UltimatePaperMache

Easy Mask Form Pattern

For Paper Mache



This pattern creates the base for a mask. You add all the features and details.

Finished size -

About 8.5 inches (21.6 cm) high, 6 inches (15.2 cm) wide and 10 inches (25.3 cm) deep. It will fit an adult head, but the size can be changed by printing the pattern larger or smaller, following the instructions in the video on this page:

ultimatepapermache.com/easy-mask-form

If you run into any problems while making your mask, I'm happy to help. You can reach me by email: jonni@UltimatePaperMache.com

If you send an email, please put "paper mache" in the subject line so your email isn't accidentally deleted. If you don't hear back from me within 24 hours, check your spam or promotions folder, or send me another message - emails do sometimes get lost.

Have fun!

Jonni

©2025 Jonni Good. You may print this pattern and use it to make a mask for your own personal use, but you may not sell the pattern or publish it online without the express permission of the author. Some Amazon affiliate links are in this file. If you make a purchase after clicking on the links, Amazon will give me a small commission. You can also simply do a search for the same products if you prefer.

You will need:

- Access to a Printer
- Copy paper or full-sheet labels (I use the labels)
- Glue stick if using copy paper instead of labels
- **Face-only mask** - the front and back from from 1 standard-sized cereal box, or 2 pieces of letter-sized "light chipboard*" that you can purchase online.
- **Helmet-style mask** - the front and back from from 2 standard-sized cereal box, or 4 pieces of letter-sized light chipboard.
- Sharp scissors for cutting the cereal box cardboard
- Clear plastic tape. **Note:** Don't use disappearing gift wrap tape - it isn't strong enough.
- Aluminum foil and hot glue gun for adding features, like noses, muzzles, eyebrows, etc. Or use crumpled paper and masking tape, instead. You can also use found objects - decorate your mask any way you want!
- Paper strips and paste (recommended) or paper mache clay. See below for link to recipes.
- Acrylic paint and clear spray or acrylic varnish.
- Shoelaces or elastic straps to hold the mask in place

* If purchasing cardboard in place of the cereal boxes, it will be sold as "light chipboard." Medium or heavy chipboard is too stiff to bend well.

Helpful videos:

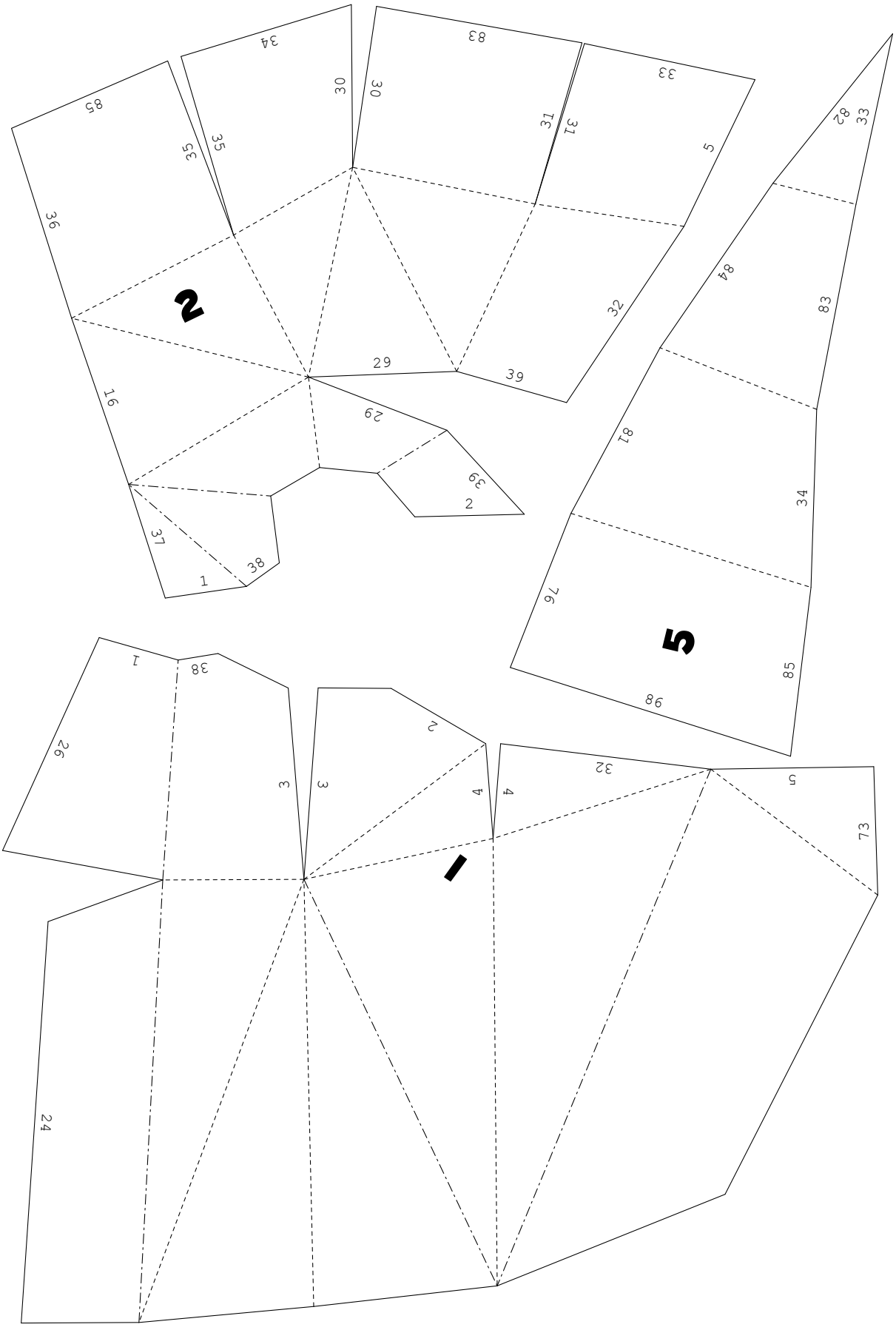
Be sure to watch the instruction videos on this page:

