

## Costume making with Artastic for your virtual parade at home!

| Materials  | Tools  |
|--|--|
| T-shirt<br>Cardboard box<br>Coloured card<br>Celotape / Masking tape<br>Glue Stick / pva glue<br>Markers / colouring pencils / crayons<br><br><b>Optional extras:</b><br>Glitter or hologram card<br>Gems, foam shapes, glitter, paint, tissue paper, google eyes. | Scissors<br>Stapler<br><br><br><br><br><b>Optional</b><br>Glue gun |

### T-shirt

*You can use any top really... a t-shirt, vest, shirt, light jumper*

1. Lay the T-shirt flat on the table.
2. Cut off the entire hem of the t-shirt and save this for later.
3. Starting in the very middle, cut a series of lines from the bottom of the t-shirt, up the centre of the t-shirt, stopping roughly where the sleeve begins.
  - You can draw the lines in with a marker first if it helps keep you on track.
  - You can also do the same kind of cuts in the sleeves. (stopping just before the shoulder stitch)
4. Make a second vertical cut in the bottom of each strip you have just made. This should be approx 3inches long and will help us to tie the ends of the t-shirt to the hoop of the costume, if you are using one.

### Making the hoop (if you are using one)

1. Cut some strips of cardboard for our hoop. It's best to use corrugated cardboard for strength. The approximate width of these strips should be 2inches. The length will depend on your t-shirt size!
2. The cardboard must be cut in the opposite direction to the corrugated ridges in the card.
3. Once you have cut your pieces, rub the pieces off the edge of a table to break down the cardboard ridges. This will help them to curve better.
4. Remember the t-shirt hem that we just cut off? Now we need it!  
Lay the hem on the table and form it into a circle (as much as possible)

5. Lay your slightly curved cardboard strips outside the circle, overlapping them as you go. We want to make the hoop bigger than the t-shirt.
  - At this point you will know if you need to make more cardboard strips to make the hoop the right size. We need a double strength hoop...so you need to cut enough cardboard to make 2 circles!
6. Once you are happy with your hoop size, you can remove the t-shirt hem from the table and put it to one side (we need it later!) and now you can staple together your cardboard.
  - It is really important to try and minimise the use of staples and to cover any exposed staples with tape, as the underside of staples may catch in clothing and skin.
  - If you face all your staples the same way, it will be easier to find and cover them.
  - If you have a glue gun, you can glue the hoop together. Other glues won't hold the cardboard.

*Cheat tip! If you have a small hula-hoop, you can easily borrow it for the hoop of this costume. It would not be harmed and can be removed afterwards.*

### **Making the neck-piece**

You will need a big piece of cardboard, preferably corrugated card for strength. However a cereal box would also work if you double up the cardboard. You could also tape together different pieces, if you don't have much cardboard to work with.

1. Find a bowl or circular object that roughly fits the size of your head! Trace this circle onto your cardboard, making sure there is enough room (at least 2 inches) around the bowl to make your neck-piece shape. Draw an additional triangular or V shape at some point on your circle (to help your nose get through when you put it over your head)
2. Draw another line outside the bowl, as big as you want your neck-piece to be. It is preferable to make a longer shape at the front of the neck-piece to help with placing the straps.
3. Cut out your neck-piece.
  - Once cut, please double check that it does actually fit over your head!  
If not, then cut the inner circle a little bigger.
4. Now we need the t-shirt hem, again!  
Take the t-shirt hem and cut it once to make it one long piece. This is going to become the strap for tying your neck-piece on.

5. Find the centre of this long piece and staple it to the centre, front, of your neck-piece, making sure you put the flat part of the staple on the inside. This will eliminate any chances of the staples getting caught in clothes or skin. If you forget and put the staples the wrong way, don't worry, you can cover it carefully with some tape or even some more light cardboard or paper.
6. At this point, you can decide how to decorate. You can draw on it, paint it, decorate with colourful tissue or cover it entirely with 3D decoration. Remember you can add whatever you like to your design:  
Leaves, flowers, bees, frogs, butterflies, dragonflies, birds.....whatever reminds you of spring time.

### **Making leaves**

1. Fold the desired card over and cut a half heart shape for the most simple design. Open up and you will have a leaf shape (or heart)
2. Colour in or draw the veins of the leaf if you like.
3. Cut a slice in the base of the leaf, up the middle approx half way. Slide the two pieces across each other to make the leaf 3D. Staple it in place.
4. You can look up different shapes of leaves if you want to change the design. You could even find some leaves in the garden and trace around them!
5. If your leaves are small, you will need lots of them. So it may be best to make different shapes and sizes.

### **Making flowers**

There are lots of great tutorials online, especially on pinterest, for different kinds of paper flowers, so feel free to experiment with your decoration.

For our video, we have made daisies.

1. Fold white card/paper over a couple of times to make the cutting process quicker. Cut a long petal shape. If you rub the ends of the petal off a pencil or pen, you can make your petal curve and become a little more 3D.
2. Cut out two yellow circles for each daisy.
3. Glue the petals to the first yellow circle and when all the petals are added, you can finish by gluing the second yellow circle on top.

### **Assembly**

1. If you are covering the whole neck piece, then start on the outside and work your way in.
2. Glue the leaves really well, making use of the 3D nature of your designs.

3. Glue sticks are strong enough to hold these leaves on, however only if you use lots of glue and have patience in waiting for the glue to set.
4. If you prefer to use pva glue, this will take longer to dry, so make sure you can leave your neckpiece somewhere safe to dry.
5. If you are having difficulty gluing the leaves, you can always staple them. But do be careful of staples on the inside of your costume, they may get stuck in clothes and skin, so please cover any staples with tape or cardboard/paper.

Get creative with your designs!

Here are some useful links to help you decorate:

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Frogs            | <a href="https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/15692298691646982/">https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/15692298691646982/</a>   |
| Flowers          | <a href="https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/40462096641981521/">https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/40462096641981521/</a>   |
| Advanced flowers | <a href="https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/548242954641842693/">https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/548242954641842693/</a> |
| Bugs             | <a href="https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/792985446878209917/">https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/792985446878209917/</a> |
| Bumble bees      | <a href="https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/486177722273524105/">https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/486177722273524105/</a> |
| Simple birds     | <a href="https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/633387434017530/">https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/633387434017530/</a>       |

Don't forget to turn your space into your stage for your virtual parade at home.  
Feel free to decorate and create a cool space with the new skills you have just learned!

We really look forward to seeing what you come up with!

Caitriona and Vijaya

*Artastic Street Theatre Company*