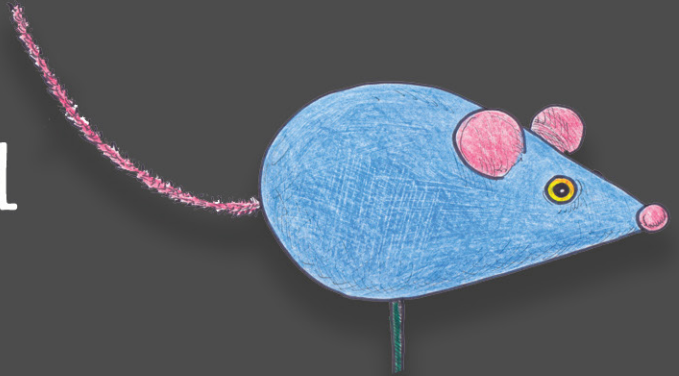




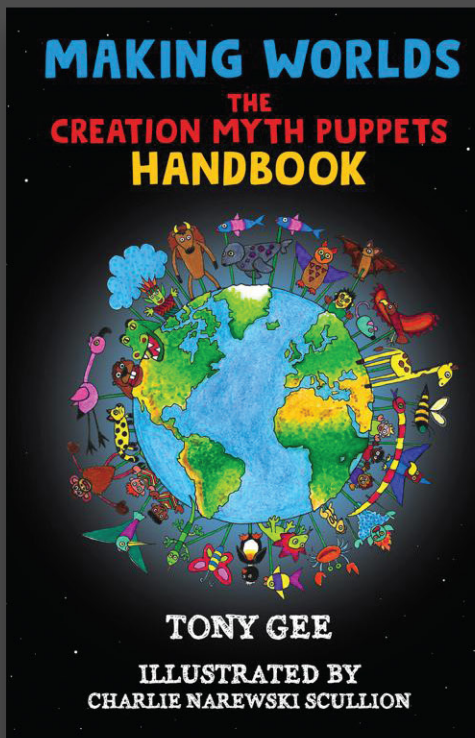
Tony Gee

Author

The Mouse That Escaped



from the upcoming handbook



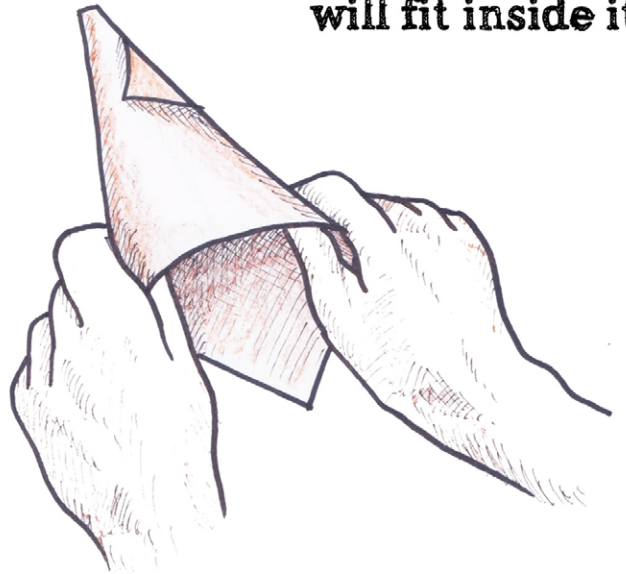
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Mouse

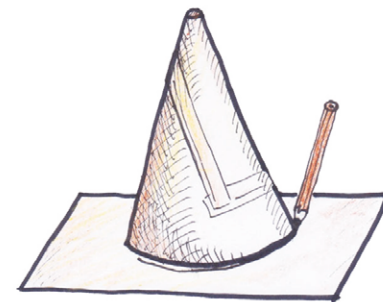
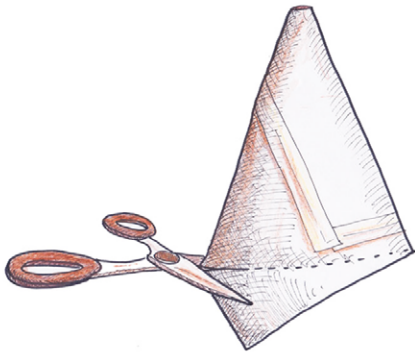
You will Need:

Thick white card,
Newspaper, Pencil
Scissors, Masking Tape
Long garden cane
Glue gun
Coloured tissue paper
Glitter, Eyes, Pipe cleane

1. Roll a large square of thick card into a cone shape (not too thin, not too fat). It is good if there is a small hole at the pointed end, as the nose will fit inside it.