- https://www.ultimatepapermache.com/easy-mask-form

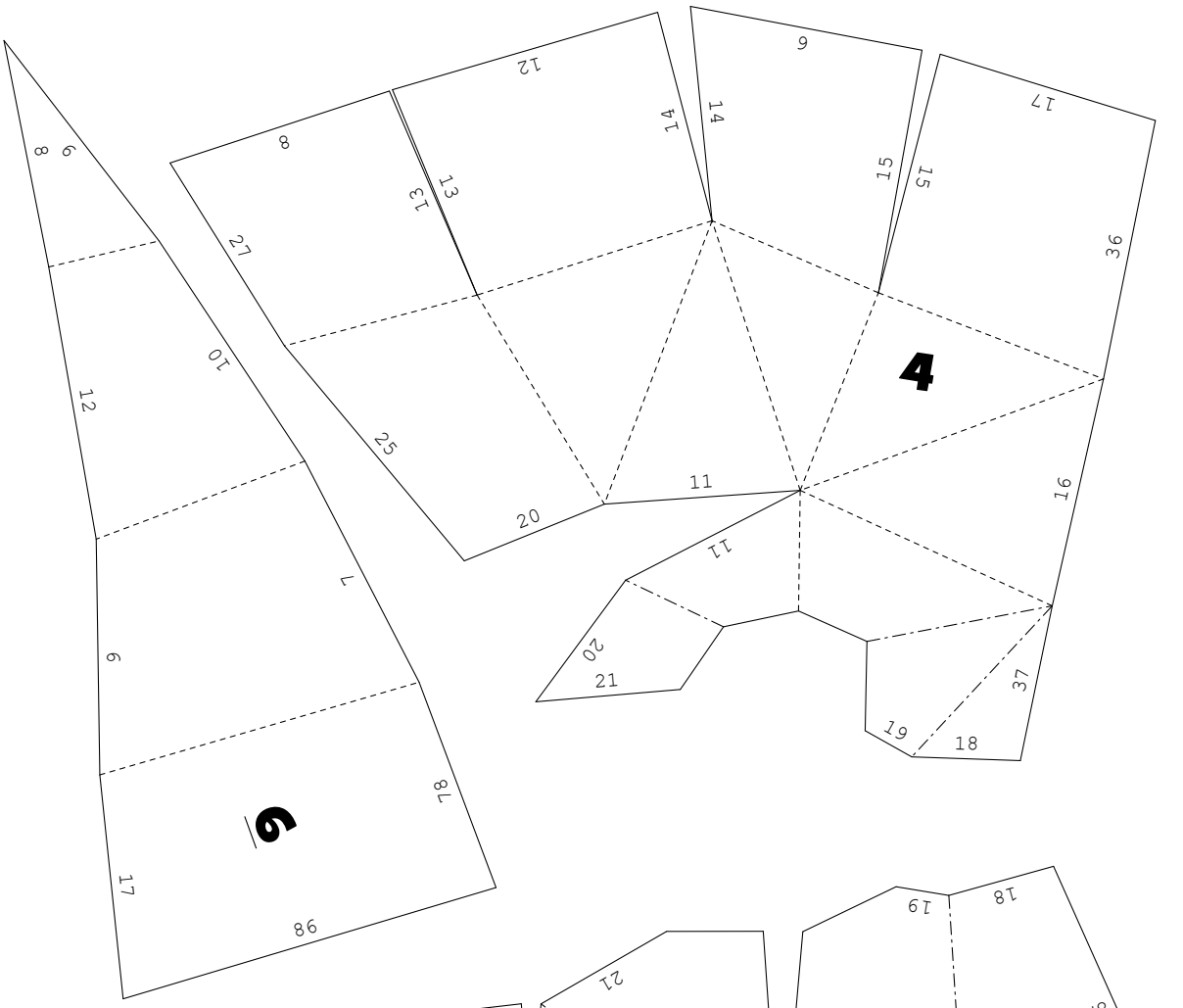
These videos might also be helpful:

