

Paper Puppet Construction

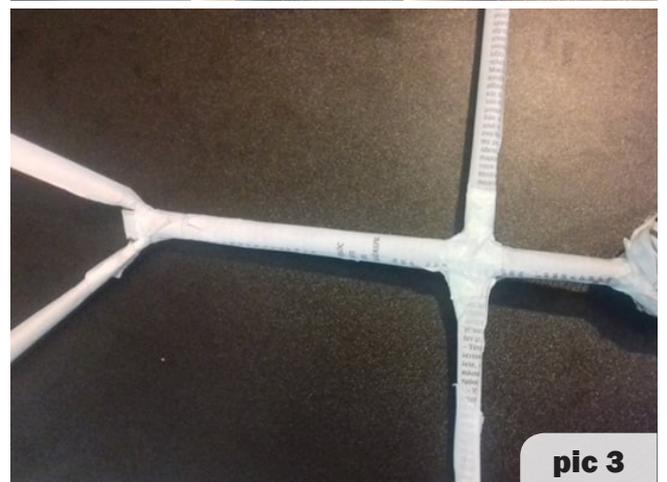
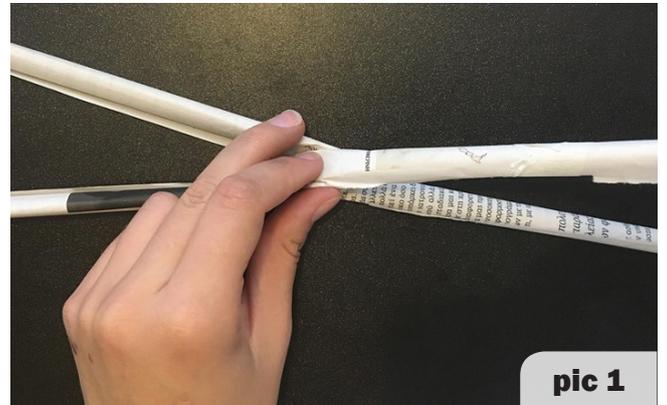
Materials you will need:

- 2 Newspapers
- Paper tape, tape
- Liquid glue
- Colored paper (packaging paper, crepe paper, etc.)

The steps

TORSO | ARMS | LEGS

1. We take 3 sheets (double pages) of our newspaper and start wrapping every sheet from the length down as tight as we can in order to create a spaghetti like shape. We create 3 such spaghettis with our sheets.
2. Once finished, we place tape on every edge of the three spaghettis to provide stability of the shape.
3. We fold all three spaghettis right in the middle, creating three tongs.
4. We take two of those and join them at their midpoints in order to form the torso and legs of our puppet (pic 1).
5. We stabilize the two edges around the “joint” we created with some tape.
6. With the same piece of tape we wrap the upper part of the leg so it remains in place (pic 2).
7. With our third tong we create the arms of our puppet. On the torso’s tong we place the arms’ tong like we did on step 4, letting enough space for the neck of the puppet (pic 3).
8. We wrap the “joint” of arms and torso the same way we stabilized the two tongs of the torso and legs (steps 5 & 6).



HEAD

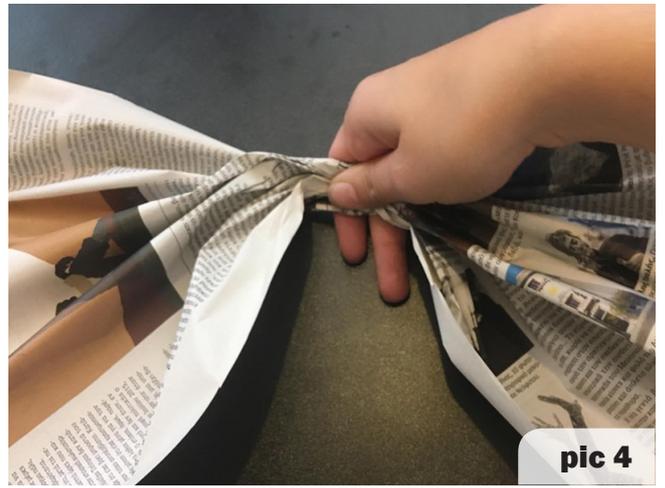
9. We take another sheet of our newspaper, fold it in the middle and create a large bow tie shape (pic 4). We then place it in the upper part of the torso (neck) and fold the two free edges of the torso, one edge over the other, in order to keep the bow tie stable (pic 5).
10. We put tape all over this join in order to secure its stability. This will be the “axis” of our puppet (spinal bone of the base of the head) (pic 6).
11. We rumple one side of our bow tie in order to form the back of the head and then we do the same for the other side to form the front. We try to create two oval shapes with our hands resembling the shape of a head. The oval in the front (face) has a vertical direction, and the oval in the back has a horizontal direction (pic 7). We can add more volume if we wish, adding another sheet of paper around the head we created.
12. We stabilize the head of our puppet with tape that we wrap around it so we can also form the right shape.

