The background is a collage of various elements. It features a ruler with a yellow arrow pointing right, a blue and red geometric shape, and a white strip with the text 'PLEASE ADVISE IF YOUR ADDRESS'. The overall color palette is muted, with shades of teal, blue, and green.

Practical Paper Mache

A Free e-Book by the Readers
of UltimatePaperMache.com

How this e-Book Was Created

This project began on March 19, 2011, when I posted an article on my blog at UltimatePaperMache.com.

The blog has a very lively community of paper mache sculptors who have been submitting photos of their work for several years. My readers and I both tend to make sculptures with our paper mache, rather than using the material for purely useful objects.

Wouldn't it be interesting, I thought, to spend a few months focusing our collective attention on more practical paper mache items, and then put all of our creative ideas into a freely downloadable e-Book.

When I put up that post I had no idea that so many people would be willing to participate in this collaborative project. The deadline was May 30, 2011. In just 73 days, we received 29 submissions from our readers. The projects were inventive, fun, creative and, above all, useful. Some people submitted more than one project, and many of the ideas are so good that I'll be making them myself when I have a bit of spare time.



The people who submitted photos for this project also wrote descriptions of their work and, in some cases, detailed instructions that you can use to make your own. If you would like to leave comments and kudos to the folks who contributed to this project, you can do so at:

<http://ultimatepapermache.com/practical-paper-mache-a-reader-supported-project>

While you're there, I also hope you'll take a look at the "non-practical" paper mache tutorials on the blog. You'll find tutorials for making animal sculptures, paper mache recipes (including paper mache clay) and hundreds of ideas and great advice from readers.

This e-book is free to share, under the terms of the [Creative Commons License](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/). So, enjoy these practical paper mache projects, share this e-book with your friends, and be sure to come join the conversation at UltimatePaperMache.com.

Jonni Good

Webmaster - UltimatePaperMache.com
Author - [Make Animal Sculptures With Paper Mache Clay](#)
and [Endangered Animals Color and Learn Book](#)

Paper Mache Paste Recipes

Most of the projects in this book are made from traditional paper mache -- strips of paper held together with paste or glue. One project uses a paper mache clay recipe that I developed -- you can find the recipe for the clay online at <http://ultimatepapermache.com/paper-mache-clay>

Boiled Flour and Water Paste:

Many people use a paste that is made of white flour and water that has been brought to a boil. I did some experimenting and found that this paste is not as strong as raw paste, so you'll need more layers of paper to make your finished sculpture stiff enough. However, it does dry clear, so many people prefer it. To make boiled paste, mix a heaping tablespoon of white flour with a cup of water in a small saucepan and stir until there are no lumps. Put the pan on the stove at medium heat and bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and allow to cool. The paste will be very runny at this stage, but it will gell as it cools.

Raw Flour and Water Paste:

This is the paste I almost always use, because it's stronger than boiled paste and you can complete a project with only a few layers of paper. To make up the paste, just pour some white flour in a bowl, and add water gradually until you have a consistency that will work well. (Use a small kitchen mixer so you don't have any lumps).

How thick should you make your paste? It's actually up to you. Experiment with thick pastes that resemble hotcake batter, and thin pastes that are runny and watery. You get to decide which ones you prefer.

Keep in mind that it is the flour, and not the water, that gives strength to your paper mache sculpture. And also remember that each layer of paste and paper that is added to your project must dry completely to keep it from developing mold.

Papers to Use for Paper Mache:

The traditional paper to use for paper mache is newspaper, which is torn into short strips. (Cut edges should be avoided, because they don't blend in.) Newspaper is cheap, and it is a soft paper that is easy to bend and mold around a sculpture.

However, you can also use brown kraft paper from paper bags, which will give your sculpture a naturally warm color if the piece is left unpainted.

You can also use softer papers, like paper towels and even tissue paper. The softer papers are used to fashion delicate details, and textured paper towels can be used to add an interesting final coat. The paper mache dragon on this site used the bumpiness of paper towels to represent the dragon's leathery skin.