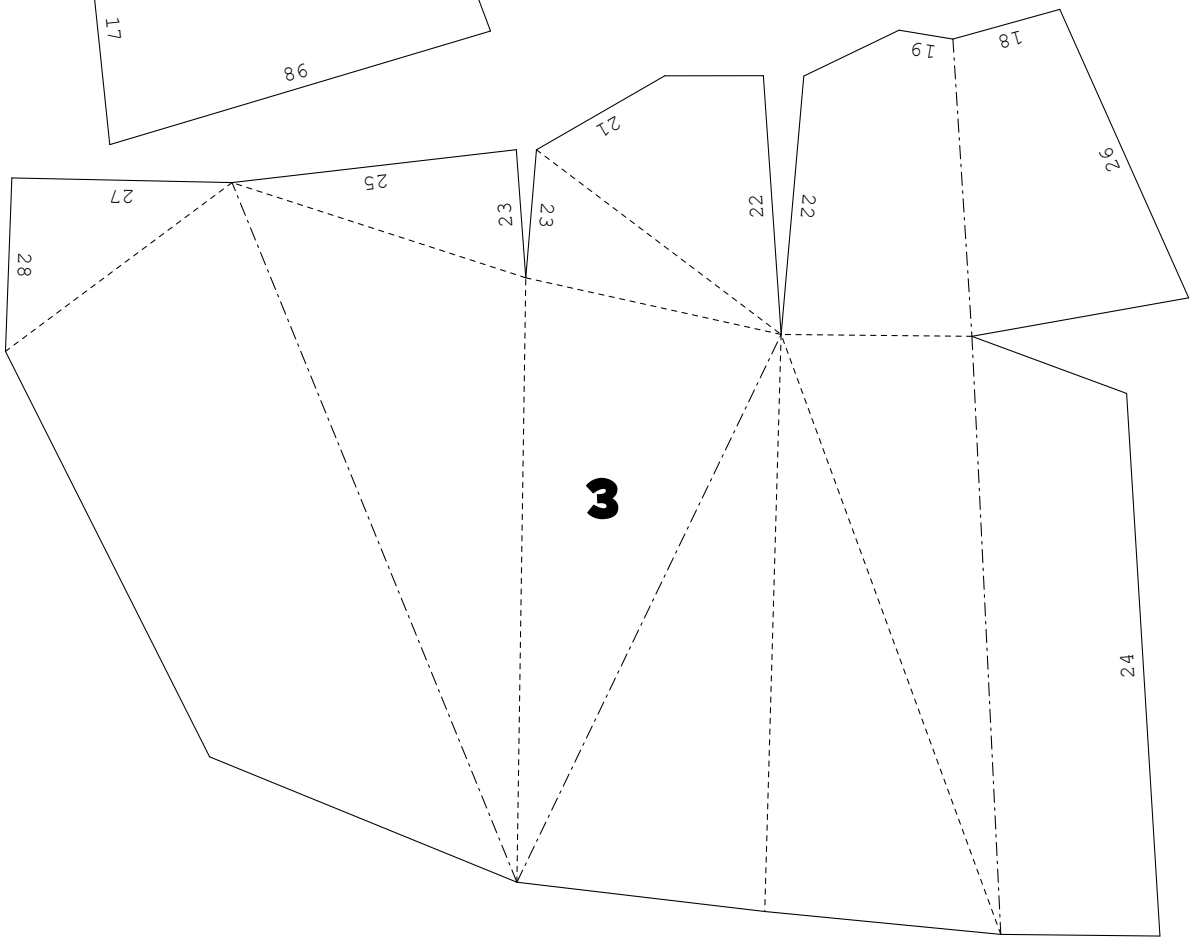
- Recipes for paper mache paste and paper mache clay
- Changing the size of patterns for paper mache masks and sculptures
- 5 Easy Tips for Smooth Paper Mache