ARM AND LEG JOINTS

13. In order to create the joints for our puppet, we fold the legs in the point that we identify as knees (slightly off center of the leg towards the upper half) and the area at the bottom of the leg that will be the feet. We wrap around above and under these folds with some tape while being careful not to place the tape directly over them, thus making them stiff (pic 8).
14. In the same manner, we fold the arms on the elbows and wrists, wrapping carefully with some tape above and under these joints.

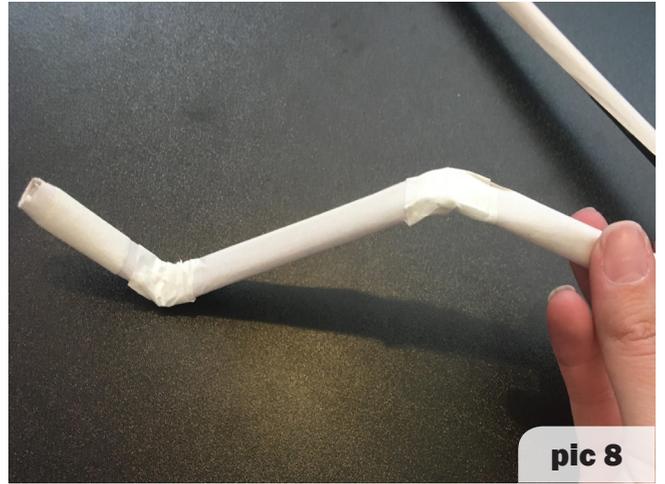
TORSO | BELLY | BREASTS | PELVIS

15. To create the complete torso of our puppet, we fold another bow tie with a new sheet of our newspaper and place it above its arms without covering the neck (pic 9).
16. If we choose to create a female character, we fold the two sides of the bow tie forming two little spherical shapes for her breasts. We then wrap some tape around them to stabilize their shape. Take care not to place tape across them to maintain their form as breasts (pic 10).
17. If we choose to create a male character, we stretch down the two edges of the bow tie towards the pelvis. Tape around the area (pic 11).



18. For the belly we form another bow tie with a new sheet and place it on the front area where the belly would be and fold the two edges towards the back. We then cross one side over the other and up to the shoulders of our puppet. We wrap around this area with some tape.

19. Under the belly, we wrap another bow tie from the front to the back of the puppet and rumple its two edges into spheres to form the rear part of our puppet. We wrap around with some tape from the front towards the back. Take care not to place tape across them to maintain their form as buttocks (pic 12).



Care & Decoration

How to keep your puppet in a good condition

After completing its construction and before your “decoration”, we strengthen the legs and arms covering them wholly with tape above and below the joints.

Clothing & Characteristics

If you still wish to add more volume to some parts of your puppets structure, such as its belly, or its arms and legs, you could follow the same technique as described in the construction above.

More specifically, i.e. if you wish to create stronger looking calves for your character, you can take a piece of newspaper and wrap it around the point you wish avoiding the joints and stabilize it with some tape.

In order to create more characteristics to your puppet, we suggest trying to decorate it with colorful paper. You can also construct the hair of your puppet, long, short or even in braids using glue creating a complete image according to the character you have chosen.

Regarding the puppet's apparel, you can cut and form any piece of clothing with colorful paper and just glue them onto your puppet. Dare to experiment with the colors and shapes creating unique characters.



DIY Paste Glue

Another helpful tool you could also use to perfect your puppet, while protecting it from any damages, is to make your own DIY paste glue. This is the Papier-mâché technique. It will help you “dress” your puppet because you can easily spread the glue in the places you want to cover with crêpe paper. When it dries it leaves no stains. This technique includes wrapping paper (kraft paper) which you could glue on the arms and legs of your puppet with this glue. Wait for approximately 1 hour to let it dry, and it will be ready for you to play.

Materials

- 1 part flour
- 3 parts water
- 1 part thick wood glue

Preparation

We place the flour to a little pot. We add the water gradually while lightly whisking with a fork. We keep whisking while the mixture firstly turns to dough and then becomes more fluid. We set the temperature of the pot in low temperature and keep whisking until the mixture turns into slop. Once ready, we take our pot away from the burner and keep it to turn cold. Finally, we add the wood glue and our DIY glue is complete! Use as much as you need, and always store it in the fridge because it will go off due to the flour included in the mixture.