Finishing Your Paper Mache Sculpture:

You can use any type of paint on your sculpture. I usually use acrylic craft paints, and a final glaze made from water-based varathane mixed with a bit of brown, or copper paint from the craft store. This final coat is put on with a brush and then immediately rubbed off with a paper towel, leaving the

darker color in the dips and valleys of the sculpture. I happen to like the effect, but it is certainly not required.

Another way to make the paste:

If you don't want to mess with flour and water, and you don't mind spending the money for some Elmer's glue, I found this video for a glue-based paper mache paste that you might want to use instead.

Dealing with mold:

To prevent the development of mold in your projects, you just need to remember that molds cannot grow without water. Therefore, take every effort to dry out your projects completely – if any dampness is left inside when you apply paint or other finish, the sculpture will eventually rot from the inside out – a truly disappointing development, I assure you. A fan will help dry the project.

If you live in a very damp climate, you may want to use wallpaper paste instead of flour, because the wallpaper paste contains a fungicide. You can also add a small amount of household bleach or clove oil to your paste to prevent the mold from forming.

If mold appears in spite of your best efforts, don't throw out your project until try this trick -- it was submitted by Carmelina, one of our readers:

When there is mold on the interior of the hollow portion of your paper mache (strips) of the sculpture, spray a lot of vinegar on the mold then scrape off gently. It should peel off nicely since vinegar is acetic thus easily dissolving the mold.

The best thing to do to prevent mold in the first place is as soon as the paper mache sculpture dries, spray the hollow portion with heavy duty sealer from your local hardware store. Bob C. [another reader who offers many ideas and suggestions on the UltimatePaperMache blog]] suggests spraying alcohol on the mold which is also a very good idea.

Home-made gesso recipe:

You can make an inexpensive gesso to cover your paper mache project before painting it. The gesso will cover any printing or color in the paper mache, and will give you a nice evenly absorb ant surface for your paint. The recipe uses joint compound -- you find joint compound at the hardware store, and you may already have some in your workroom if you've been doing any remodeling projects around your house.

Mix 1 part white glue, two parts joint compound, and a dab of white acrylic paint. If the mixture cracks as it dries, you can add more white glue to another mixture and apply another layer of gesso, or just smooth over the dried gesso with a damp brush.

How to keep paper mache-covered cardboard from warping:

If you've ever tried to make a nice flat shelf or frame from cardboard covered with paper mache, you know that it's difficult to keep it from warping. Tani Hughes suggests that you can use the gesso recipe on the cardboard before adding paper mache, and this will seal the work and keep it flat. For more details on how she uses this method, see her instructions on page 22.

Paper Mache Napkin Holder/Rings (aka Bill Collector)

Submitted by [Sharon Moreno](#)



Estimated Cost to Make the Items: \$3 to \$4

My intent was to make a holder for my bills. (Some people pay theirs at the time they arrive. I'm not one of those people.) This doubles as a napkin holder with added rings for place settings.

I used Paperclay for the small details; nose, lips, eye lids on this ole-time grandfather style moon face. The stars are also dimensional. I used what I had on hand for most of the materials. The cost estimate is for sand paper.



The Holder was created from my template drawn to easily hold those square paper napkins as well as cloth napkins. Cut from 2 layers of cardboard for substance, layered in newspaper and magazine strips. Small details on the face were molded with paper clay. Paper stars are punched from card stock then glued and covered with multiple layers of Jonni's gesso recipe*.

The napkin rings cut from empty toilet paper rolls, covered with layers of magazine pages. Acrylic paint, varnish, and lastly finishing wax for more hardness and durability.

To see more of Sharon's work, [visit her Etsy page here.](#)

* Recipe on page 4.

Paper Mache Christmas Balls

Submitted by [Sharon Moreno](#)



Estimated Cost to Make the Item: 5.00

Materials:

Styrofoam, newspaper, wire, ornament hook, paper mache/clay, glitter. The only thing I had to buy is the the glitter – I had everything else on hand.

The materials I used: styrofoam balls ~ wire ~ [Jonni's paper mache](#) and gesso recipes [see page 4] ~ lots and lots of sandpaper ~ cotton packaging string ~ paper mache clay for the fine details ~ and glue.

