

Paper Mache Checklist

By Lauren Meir

- Items You'll Need:
 - Newspaper, or paper bags, cut into strips Amount will vary depending on what you are making.
 - Homemade Paper Mache Paste or Store-Bought Paper Mache Glue.
 - Base Form This can be anything from styrofoam balls, cardboard boxes, or something with an interesting shape.
 - Wide Paint Brushes (optional, for the paper mache).
 - Poster Paints and Paint Brushes.
 - Optional Decorative Accents such as beads, feathers, or sequins.
 - Glue (for decorative accents).
- Paper Mache Paste Ingredients
 - Mix 1 part flour with 5 parts water.
 - Stir in a pot, bring to a rolling boil.
 - Boil mixture for 3-4 minutes.
 - Add 3 tspns salt (as a mold deterrent).
 - Stir until Smooth.
 - Cool completely before using.
- Set Up
 - Cover a worktable with a plastic mat.
 - Put on a smock or other workclothes.
 - Transfer paper mache glue to a large bowl.
 - Have your base form, paper strips ready to work with.
- Working with Paper-Mache
 - Using one strip of paper at a time, dip the ;paper ;into the glue to get it completele saturated.
 - Remove the excess glue with your fingers.
 - Place the strip on your base form, using your fingers to smooth it over ;Be gentle so as to avoid tearing the paper.
 - Repeat the first 3 steps, adding more glue-soaked strips to your form
 - Continue the process, overlapping the strips as you work, until the form is completely covered.
 - When finished, set aside and let dry for 24 hours.

- Repeat the process at least twice, ensuring you have a minimum of three layers papering your form.
- Allow each layer to dry for 24 hours before applying the next layer.
- Continue the process until desired thickness is ;achieved Allow 24 hours to dry completely.
- When piece is completely dry, paint with poster paints.
- Allow paint to dry completely before applying any decorative accents.