

What you'll need:

Cardstock or paper and posterboard (if you print out the pattern on paper you'll want to make it sturdier by gluing the pieces to the posterboard)

Scissors

Glue

Small hole punch or a sharp pencil or another similar sharp utensil to punch the holes (Make sure an adult is nearby to help you punch the hole.)

Crayons, markers or colored pencils (to decorate your person)

Other decorations could include yarn for hair and fabric for clothes—use your imagination and make a creative and wild dancing puppet.

8 brass fasteners (paper fasteners) (to hold your dancing puppet together)

Popsicle or craft stick

Instructions

Print out the pattern and instructions on paper or cardstock.

Cut out the patterns pieces.

If you printed them out on cardstock skip down to step 4. If you printed them out on plain paper you will need to glue or trace the pieces onto cardstock or posterboard. Posterboard will make a sturdier dancing puppet. After you have glued or traced them onto the cardstock or posterboard cut these pieces out.

Punch the holes on each piece with either a small hole punch or a sharp pencil. If you don't have a hole punch you may need some scissors or similar sharp object to make a hole in the posterboard. Ask an adult to help you with this.

Now it's time to decorate. Make a face for your dancing puppet and give it some clothes. You may want to use yarn or packaged doll hair and real fabric for the clothes. It's up to you. Be creative but make sure you leave the holes you punched earlier open so you can put your puppet together later.

Once your puppet is decorated it's time to put it together. Take a brass fastener and push it through one of the holes in the shoulder and then into the hole in the upper arm so that the arm is behind the body. (Figure 1) Fold down the fastener ends. Do the other shoulder and arm the same way.

Continue the arms by pushing a brass fastener through the other hole in the upper arm and then into the hole in the lower arm (the one with the hand) so that the lower arm is behind the upper arm. Fold down the fastener ends and repeat for the other arm.

Now do the legs. Push a brass fastener through one of the holes in the hip and then into one of the holes in the upper leg. It doesn't matter which one so long as the upper leg is behind the body. Fold down the fastener ends. Repeat for the other hip.

Continue the legs by pushing a brass fastener through the other hole of the upper leg and then into the hole of a lower leg so that the lower leg is behind the upper leg. Make sure the puppet's foot is pointed out. Fold down the fastener ends. Do the other leg the same. Your puppet should be altogether now. Give its legs and arms a wiggle to make sure they move freely. You may have to rotate your dancing puppet's "joints" around a bit to loosen them up.

Now glue or tape the popsicle or craft stick behind the puppet's head so it is sticking up like a handle. (Figure 2) Let it dry completely. Your dancing puppet is now ready for its first performance. (Figure 3)

Hold onto the stick, put the puppet's feet on the floor and move it up, down and around to make it dance. Play some music and put on a show for your friends. You may want to make another puppet for a bigger show. Have fun!

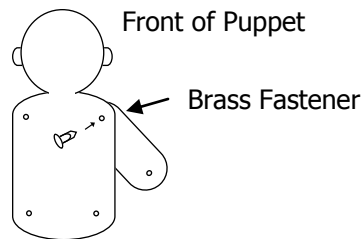


Figure 1

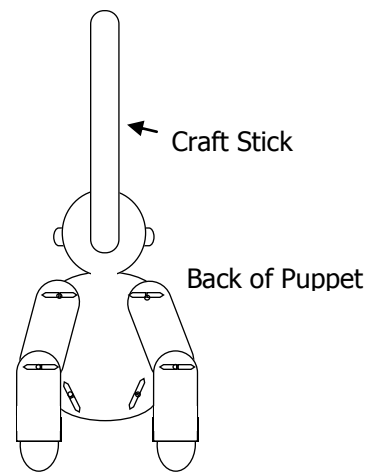


Figure 2

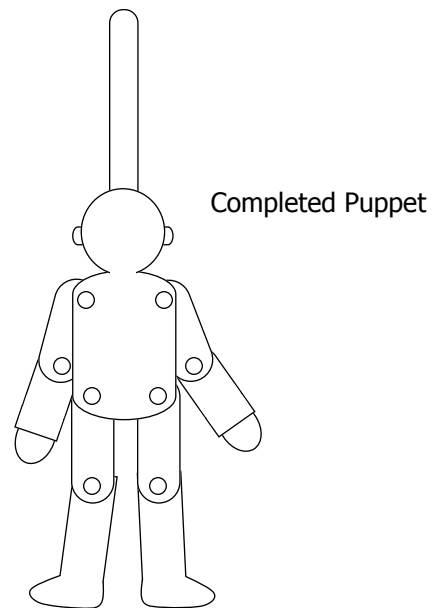


Figure 3