Steps:

1. sketch my pattern
2. use wire for loop and glue into styrofoam ball. (I tried adding the wire after I covered the ball with the paper mache recipe but Jonni's mache dries so hard I had a heck of a time.

Paper Mache Christmas Balls, Cont.

An ice pick might have helped. You know I think of these things after the fact.

3. cover entire ball with paper mache recipe. Dry thoroughly.
4. sand, sand, sand, Sand – then gesso until satisfied and sand some more :D
5. use sketch to draw your design on the ball.
6. soak cotton string in glue (you could probably use the Stiffy they sell at craft stores (I didn't think of it until now).
7. then sculpt the flowers and glue the string onto your design you drew onto the ball.
8. Sand, sand, sand
9. Let dry.
10. paint, varnish and while still tacky apply glitter.



To see more of Sharon's creations, [visit her Etsy page here.](#)

* Gesso recipe on Page 4.

Paper Mache Toy Boat

Submitted by Deyana Viktorsson



Estimated Cost of This Project: Less than \$5

The boat is 1.80 m long, not very beautiful, but lots of work and used a lot – I am happy about that. The anchor is still missing, no idea what to make it from.

It is only an old box, some old newspapers, tapioca starch, some tape, the spray cost 1 euro, the sail – a quarter, the mast is a present from the shop for fabrics – they have just finished a roll and I painted it red. Many of the parts I made out of broken toys etc. We are in Thailand, things are cheap here.

More ways that children can use cardboard and paper mache in their creative play are shown in the photos from Deyana on the following pages.

Paper Mache Toy Boat, Cont.

More Ideas for Using Cardboard for Playtime Fun:



First, a TV box is used as a puppet theater.



Then the box is turned into a TV, and the kids read the nighttime news.



Next, my son gave me the idea for...



Turning the box into a horse. (Zorro can't wait until the horse is ready)_.

Paper Mache Toy Boat, Cont.



Adding paper mache to the horse's head.



This became Pippi Longstocking's horse.

Paper Mache Antler Chandelier

Submitted by Aylin Urgan



Estimated Cost to Make the Item: \$15

I used old chandeliers frame. I made wire branches into groups and twist them together for thicker branches than I attached them to body. I wrapped wires with tape first to make stronger than I started paper mache, I find better magazine and brochure papers than newspaper.

I wanted antler look so I shaped that way. when it's enough thick I finished with napkin to make smooth surface, and last thing I used white oil based paint. I add some crystals from old chandelier to make chic.

This is time consuming project you need some helping hands. Thanks to my cousin and dad. This is my first project so it could be better and I hope you like it.

Paper Mache Organizer

Submitted by [Karin Eichelkraut](#)



Estimated Cost to Make the Item: \$2.00 to 5.00 (if you count the glue and cardboard)

Usually I keep some polystyrene-food-trays, as well as other package materials to use them for mixing colors etc. But I had collected too much of them, so I decided to convert them in something useful. Looking at the size and shape of the trays and their possibilities, I came to the organizer design.



I used one and a half tray for each pocket, as can be seen in the photos (I uploaded the whole process is on the flickr set). Covered them with newspaper strips, before gluing them together (this because working on the inside afterwards, would complicate things to much).

At that point I decided not to paint the finished product, but to leave it with brown paper on top. So, I covered the insides of the walls with brown paper and glued them together, then layered the outside with brown paper. Ripping the strips of paper gives a nicer finish, than cutting them, as I noticed on the way.

I tried several ways of putting the ten pockets together; it is of course possible to put less and

Continued on next page...

in different designs. The cardboard was the only thing I did not have —with the right size— at home, it costs about \$2.00 I glued the pockets to the cardboard and secured them extra, with three staples, with the help of a stapling gun. Covered the staple points, with pieces of brown paper. Decorated each pocket with some letters printed on old magazine pages and cut.

Covering plastic trays has the advantage of not having the warping problem, but sometimes the first layer does not stick well to the tray after drying. I would recommend to either sand them a little, before covering, or use the undiluted thick glue on the first layer. I used diluted PVA glue, all the way.



