

Sprites of Spring. How to make them

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Here's a brief explanation. Sprites are mostly built on thin sticks, the ends of which plant in the ground - like mini-scarecrows.

At the last Merefest we created a sprites' party in a small woodland clearing. It was dark and they were painted and dressed in white, lit by torches and fire cans for atmospheric and ethereal effect. In spring they will be in full daylight, possibly dancing round a mini-maypole, and they won't have the same focus. Therefore I think they will need to be twice the size or more, so **2 ft tall**.

Materials needed

Thin straight stick – 3ft max. - green garden sticks good for this.

Wire - easy to bend and cut, but not too thin.

Latex glue - plus sponge for spreading, and container.

Small amounts of newspaper, strong white tissue, masking tape.

Also bits of thin card - for hands, maybe hats, ears etc.

Emulsion paint - for initial paint cover.

Also bits of wool, string, natural grasses etc for hair; acrylics or waterproof felt pens for facial and other details, small bits of material, ribbons, etc for clothes. Etc etc.

I hope you will find the following diagrams useful. You may like to adapt them to suit yourselves of course. The more that are made, the merrier. Male or female, they need to be strong individual characters, quite different from each other, except in size, but that can vary a bit. Enjoy making!

***** All sprites should be 2 feet tall!** So leaving about 1 ft of stick to stick in the ground

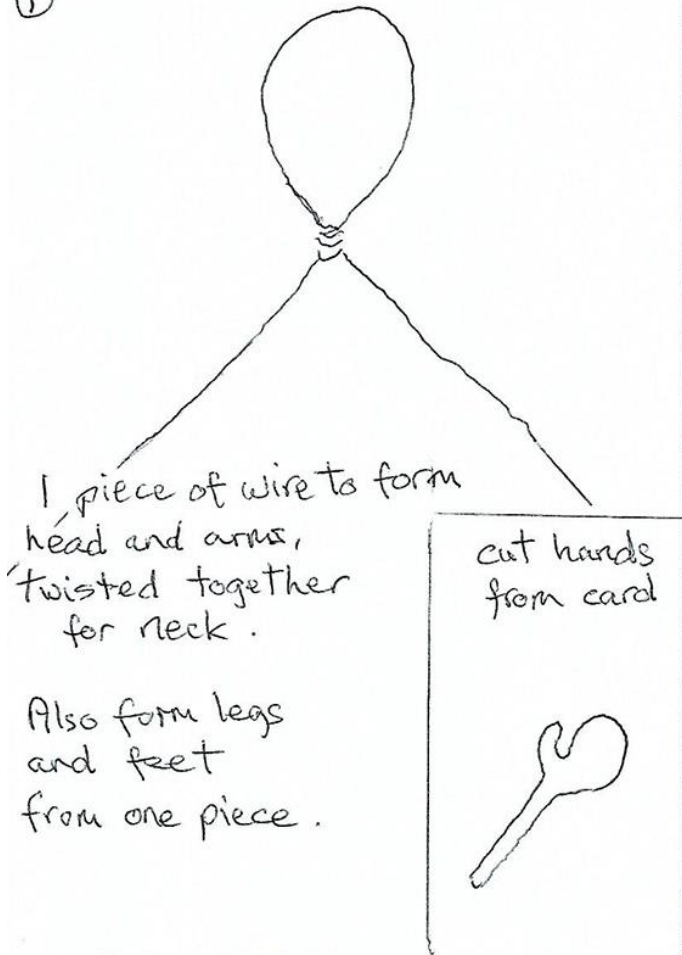
Handy Tips

Latex glue: This is the best glue to use and we usually have some in stock. You don't have to wait for it to dry between coats, and it's waterproof. Also you can build features on your sprite - eg bums and bosoms - by rolling up slightly glued newspaper to shape, finishing off with glued tissue. It's also good for creating facial features - noses, ears, chins, cheeks etc. It will really help to create an interesting character. Experiment!

