

# How to make a puppet

## CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Cut out pattern pieces.
2. Using pattern pieces, cut out foam.
3. Fabric - Put pattern pieces on fabric with arrows in direction of greatest stretch.
4. Cut out pieces and make small notches to mark nose and ear placement & chin stitching.
5. Cut out cardboard hand and draw fingers on to arm fabric.
6. Cut mouth pattern (10) out of vinyl, red felt and light colored felt.
7. Cut out cardboard mouth pieces (11)

**GLUING:** Put thin layer of glue on one side if you are using *Hold the Foam* or put a light layer of glue on both sides if you are using *3M Fastbond*. Use a blow dryer to dry glue before sticking it together. With the *Fastbond* always put glue on both edges you are gluing.

1. Glue front of head pieces together at the edges.(1)
2. Glue back of head pieces together at the edges. (2)
3. Glue front to back.
4. Glue top of mouth into head. (3)
5. Glue body(13) together at back & shoulders. Let dry.

## SEWING:

1. Stitch ear pieces (5) together. Turn, stuff with batting foam. Baste open edge.
2. Stitch nose pieces (6) together. Turn, stuff with batting foam. Baste open edge. Nose can be stitched with the seam together for a rounder nose.
3. Baste nose on to the right side of fabric of one of the front of head (7) fabric pieces.
4. Baste ears on to the right side of back of head (8) fabric pieces.
5. Sew front of head pieces together.
6. Sew back of head pieces together.
7. Sew front to back at sides.
8. Chin - Sew chin (9) piece to lower part of back of head piece. Straight side to straight side. When you reach the corner, leave the needle in to hold it and pivot material around and sew until you reach the notch.
9. Sew chin pieces together.
10. Sew red felt to vinyl (10). Sew seam across center of mouth.
11. Baste mouth to head fabric matching center of each side of felt mouth with seam from fabric mouth. Check seams and then stitch with a regular stitch.
12. Glue cardboard pieces (11) to back of mouth, leaving gap between pieces so it will bend.
13. Glue other felt piece to cardboard. Let dry

14. Glue edge of the top of the mouth to the piece of foam on the head that makes the roof of the mouth.(3)
15. Glue and roll edges of foam to mouth.
16. Glue the edge of the bottom piece of foam (4) to bottom of mouth.
17. Glue and roll edges of foam to mouth. (let dry for a short time)
18. Turn head right side out.
19. Body fabric (12) - sew shoulders together.
20. Sew body fabric to neck.
21. Sew arms and hands.(14) Double stitch between fingers. Turn arm and stuff halfway. Stitch across arm for elbow. Finish stuffing. Baste closed.
22. Attach arms to body with thumbs pointing up.
23. Sew side seams together.
24. Put foam body into fabric.
25. Pull bottom of body fabric over the bottom of the foam and hem it by sewing through foam and fabric.
26. Glue on tongue (15) and epiglottis (16).
27. Attach eyes and hair.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

Glue for foam. I use the *3M Fastbond* because I make a lot of puppets, but you can also use any glue that says it

will work for foam. In the film I also use *Hold the Foam*.

$\frac{3}{4}$  yd. or 70 cm. of fabric. Robe velour or any fabric that stretches a lot in one direction and a little in the other

direction.

$\frac{3}{4}$  yd. or 70 cm. of 1" foam for large puppet or  $\frac{1}{2}$ " foam for the smaller puppet

Stiff cardboard

1 small sheet of

Red felt

Pink felt

White felt or light colored felt

Black felt

1 ft. or 30 cm. of vinyl for mouth

Small bag of loose fiber fill or stuffing for ears, nose and arms

Material for eyes and hair (remember to use your imagination)

Blow dryer

Hot glue gun (I use this to attach the hair)

Tacky glue to attach the epiglottis and tongue

**Lining fabric (optional):** Stretchy fabric: Cut a rectangle 18  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (47 cm.) wide x 16" (40 cm.) long. Fold in half lengthwise and sew open edge. Make a 9  $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide x 16" long tube. After sewing step 13, turn tube inside out and glue the top right side edge to edge of light colored felt. Then continue making rest of puppet. Tuck it into inside hem before sewing it to the foam (step 25).

### SMALLER PUPPET

To make a smaller puppet you can reduce the pattern using a copy machine down to 85% of the original.

You must use ½" foam.

I also keep the arms the same size as the original, because at 85% they are too small to work with.

### **GIRL PUPPET**

If you know your puppet will be a girl and have hair that would cover her ears you can just leave the ears off or cut them off before attaching the hair.

### **CURLY HAIR PATTERN:**

Cut out paper pattern and then cut it out of a stiff cardboard. Wrap yarn around cardboard, then stitch down center. Slowly draw back cardboard and wrap some more. It is easiest to sew with a piece of fabric or paper underneath it.