You can see more of Karin's creations online at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/risaprofana/>

Paper Mache Roman Box

Submitted by Monica Franco



Estimated Cost to Make the Item: \$0.00-\$2.50 for paint and potato

I made this box out of scrap cardboard and stamped the squares with a potato stamp dipped in paint. I got the design from a book I found at the library.



Small Paper Mache Side Table

Submitted by Payal Pandey



Estimated Cost of This Project: Free

This table was an outcome of my requirement for a side table to display small collectibles. This was my first attempt to make something of practical use out of PM, and it cost me nothing as all the stuff used for the table was left over from previous projects.



For the table top I used 5 corrugated cardboard squares (40cm) and arranged them alternately (one vertical and other square horizontal). for the leg I've used 2 aluminum foil rolls cut into half (16cm each).

As these rolls were hollow I stuffed them tight with newspaper to increase the surface area, so it sticks better to the table surface. Then I layered it with paper strips dipped in PVA glue mixture. I repeated this up to 7 layers making it as smooth as possible. Then painted with acrylic colours and finished with gloss varnish (I haven't been able to find matt varnish in India).

Paper Mache Tortoise Planter

Submitted by Payal Pandey



Estimated Cost of This Project: \$1.00

I managed to crack a green bowl from a set of three I got from Ikea, the day I bought it....didn't feel like throwing it was still a single piece so the idea of turning it into a planter.

The cost is only for the paint.



For the tortoise planter main body as you can see in the picture is the bowl. The legs, head and neck are made of scrunched up newspaper. For layering in this project I used cooked flour instead of PVA glue (i was in Singapore at that time and this mixture didn't work for me....due to heavy humidity it took ages to dry (in fact it seemed dry on sunny days but was sticky on rainy days...magic).

Painting was done using acrylic paints....I did try to give it some pattern and finished with varnish.

Paper Mache Pin Cushion

Submitted by June Slack

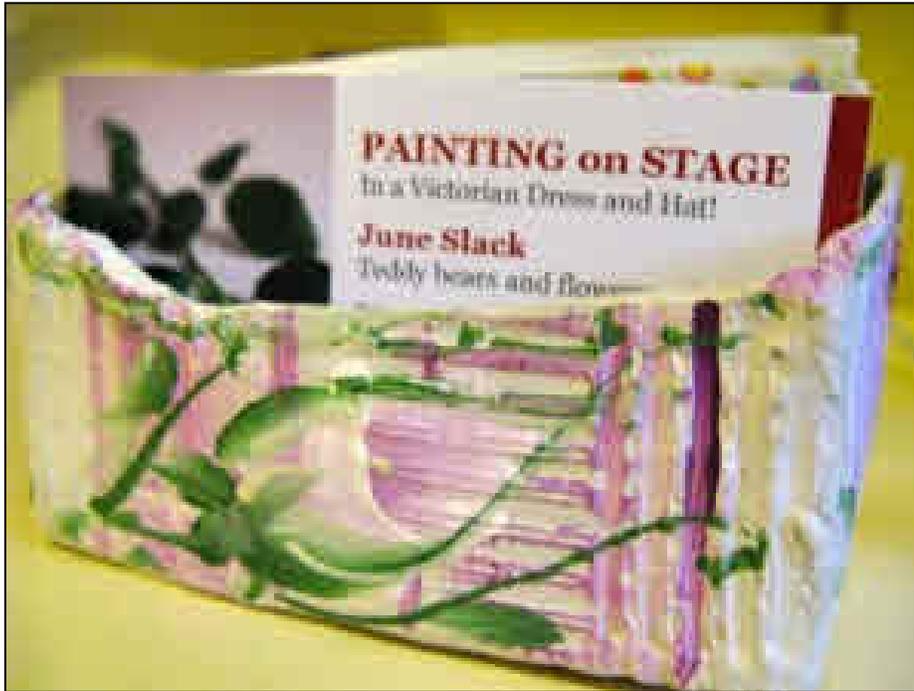


Estimated Cost of This Project: Free

A small pin cushion from a medicine bottle, weighted with plaster of paris. The design is similar to the collectable paper mache artist, [Gemma Taccogna](#) . I love her work.