Instructions begin on Page 7.

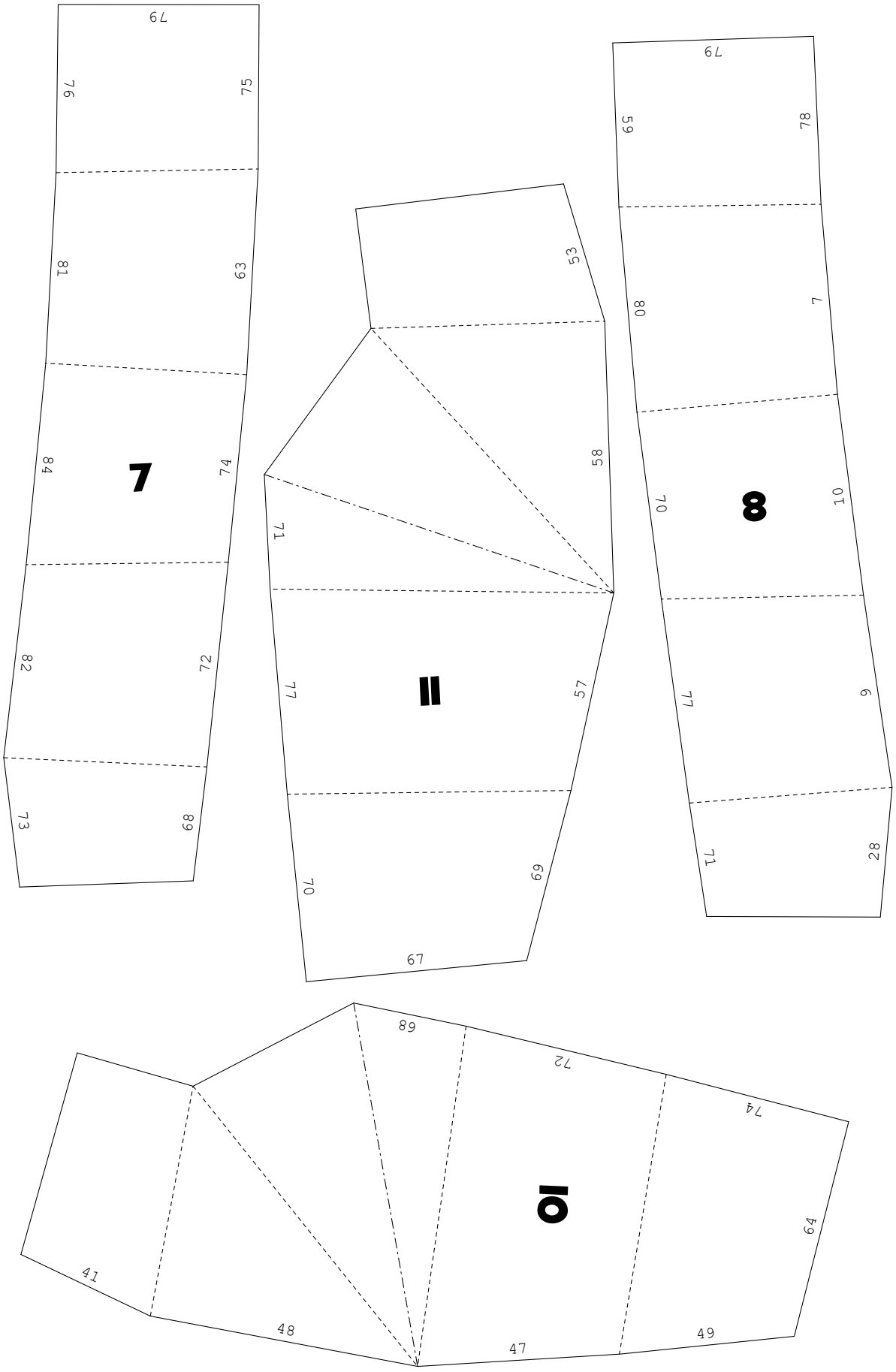


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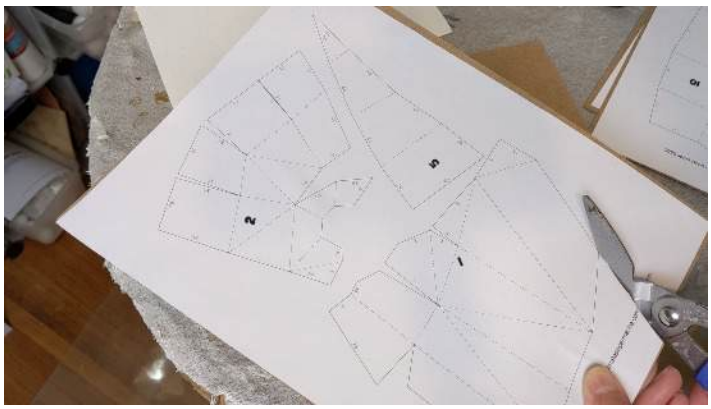
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Getting Started:

Note: Be sure to watch the videos that go with this pattern. You can find them on this page: https://www.ultimatepapermache.com/easy-mask-form





Printing:

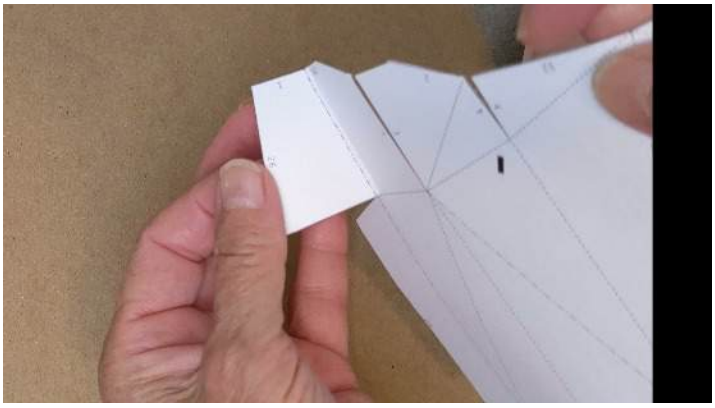
Print the pattern pieces on full sheet labels (my favorite) or either US letter-sized or A4 paper, and stick them