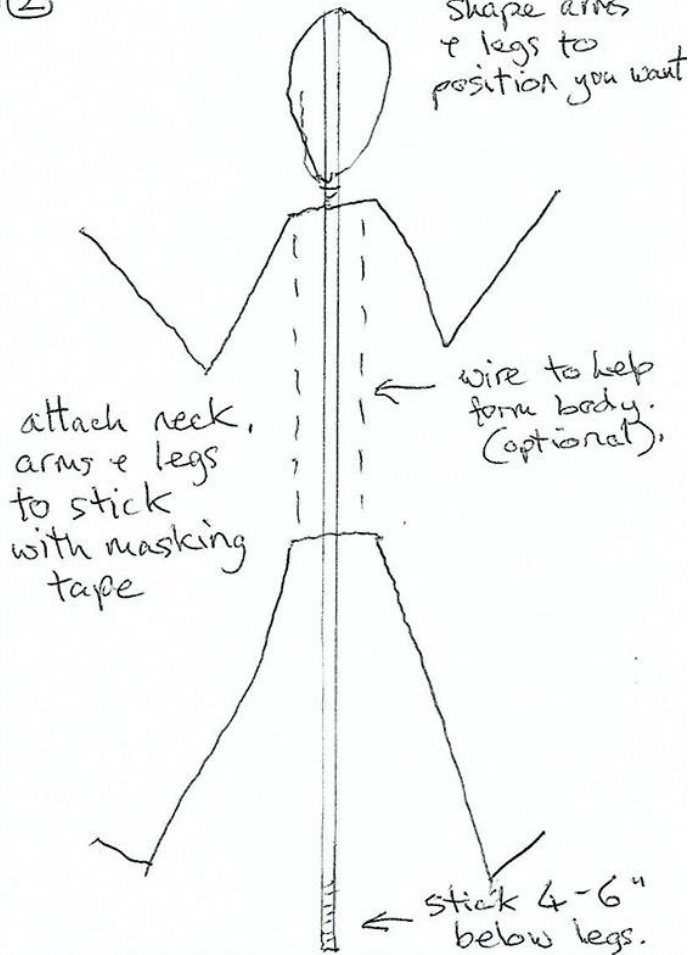
In the initial stages of sprite making, after the wire is assembled on the stick, but before adding paper, if you should fancy creating a **dramatic topknot to your head** you could tape a bunch of tiny sticks, grasses, artificial flowers, or greenery to the stick so that the bunch sticks out from the head. Natural stuff is good for this, but it could be wool or whatever you fancy. (As long as it's not heavy).

When you have finished creating your sprite and you have a reasonably strong and smooth covering with the glue and tissue paper, plus created a characterful face and blended the hands and neck into the rest, it's now time for a coat of paint. I use **magnolia emulsion paint** as it's (usually) waterproof, and in this case white, which would show up well against grass etc. But we could discuss. **Clothing** could be really simple - don't worry about hems or mini dressmaking – use materials that may easily partly stick in place. Colour(s) to be discussed. I hope you have an enjoyable creative time!

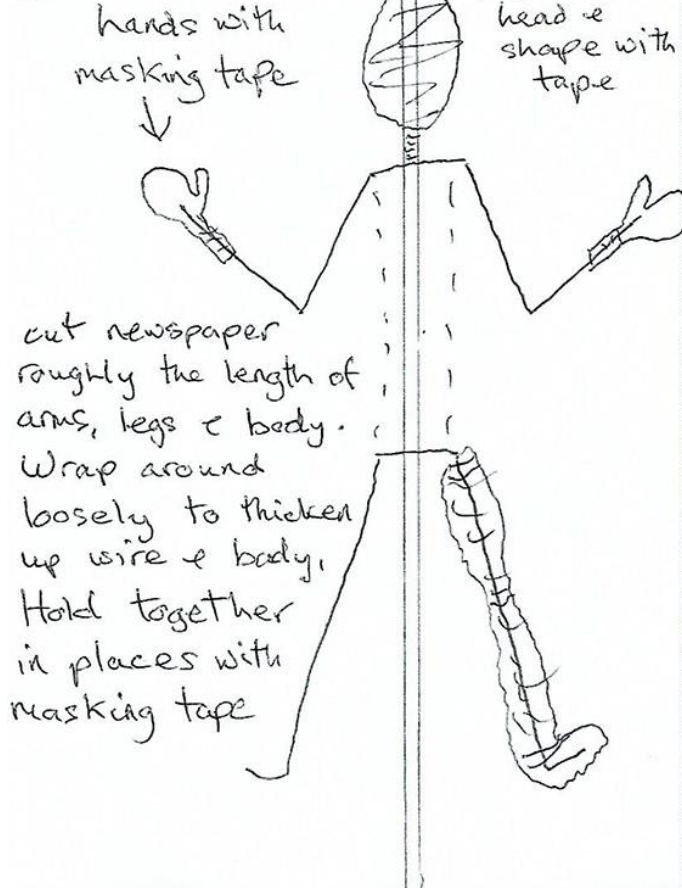
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