

FOAM RUBBER ART INSTRUCTIONS

Created by Maggie New-Smith & Debbie Chewning

INGREDIENTS:

Foam rubber - Approximately 2" thick

Sheet or tarp.

Electric carving knife.

Marker pen - black

String – This can be yarn or a heavier duty string

Glue gun and glue sticks.

Spray paint - a good color variety, -pink, yellow, blue, green and orange

Fabric paint - diff colors

GETTING STARTED:

- Collect flower pictures from books, magazines or illustrated children's books...or go out into your yard and pick your favorite flower to use as a model for your first project.
- Go to your local fabric store, upholstery shop or even a futon shop to get foam rubber. Ask for their scraps as well. They will often just throw them away and you can be incredibly creative using them for experimentation and practice. You may want to call the shop ahead of time and ask them to save some scraps for you.
- The following instructions demonstrate how to make a flower using this basic technique. Myriad of costumes and props can be made using the same method.
- Spread out a sheet or tarp to work on. It makes for an easier cleanup.

1. You need to **measure the face** that is going in the center of your flower. Then **sketch out the basic idea**. Sketch out the oval for the face and then sketch out the petals. Anything goes. There is such a large variety in nature. Do large petals and small petals. In the following steps you'll see that gluing pieces on top of your basic design will give your flower more dimension.
2. After you sketch out your design, use an electric carving knife to **cut out the pattern**. Cut the basic outline of the design using straight cuts. You can go back later and trim the edges to achieve a more rounded look and add more detail. You may want to add some lines in the petal area. You can't goof up here! Even if you cut off a flower petal it's easily glued back on.
3. **Paint your creation** outside using an airbrush. Try to stay away from the edges around the face. Paint on this area can feel rough and uncomfortable. If some paint does get on this area you can always trim it away. After you've done the first color use a second color around the outside edges to add dimension. If you don't like the way your flower turned out, you can always add more color to it.
4. **Embellish your creation.** Play with loose pieces to add dimension to your creation. You can paint them separately and then glue them on, or glue them on and then paint them. It all depends on your artistic whim! Add a few dabs of fabric paint as well.
5. **Attaching the tie strings.** Cut two strings approx. 16 inches long. Tie a knot on both ends of your string. Use your scissors and poke two holes on both sides in the back of your creation. Push the strings in the holes on each side of the foam with your glue gun.