onto cereal box cardboard. Watch the video to see how to print the pattern so your mask will fit.

If you don't have any cereal boxes, you can purchase Light Chipboard on amazon.com.

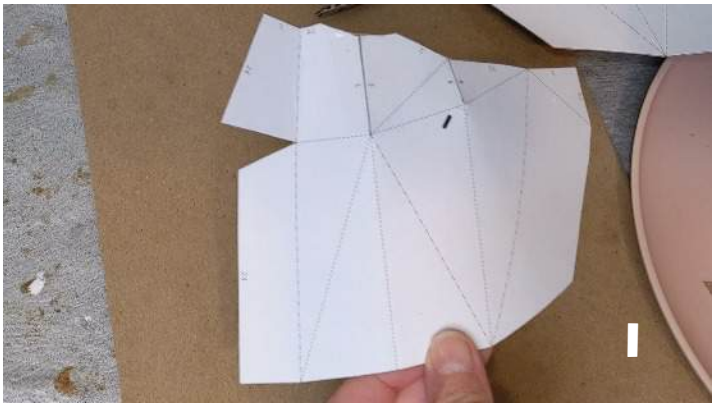
If you print on copy paper, you'll need to use a glue stick or spray glue to firmly attach the pattern pages to your cardboard. I always use the labels, because it's easier and I think they stick better.

Be sure to use regular clear plastic tape, *not* the kind made for gift packages. 'Invisible' tape is not strong enough.