Paper Mache Business Card Holder

Submitted by June Slack



Estimated Cost for This Project: Free

Made a box to fit my cards. Covered it with mache and textured it.

Paper Mache Hat Stand

Submitted by June Slack



Estimated Cost of This Project: \$2.99

I cut off the head and extended the neck for this project, and covered the complete form with paper mache. I can have multiple hat stands, all different heights. The hat stand was inspired by an exceptional artist on etsy.

Paper Mache Waste Basket

Submitted by June Slack



Estimated Cost of This Project: Free

I recycled my old waste paper basket with mache and a bit of paint.

Paper Mache Bowls, Translucent Sconces, and a Tiny Box

Submitted by [Paco Ojeda](#)



[Papel Maché video](#) from Paco Ojeda

[Paco was the very first person to respond to our request for practical paper mache items, and he is also the only one who made his submission by video. Please take a moment to click on the link below the photo and see how he makes his bowls, translucent sconces and a tiny box.]

Being more of a newspaper/cardboard/glue than a paste wireframe kinda guy, most of my projects are utilitarian. Here's another look at my translucent sconces:

<http://posterous.paco-ojeda.com/paper-mache-sconce-project-complete>

And here is another "practical" solution for my kitchen:

<http://posterous.paco-ojeda.com/cardboard-weekend-quickie-project>

Paper Mache Desktop JunkDrawer

Submitted by Tani Hughes



Estimated cost of this project: \$0.00 – \$3.00 (if you count glue and varnish)

I guess I take after my mom in that I have a strange attraction to boxes. I even hoard them if they are sturdy or unique looking. This drawer was once a Book Box for lack of a better definition; some large hardbound books used to have a cover like box that they slid into, this one happened to be a 1956 animal encyclopedia for children. I donated the book to an elementary school library but couldn't turn loose of the rugged red cover box.

In my collection I had another sturdy box that fit perfectly-loosely inside with the opening on the top, and the drawer was begging to be made!



A note, I save a great many items besides boxes that get me funny looks, wrapping paper, tissue paper, packing paper that comes inside new shoes, oh yeah, I'm a hoot at holidays and such where gifts are exchanged. Even fast food napkins! They all have a different texture, absorbency, strength, opacity, and workability to them. Maybe because I also make handmade paper I've come to appreciate the varieties of medium the "paper" in Paper Mache can be.

O.k. so I started out with these 2 boxes and the first thing I do when working with cardboard is to protect it from the warping and sagging that

happens if you just start throwing strips of liquid soaked paper on there. I like to use a homemade Gesso type of stuff I make out of Sheetrock Mud, Elmers Wood glue, and some acrylic or latex paint. I use the wood glue instead of the Glue-All because once it dries it is very water resistant. Sorry I don't have amounts for you... I just mix it till it feels right*.



First paint on a layer vertical, then horizontal on each side, inside and out, it dries so quickly (with a ceiling fan on low in my workspace) that you can keep going up to the 4 layers I normally do without stopping and waiting. Then I gently sand off any lumps or uneven places with Drywall Sandpaper.

At this point I realized I would need a drawer front to keep the drawer from sliding to far inside. I cut a piece of 1/8" hardboard large enough to cover the front of the larger outside box without hanging over and glued it to the front of the inside box.

My first layer of paper was grayish white packing paper like you would find stuffed in something new... it works great to cover any printing on the boxes and give a uniform color, it is wrinkly but smoothed out super over all the surfaces. Next I used my favorite, colored, patterned, recycled, tissue paper in about 3 layers and a fun pattern. Topped it all with a varnish I cant recall (sorry) something that was for outdoor use I believe.

The Lion Head Pull was just something I had been saving 15 or more years, I just thought it was so cool and finally something I could use it on! Drilled a hole in the front of the drawer, screwed it on and Viola! I use it on top of the computer desk hutch to throw the little junk that everyone (my 3 teenagers) leaves laying here, like Ipods, and Flash Drives, and SD Cards.