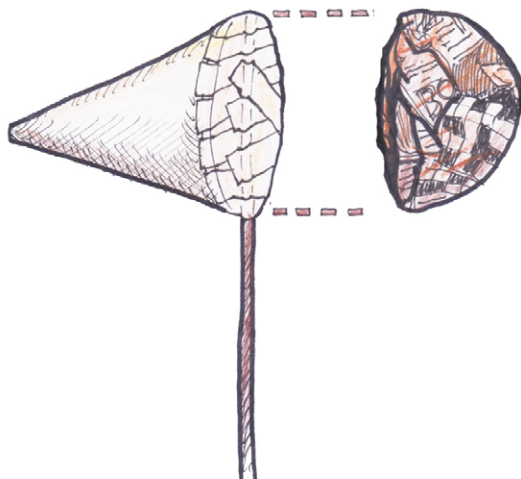
2. Use masking tape to join the seam. Cut the excess card from the open end so that the cone is even all round.



3. Use the open end to draw a circle onto card. Cut out the circle.

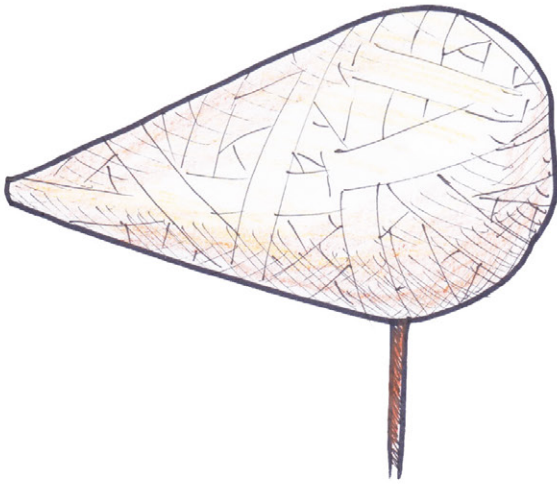


4. Attach your garden cane to the circle, and tape the stick securely (See Page 5. 'Ways of Attaching Sticks'). Tape circle to open end of cone.

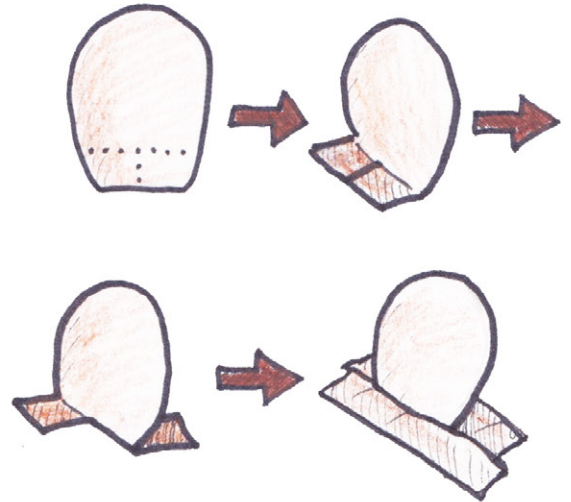


5. Make a semi-sphere shape from newspaper (see page 6. 'Sculpting with newspaper'). Tape the flat end of the semi-sphere onto the wide end of the cone. , making an ice-cream-cone shape. The ice-cream end is the mouse's bottom.