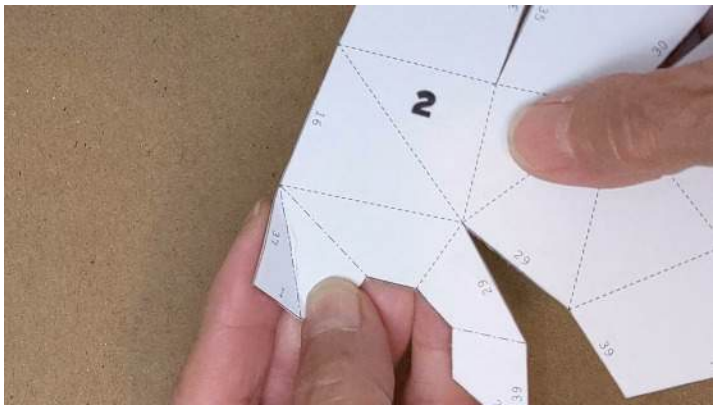
Taping the Pieces:



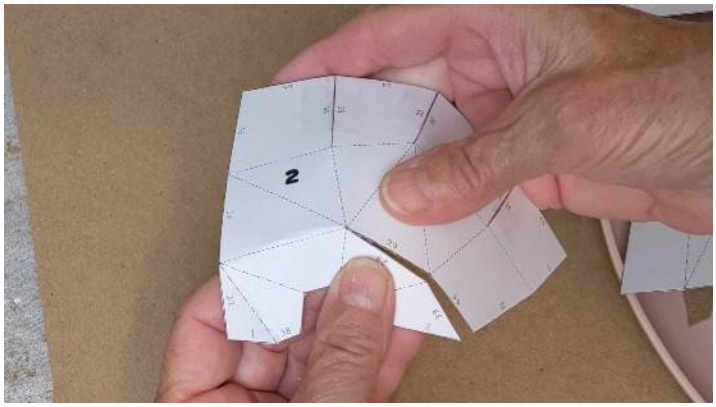
Bend the line on Pieces 1 and 3 as shown, to bring the nose area forward.



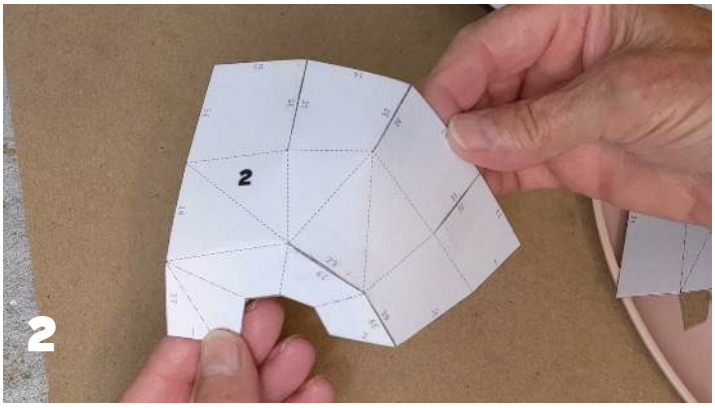
Tape the inner cuts on Piece 1.



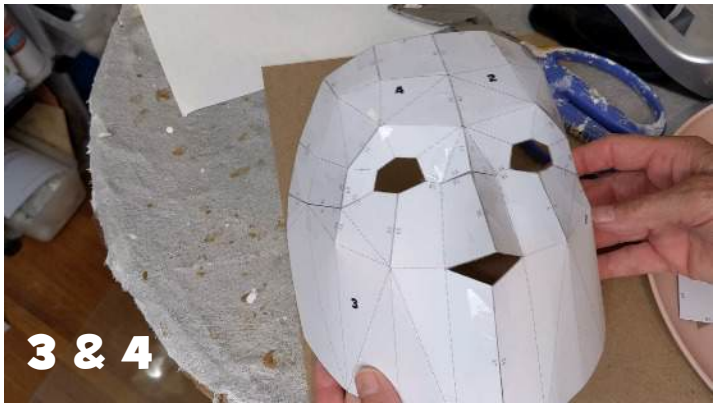
Bend the line at the top of the nose on Pieces 2 and 4, as shown here, and in the video.



