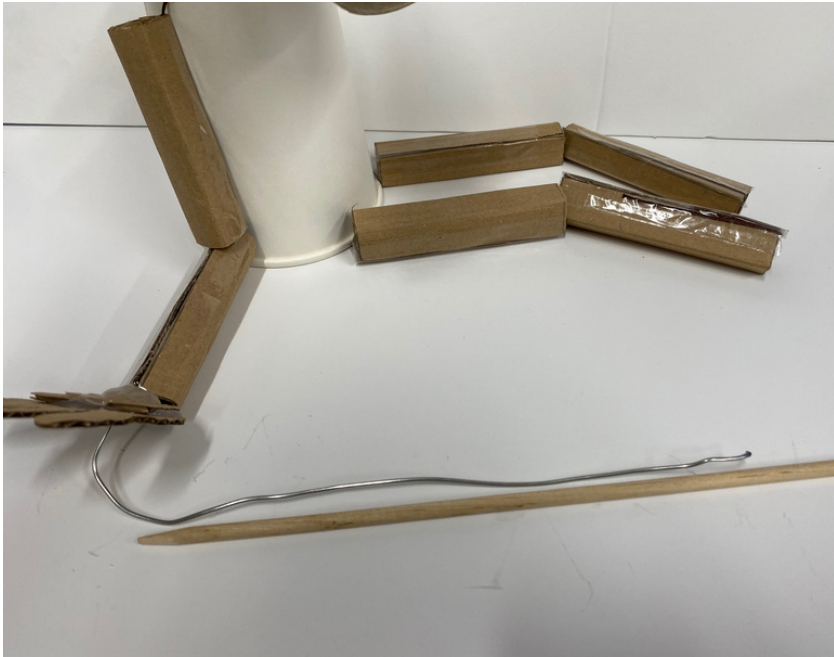
Poke the end of the curved wire through the hole in the hand and cover with hot glue, creating a stopper. You may have to hold the wire in place while the glue completely dries.



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Step 14:

Once the glue is dry, line the second wooden rod up with the wire and tape them together securely.



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Step 15:

Your puppet is now complete! Play around with how many expressions you can make and give it its own personality. Share your puppet with family and friends and see if you can create a story!