* Gesso recipe on page 4.

Paper Mache Waste Paper Basket

Submitted by [Jonni Good](#)



Estimated cost of this project: About \$2, for paint and flour.

I made this waste-paper basket to hold all the junk mail that shows up at my house. I made it by cutting a cardboard box into a size I liked, and covered it with two layers of newspaper and raw flour and water paste. When that was dry, I added one more layer, using brown paper from old grocery sacks. When dry, the waste-paper basket was finished with craft paint, construction paper, and acrylic varnish.

Paper Mache Wall Shelves

Submitted by Tani Hughes



Estimated cost of this project: \$0.00 – \$3.00 (if you count glue and varnish)

Because we recently moved from a 3,000 sq ft house with a studio out back to a 1,600 sq ft house without so much as a carport! I just cant stand to have any space put to waste. So I filled a need again with just stuff laying around like the boxes from our move...

A two cubby storage unit above my hot water heater in the laundry room that uses the same technique as the drawer only there are 2 layers of cardboard with the corrugations running parallel to add strength. Also there are 2-3 layers of newsprint under the decorative tissue paper here and there is no varnish or topcoat. It is remarkably strong and sturdy, mounted to the wall through the back in about 8 places, I used drywall screws through quarter sized metal washers so that the screws wouldn't rip out.



Paper Mache Magazine Rack

Submitted by Payal Pandey



Estimated cost of this project: US \$3 (Indian Rs 100)

I used several layers of corrugated Cardboard left from my relocation to India, Aluminum Foil rolls for handle, Araldite (donated by the kind carpenter I had hired for some work around the house), 8-9 layers for newspaper, PVA glue (cheapest variety available), acrylic paint (Left from my previous project), varnish. In other word I did not specifically buy anything for the Magazine Stand.

Paper Mache Shoe Storage Rack

Submitted by Tani Hughes



There is my closet/shoe storage cubbies made out of 9 priority mail “eBay” shoe size boxes. This was before I learned to keep the cardboard really dry so they have that funky twistedness to them.*

This one is mounted on two shelf brackets.



* See Tani's instructions for sealing the cardboard before adding paper mache on page 22.

Paper Mache CD Storage

Submitted by Tani Hughes



This was intended to hold video games in my daughter's room. She went away to collage and my 16 year old son threw a fit when she was taking it. I'm not sure why, as you can see he hasn't really moved anything into it yet. Maybe just to be the pain-little-brother to her one last time by insisting it belongs in his room, perhaps he's secretly sentimental about my work .

I used paper towels for a rough stone like look then painted and only used the pretty patterned tissue paper on the inside as an accent (I realized not everyone shares my love of color-chaos). It is made from 4 of the same Priority Mail boxes as the Shoe Organizer (on page 27), only their openings are on the 'side' instead of the 'top' of each box.



Paper Mache Doll Furniture

Submitted by Christine Majul



Estimated Cost to Make the Item: \$10.00

This paper mache project was made to show items that you use, you throw away can be used to make toy furniture. I used jello cups, cardboard from shipping boxes, duct tape and strips of paper and school glue. The first photo shows how I constructed the base and when I finished I used stone texture to give a stone feel. I wanted furniture to feel that is what you would use outside.



Paper Mache Egg Cup

Submitted by Chris Josephs



Estimated Cost to Make the Item: \$0-\$2

I started this off with a piece of hand towel roll. Then cut a base of the boots, and the shape of the legs, covered in scrunched up newspaper to get the shape, (the shape being held in place with sticky tape). I also put a stone in each foot, just to give some weight to the bottom of it, to hold it steady.

I then covered in 9 layers of paper mache, waiting for each layer to dry before applying the next one.

I did have to make the belly a bit big, to compensate for the big bottom I gave it.

Painted in Acrylics, then covered with 3 coats of varnish, just to make sure it is waterproof. I have had this in use for 3 weeks, just to make sure it could take being cleaned often. Of course it cannot be washed, but has had not trouble being wiped clean with a cloth.

