

Knotty Rabbit

Fold, tie and fasten a square of material and -- presto! -- a cuddly toy.

Materials

- 18-inch square of lightweight flannel or large cotton bandanna
- Rubber bands

1. Fold the flannel or bandanna in half diagonally to form a triangle. Tie an overhand knot in the upper corner to form the rabbit's head. Then separate the tips to create ears.
2. Next, shape forelegs by knotting the two other corners of the triangle. Raise the forelegs and fasten a rubber band around the waist.
3. For each hind leg, pinch a bit of cloth near the bottom and fasten it with a rubber band. Then turn the rabbit around and use the same method to form a tail on the back side.



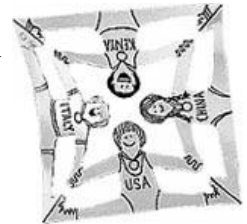
Paper Chain Gang

Remember the joined figures of a doll chain? Try a square fold instead and see what you come up with.

Materials

- Paper
- Marker
- Scissors

1. Fold a square piece of paper in half diagonally. Fold the paper in half again.
2. Draw and cut out your figure, being sure to leave the hands and feet attached at the folds. Then open it up!



Pocket Purse

This handmade pocket-size purse is just right for carrying lightweight necessities, such as lunch money and sunglasses.

Materials

- Old shirts with pockets
- Needle and thread
- Pins
- Ribbon or cord

1. Cut two pockets from an old flannel, madras or other button-down shirt, leaving a 1-inch seam allowance all the way around. For a multicolored purse, you can use pockets from different shirts, provided they are roughly the same size.
2. Fold back the seam allowance at the top of each pocket, and tape all the cut edges to the back side. Then pin the pockets together, back-to-back, matching up the tops, sides and bottoms.
3. Sew together the sides and bottoms 1/2 inch from the edges. Reinforce the seams with a second row of stitching 1/4 inch from the first.
4. For a strap, cut the button and buttonhole plackets from the shirt and fashion an adjustable strap. You can also use a length of decorative cord or ribbon. Sew the ends of the strap to the inner sides of the purse, using enough stitches to anchor them securely.



Pipe Cleaner People

Don't be put off by this guy's twisted appearance: Making pipe cleaner humans is a snap. Fortunately for the pipe cleaner sculptor, pipe cleaners come in all colors--just like people. Make a family of figures and dress them up any way you'd like.

Materials:

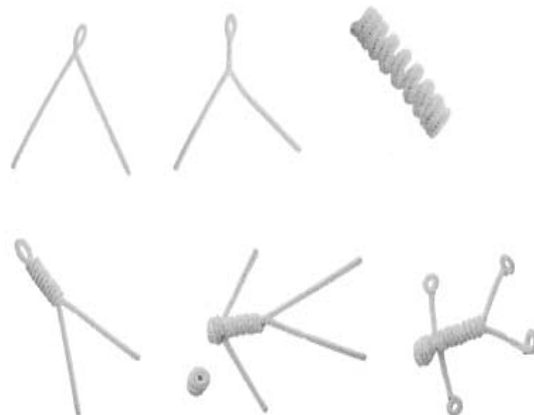
- 4 green pipe cleaners
- Other pipe cleaners (for accessories)
- Googly eyes



Tools:

- Pencil
- Fingernail clippers
- Glue

1. Make a V with a pipe cleaner and twist a small loop at the top.
2. Twist together the two ends a few times to make the torso.
3. Coil another pipe cleaner around a pencil.
4. Slide the coil onto the torso.
5. Clip a pipe cleaner in half and slide one half through the loop.
6. Bundle a pipe cleaner around a pencil and stick it on the loop to make a head.
7. Make loops at the ends of the arms and legs for hands and feet.
8. Glue on googly eyes and pipe cleaner accessories: hair (a C-shaped snippet of brown), a necktie (looped from red) and briefcase (a length of brown bent back and forth).



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Paper Dresses

Not only are these disposable frocks simple to make, but they also cost little more than the price of paper and tape.

Materials

- Newspaper
- Heavyweight butcher paper
- Marker
- Tape
- Scissors
- Sponge
- Paint
- Craft paper



1. Make a basic shift-style dress pattern: Spread open a full newspaper sheet and refold it in half horizontally. Turn the sheet so the fold is on the right, then cut a U-shaped armhole in the upper left corner. Spread the sheet open again and cut out a U- or V-shaped neckline in the center of the top edge. (This will form shoulder straps between the armholes.) Hold up the pattern in front of your child and trim the paper where necessary for a better fit.
2. Trace around the pattern onto two pieces of heavyweight butcher paper. Extend the length to suit your child's height.
3. Cut out both pieces and tape together the shoulder and side seams.
4. Decorate the dress with sponge-painted designs, colored-tape stripes, and craft paper buttons.

<http://familyfun.go.com/crafts/drawpaint/craft/paperdress/>