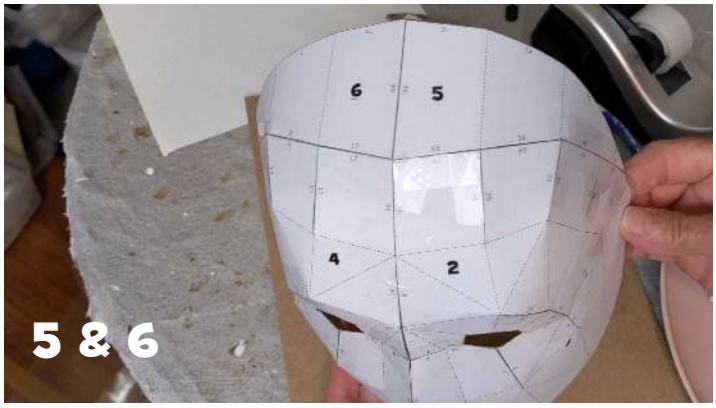
Also bend the line above the eye.

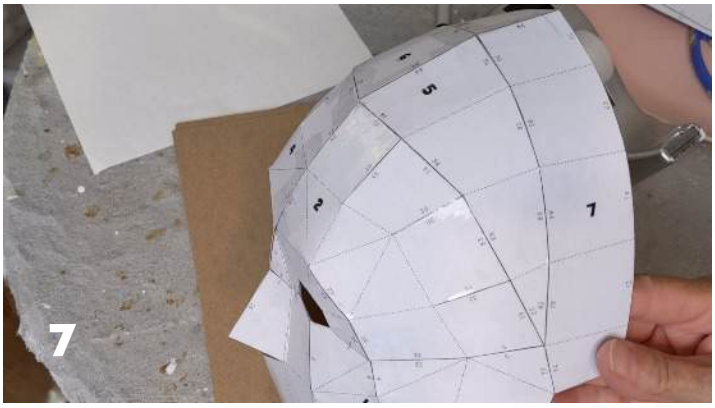




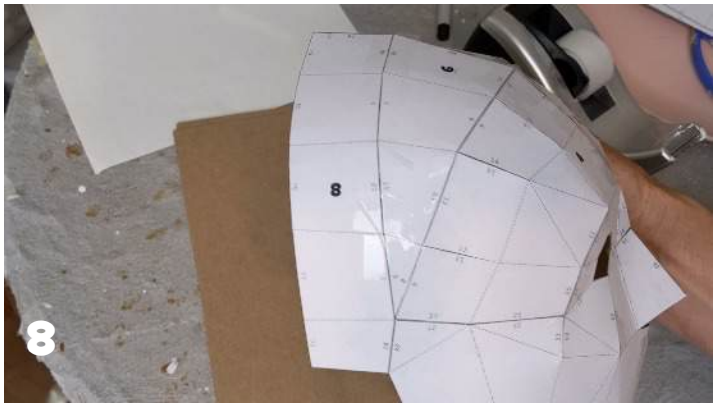


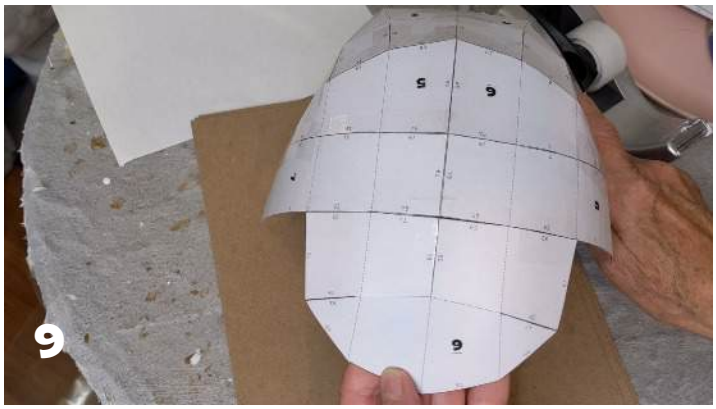
If you're making a mask that covers only your face, you may want to stop here. After the details have been added and the paper mache is dry, put holes on the side of the mask so you can add straps to hold the mask in place.