Paper Mache Fantasy Animal

Submitted by [Jelina](#)



Estimated Cost to Make this Item: 35 € for the paints

This is a project I made for school. It's a fantasy-animal. It has the head and neck of a giraffe, the body of a turtle, the legs of a spider and the tail of a dragon. This was my very first project of papier-mâché (and I'm only 18 years old). I think it looks pretty!

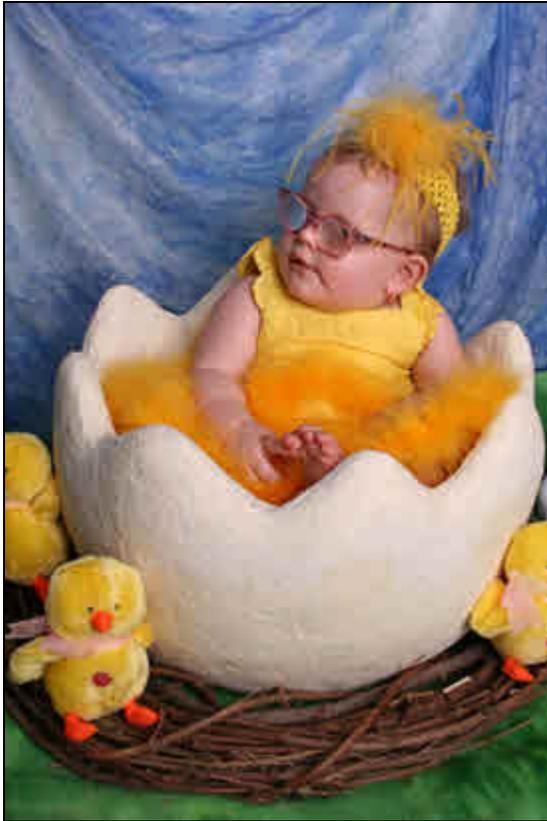
In the back of the animal are holes with little tubes in it so you can put some flowers in it.

I don't know a name yet, so if you know something, just let me know!

To see more of Jelina's creations, [visit her blog.](#)

Paper Mache Photo Prop Egg

Submitted by Teri Niemeyer



Estimated Cost to Make the Item: \$10.00

Giant Photo prop egg, made with plastic flower pot for armature, layers of wadded paper covered with duct tape then masking tape. Then added paper mache, finally Paper Mache Clay.



Step 1.



Step 2.



Step 3.

Paper Mache Angel Chair

Submitted by Matthew McCoy



Estimated Cost to Make the Item: (Including Labour) \$500 (aprox)

I created this chair as a prototype (number 2) for my Etsy store I'm launching next month.

The chair is reclaimed from the side of the road (I'm always amazed by what people will throw out!). After some minor repairs and painting as well as reupholstering the seat I then started on the wings. I used reclaimed cardboard (I work allot with Cardboard) to create the wings. There are seven layers in all, front and back), glued together with P.V.A.

I then covered the wings with three layers of paper mache, sanded and then attached solidly to the chair using epoxy and screws. I final two layers of mache was applied to create a seamless join between the chair and the wings.

One more sanding, paint, a fireproofing treatment and then a coat of protective varnish.



Paper Mache Bird Bowl

Submitted by Monica Franco



Estimated Cost to Make the Item: Free

I made this bowl based on the character, Kevin from the movie *Up*. I used a bunch of recycled items to make this so it didn't cost me anything. I got the idea from a book I found at the library with a lot of practical paper mache projects, I just had to include it.



Food Saver Table/Shelf

Submitted by Beth Lyons



Estimated Cost to Make the Item: free – \$1

This is my [FoodSaver](#) shelf/table. I wanted something that would fit my FoodSaver perfectly and have storage room underneath to fit the rolls that I use. I also wanted it to have a place to store the Sharpie Marker and bag cutter that I use when vacuum storing meals.

Since I knew I wasn't likely to find this anywhere, I made one. I wasn't patient enough to finish it before pressing it into service, but I actually like the utilitarian look of the mache / cardboard.

