

CREATE WEEK

BUILD A DOG PUPPET USING YOUR RECYCLING WITH ROBYN OLIVIA

Building your own puppet can be split into three easy parts and can be made out of anything. This is why they are so magical. These instructions will guide you through making your own dog puppet.

If you have some extra time, why not grab a cup of tea and watch these videos for some inspiration: [The Table - Blind Summit](#); [Life of Pi](#); [The Lost Glove - Theatre Rites](#); [War Horse](#); [Bug Puppet - Barnaby Dixon](#)

MATERIAL LIST

You will need

- Pen / pencil and paper
- String
- Scissors
- Tape (sellotape, masking tape or gaffer tape)
- Clean recycling (e.g. egg cartons, cardboard)

Optional

- Any leftover decorative things in your house e.g. feathers, old patterned clothing, an old handbag, an old birthday banner etc
- Glue
- Hole puncher
- Different coloured paper
- Paint



DAY 7

Puppetry

STEP 1

Imagine your puppet

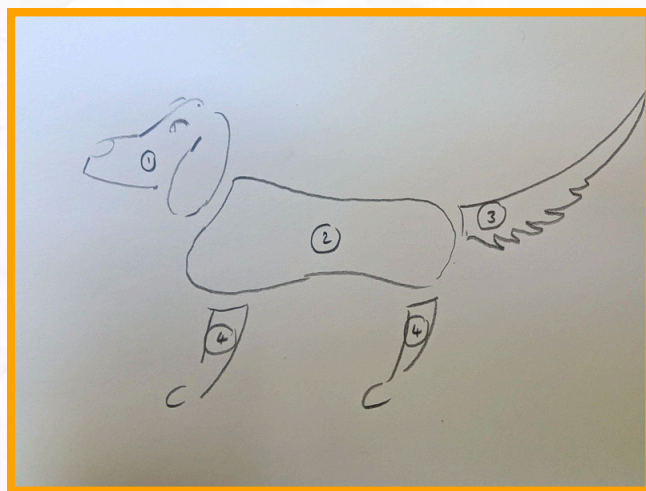
Now that you've seen what's possible, take a moment to imagine your own puppet. What kind of dog will it be? Is it tiny or tall? Silly or serious? Smooth or scruffy? Think about how it might move, what personality it could have, and what materials you might use to bring it to life. Once you have a picture in your mind, you're ready to start drawing!

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STEP 1

Design your puppet

First we design our dog puppet, so grab your pencil and paper. Puppet designs do not have to be fantastic pieces of art, they need to be practical. Begin by looking at a picture of a dog. A dog has 4 key elements: a head, a body, a tail, and legs. Roughly draw the shapes of each body part and label them 1 - 4. See the pictures below as an example.



STEP 2

Plan your build

After you have drawn the outline of your dog puppet, answer the prompts below on your planning sheet.

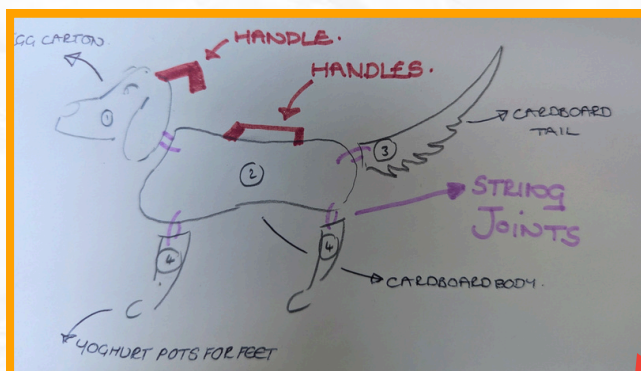
Decide how big your puppet will be. Think about where you'll hold it. Add at least one handle on the head to help bring it to life.

Plan how the parts will connect. String is a great flexible option for joints.

Next to each part, jot down your decoration ideas - colours, textures, or materials you'd like to use.

TIP

Keep your design simple! The fewer parts you have to manage, the easier it will be to build and control.



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TIP

This particular puppet only needs one puppeteer so bare this in mind whilst building



STEP 3

Collecting Materials

Collect the materials you need. These instructions use a grape container for the body, an egg carton for the legs and head, and a cereal box for the tail and ears. However, you can use anything you feel inspired by like a juice carton or an old handbag.

STEP 4

Time to build

Put on your favourite music and get building. When building, make each part (1, 2, 3, 4) individually before joining them together. The best way to join them is to use string to connect parts together e.g. create a small hole in the body, tie the string and connect it to the leg.

This is an example of a very basic puppet, it is made with only tape, string and 3 materials.



STEP 5

Get decorating!

Once you have the base you can then focus on decoration. Get out the paints, pencils, old bits of fabric and go wild!

STEP 6

Finish and share!

Proud of your work? Share a photo of it on social media using #CreateWeek - and join a community celebrating creativity together.

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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Robyn Olivia is a children's theatre maker, sensory artist and community arts facilitator based in London. She specialises in collaborative, ensemble-based theatre, with devising and playfulness at its heart. Robyn's work blends puppetry, clowning, storytelling, music and sensory theatre to create inclusive, forward-thinking projects that are inspired by – and made in collaboration with – the communities they serve.

👉 **DON'T FORGET TO TAG YOUR CREATION ONLINE USING #CREATEWEEK SO WE CAN SEE WHAT YOU MADE!**

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