

Today we will be designing and constructing a simple shadow puppet, with optional additions geared towards more detailed puppet creations!

Materials:

- Paper
  - I used black construction paper. The thicker the paper, the better.
- A cutting tool
  - Scissors work perfectly fine, and an X-Acto knife can be used for small details.
- A control rod
  - This can be anything stiff, thin, and straight - a popsicle stick, a pencil, or sculpting wire like I use in the video.
- Tape
  - To attach everything! Masking tape is best because it holds well but is easy to adjust.
- A reference image
  - Having a picture to make your design from is easier than drawing from memory.
- Optional: Joint pieces
  - I make my joints with small brads and a hole punch. You can also make joints from bits of wire or paper clip, and cut the joint holes with your scissors.

Step 1) Make a sketch of your puppet. This sketch can be as simple or as detailed as you want - remember that your audience won't see the pencil marks, they'll only see what you cut out! Big shapes will be easier to cut out than very small details, so you may need an X-Acto knife if you want your puppet to be extra detailed!

Step 2) Cut out your puppet! Scissors are the easiest way to do this, but they may be hard to use if you have to cut out details within the puppet itself, like eyes or a mouth.

Step 3) Attach your puppet to a control rod. This can be as simple as taping your puppet to a pencil or small stick - anything that helps you move it around!

Optional: Step 4) Joints! If your puppet has moving parts, each segment that moves needs to be cut out separately. For example, my puppet has a fully-moving arm, so my puppet's chest, upper arm, and forearm/hand are cut into three separate pieces. Cut or punch a hole where those pieces overlap, and connect them with some folded bits of wire or a brad. The joint needs to be a little loose to move freely. I also needed a second control rod connected to my puppet's hand so that I could make it wave!

Good luck with your puppets, I'm so excited to see what you come up with!