There are 3 layers of corrugated cardboard in the table top and the legs. The middle layer has the corrugation going perpendicular to the outer layers to add strength. The pen shelf is only one layer of cardboard because the weight is negligible, but I did hot glue 2 two craft sticks underneath to lend some support.

I hot glued the layers of cardboard together before adding paper mache strips on the edges / ends to neaten things up. I even added some clay to see if I could get a rounded, more even look.

Then I decided I needed it, and it looked fine. :) If someone were particular they could do quite a lot to finish it and make it look nicer.

All in all, it was a great solution for a custom piece that I made in about 2 days. One day to put it together and mache. Then let it dry.

Food Saver Table/Shelf, Cont.

I already had all the supplies. The breakdown as I see it:

- * Cardboard (free)
- * Paper strips – used office paper or newspaper (free)
- * small snake of jonni clay – (~ wild guestimation 25 cents –)
- * 2 craft sticks (2 cents)
- * 2 hot glue sticks (10 cents)

So the costs are about \$.37 cents ...



Hot Glue Gun Tree / Holster

Submitted by Beth Lyons



Estimated Cost to Make the Item: 25 cents

My glue gun (which I adore!) came with a little (useless) wire thing that I was supposed to be able to use to prop it up while it was heating up or while I was using it. But it didn't work at all for me.

I needed something that I could place the gun in while it was heating up (preferably something that could catch the drips of glue) and would be relatively easy to replace the gun in when I was using it.

Again, I found making my own thing easier than trying to buy one. And again, I had all the supplies:

1 empty toilet paper core (free)

1 3" x 9" piece of corrugated cardboard (or longer) (free)

1 glue stick

[jonni clay](#) for decoration / stability

It might be easier to cut the cardboard core before gluing it to the cardboard, but that's not what I did. I hot glued the tp core to the cardboard strip, then cut a 3 1/2 in slice out of the back to accommodate the hand-grip and power cord of the glue gun. I then cut a 1" slice from the front to accommodate the trigger. Both slices were about 1/4 wide.

Hot Glue Gun Tree / Holster, Cont.

didn't measure these when I was doing it. Just eyeballed it and then adjusted as needed.

I then covered the front end of the cardboard with a strip of aluminum foil so I can peel off the glue when it builds up.

It keeps the glue gun ready but out of my way and out of danger of burning anything (from laying on a table).

Again, not necessarily pretty (tho I did push a bark pattern in the [jonni clay](#)) but very functional.

Paper Mache Tool Organizer, Cont.

I could add strip mache or clay to reinforce it, but this works fine and I end up revising it every 6 months or so as different tools get more / less used.

Supplies:

2 pieces of corrugated cardboard (box top flaps work well) (free)

12 toilet paper cores. (free)

2 glue sticks (10 cents)

Plan placement, and glue your cores down running glue around the outside of the core where it meets the cardboard base.

Once the glue dries (10 minutes?) it's good to go.

Small Table Made Out of a Wire Spool

Submitted by Christine Majul



Estimated Cost to Make the Item: \$3.00

I made this out of a commercial wire spool left by the satellite technician when he installed our new satellite dish. I asked him if I could have the spool and he said yes. I then proceeded to cover the spool which comprised two wood disks as the base and a thick cardboard tube that joined the two wood disks. They were held together by three rods. I proceeded to tear brown wrapping paper, I got from the dollar store, for its strength and used home made flour glue to glue the paper to the spool.



Flour glue is strong and if you go to my doll furniture project (on page __), you will find the recipe that I used. I had to use the duct tape to adhere the base and the disks as the wood disks had holes in them and the duct tape had to cover them. I had to use many layers at the base and the tube to make it strong so as not to wiggle. It took a long time to dry. I used about two layers.

Small Table Made Out of a Wire Spool, cont.

for the disks and the tube, and about four at the base and tube intersecting. When it was dry, I took out the rods and sanded the entire table and put more paper at the top to make it smooth. I then painted the table two colors to denote the top and the bottom. This will make a nice coffee table or magazine table.



Thanks for reading.

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