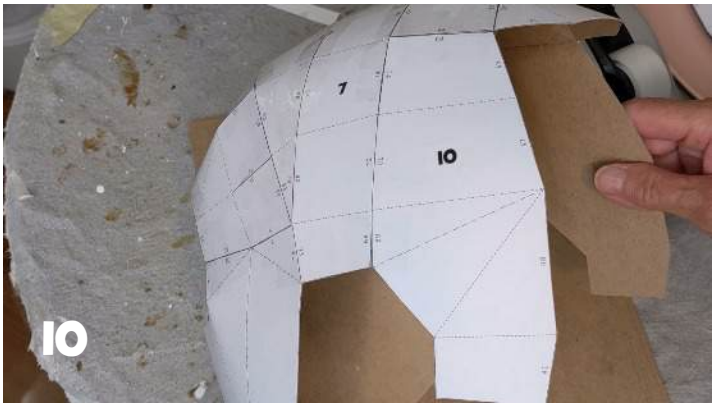


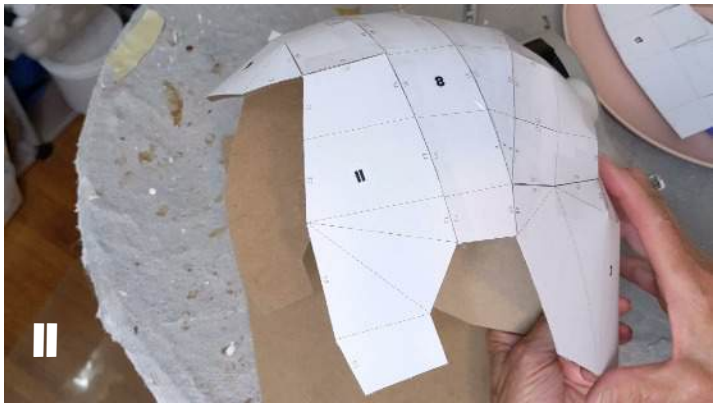


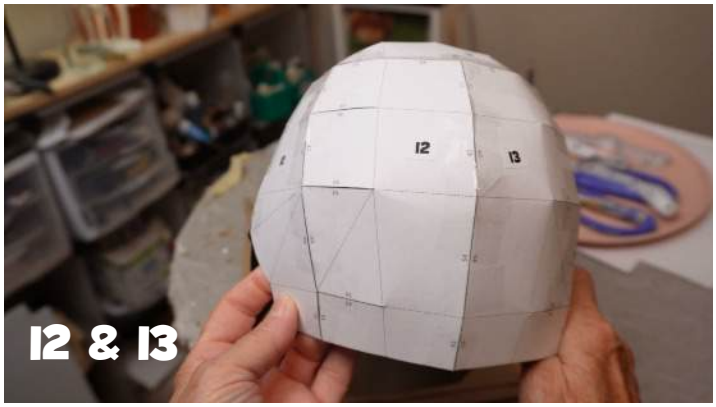
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If you try on the mask now and it doesn't fit, you can make it smaller by cutting the back center seam and overlap Pieces 12 and 13. To make it larger, cut the seam and add a scrap of cardboard to make the cap wider before taping it back together.

Adding Features and Details:

You can use crumpled foil and hot glue or crumpled paper and masking tape to create features and details. If you're making a mask of a specific animal or character, be sure to look at photos while you're sculpting with the foil or paper.

You can also use cardboard shapes, foam balls, feathers, and other found objects to make interesting helmet masks. Your mask doesn't have to look like a real animal or person to be a great mask.

Adding Paper Mache:

When you're happy with the shapes, cover any foil or foam with masking tape so the paper mache will stick. Then add one layer of paper strips and paste. The raw flour and water paste is easiest to make, but the cooked flour and water paste will dry clear. Use the one you like best.

You could also use paper mache clay, but it will be slightly heavier than paper strips and paste. You can find paste and paper mache clay recipes here.

I like using the brown paper that comes scrunched inside Amazon and Walmart boxes. Newspaper works, too, if you have some.

Painting Your Mask:

Make sure the paper mache is completely dry before you paint your mask. It will dry faster if you put it in front of a fan.

You can use any paint that will work on paper. To get nice bright colors, give your mask a base coat of white gesso or spray primer first. After it's dry, paint your mask any way you like.

If you're making an animal mask, you can get ideas by doing a YouTube search for 'how to paint (my animal)." The videos will show people painting on flat canvas or paper, but you can still use their ideas and colors for a paper mache mask or sculpture.

I hope you'll come back to my site and share photos of your new frog mask after it's finished. We would all love to see how it turns out! You can do that on the **Daily Sculptors page.**

If you had fun using this pattern,
you might enjoy some of my other patterns, too. You can find over 60 templates for paper mache masks and sculptures here:

UltimatePaperMache.com/patterns








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