6. Cover completely with masking tape.

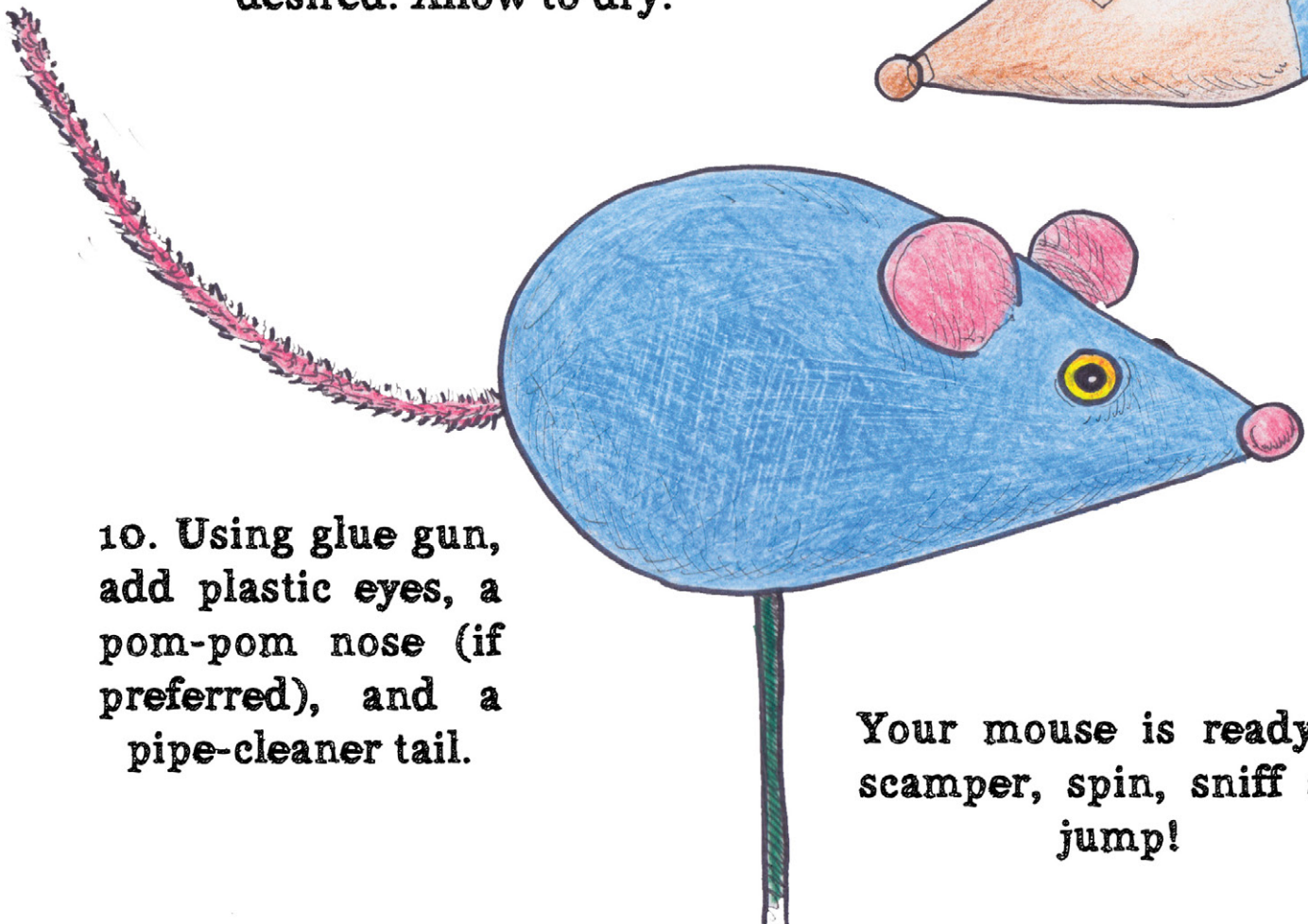


7. Make card ears and attach with masking tape.



8. Make a nose by rolling a small ball of newspaper (or add a small pom-pom later with a gluegun).

9. Using PVA, cover the body, head and ears in coloured tissue paper (See Page 10. Decorating with tissue). Add glitter if desired. Allow to dry.



10. Using glue gun, add plastic eyes, a pom-pom nose (if preferred), and a pipe-cleaner tail.

Your mouse is ready to scamper, spin, sniff and jump!

Decorating with Tissue

The vast majority of our puppets involve a stage where you decorate the puppet with coloured tissue paper and a PVA Mix.

The exact ratio of PVA to water in the mix is up to you. Most PVAs are far too thick to begin with, requiring a little water. If it is too thick it will be hard to spread and will struggle to seep into the tissue, causing the brush to tear it as you spread the glue. On the other hand, if it is a very watery consistency the tissue will become saturated and weakened and will easily break as you brush it. It should be quite thick, but easy to stir, and not watery. You could do a test on a spare piece of cardboard before you begin, adding more water or PVA as needed. Eventually you will be able to gauge it by eye.

For applying PVA to tissue paper, we have little rhyme we like to teach to kids. It goes:

'Glue, paper, glue. That's what you do.'

Now, let's imagine we are decorating a 3-dimensional head shape, covered in masking tape.

- 1) Dip the brush into the tub of PVA and immediately brush off the excess, using the edge of the tub. One of the worst mistakes most people make is using too much glue. It is runny, messy and gets very sticky. A thin layer is all you need and then it won't run off the puppet. Apply the PVA to the area you are going to stick your first piece of tissue to.
- 2) Lay a single piece of coloured tissue onto the thin layer of PVA. There is nothing to gain from putting two pieces on instead of one. Tissue will not stick if it doesn't have PVA directly beneath it. Always lay paper one piece at a time.
- 3) Now brush another thin layer of PVA on top of the piece of tissue paper This achieves four things
 - It leaves a sticky surface which can be used to overlap your next piece of tissue
 - it makes the tissue cling closely to the surface of the puppet.
 - It dries to a hard varnished surface, rather than a dry tissue-paper surface. PVA protects the puppet.
 - Glitter can be added to the tacky PVA surface before it dries.
- 4) Now you have completed the three stages: glue, paper, glue. Continue doing the same for every piece of tissue until every bit of the puppet is covered. By slightly overlapping each subsequent piece of tissue paper, you avoid gaps.

Remember:

Always makes sure each piece is sticking to a thin base layer of PVA and has a thin layer of PVA on top. Avoid any dry paper – it rips easily and is not well-protected. Paper will never stick to dry paper, and neither will glitter.

- Take your time, only lay one piece of tissue paper at a time
- Clean the excess of your brush, using too much glue will not help you.
- Always make sure paper is going onto a gluey base or it won't stick.
- Always cover your tissue with PVA at the end.
- Use the brush, not your fingers (as many children are inspired to do)
- Use your brush as a tool to push the wet tissue into crevices and fold paper over and around awkward shapes.
- *Glue, paper, glue, that's what you do.*