

DIY PAPER MACHE WASP NEST

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Materials needed:

- Batch of Jonni's Paper mache clay, but instead of white flour I used fine saw dust for texture, this is not necessary though.
- One balloon
- Permanent marking pencil
- Acrylic paints (I used brown, yellow, red and black)
- Metal wire and cutters
- PVA glue
- Rye flour paste (you can use any other starch to make the glue)
- Some paper for the first layer
- Metallic tool to spread the mache

Steps:

1. Make the paper mache according to Jonni's paper mache clay recipe. If you want more texture, you could substitute the white flour with saw dust.

2. Divide the mache into as many patches as the number of colours you would like to have. I started with four but ended up using 6 different shades, because I realised that when dried, the colours look much darker!



3. Blow the balloon and make a knot. Push the knot inside the balloon and cover it with painters tape so that it is invisible.



4. Draw a doorway for your wasps with a permanent marker on the balloon.

5. Cover the balloon with one layer of brown paper. I did this to make sure that the loose coils of paper mache will stay on the balloon while I worked. Prepare some glue by mixing about three tablespoons of flour and 1 ½ cups of cold water. Bring to boil while mixing all the time and let to cool. Wet your paper and squeeze out all extra water. Tear in to smaller pieces and apply them with the starch glue. Let it dry out before continuing.



6. Make the wire loop for hanging your nest and attach it to your nest with PVA glue and some strong paper.



7. Start sculpting the outer layer. Make small coils and add them one by one using a metal tool. I started from the doorway and if I would do this all over again would probably start from the other end. The reason is that while you work with different colours at the same time, your hands get dirty very quickly and you will accidentally darken your lighter shades.



8. It might be best to work little by little and allow the nest to dry in between. I allowed my nest to dry three times and worked with it little by little. When your work is finished and dried completely, remove the balloon through the doorway.



To compare the colours and texture there is a small piece of a real wasp's nest wall, world's first paper factory, on the top of my giant version of it ☺

I hope you enjoyed this tutorial!