

HEAD MOUNT DRAGON



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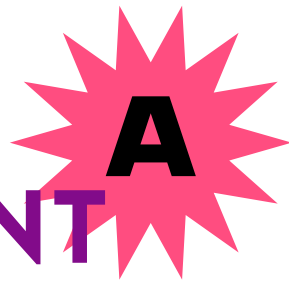
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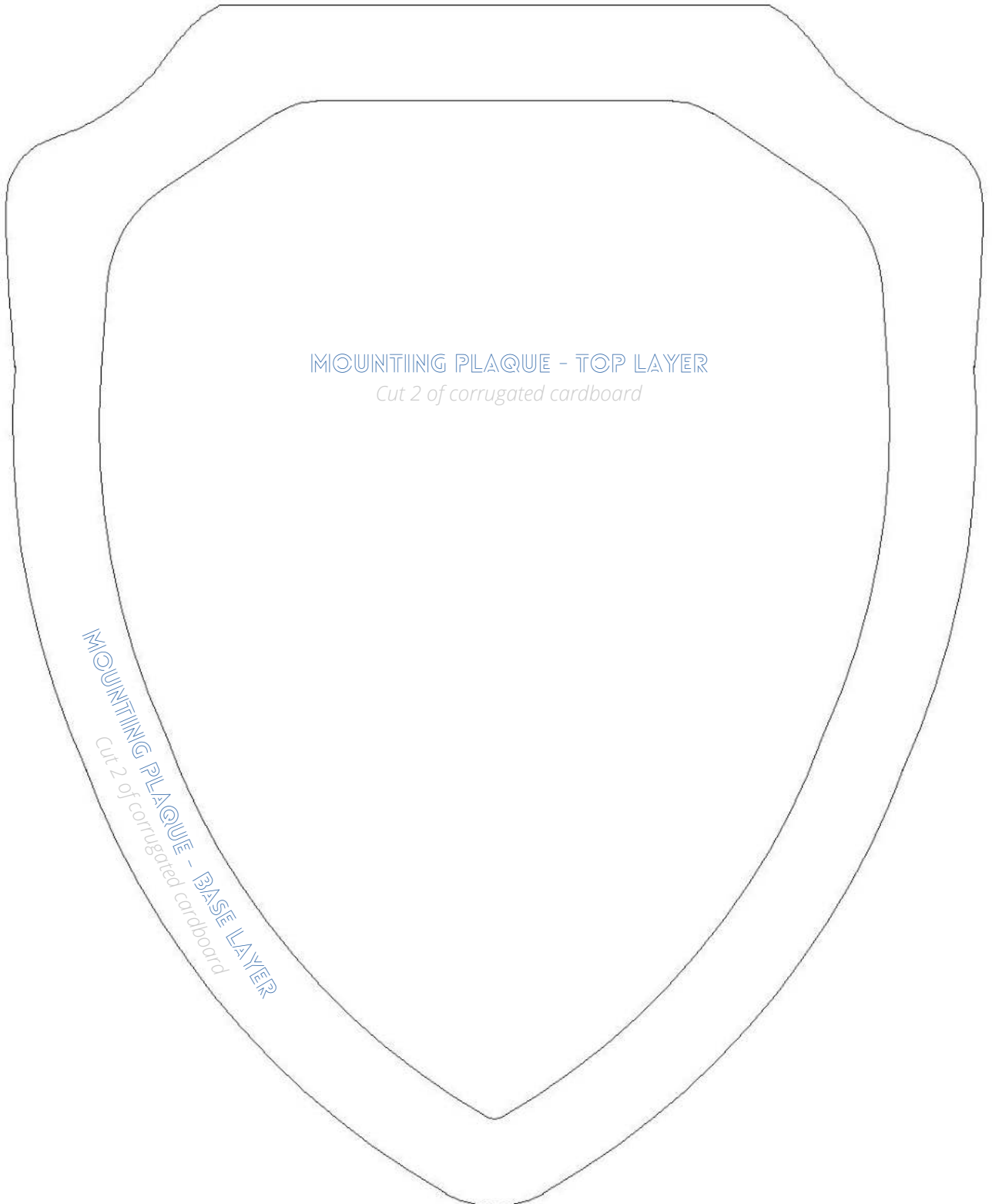
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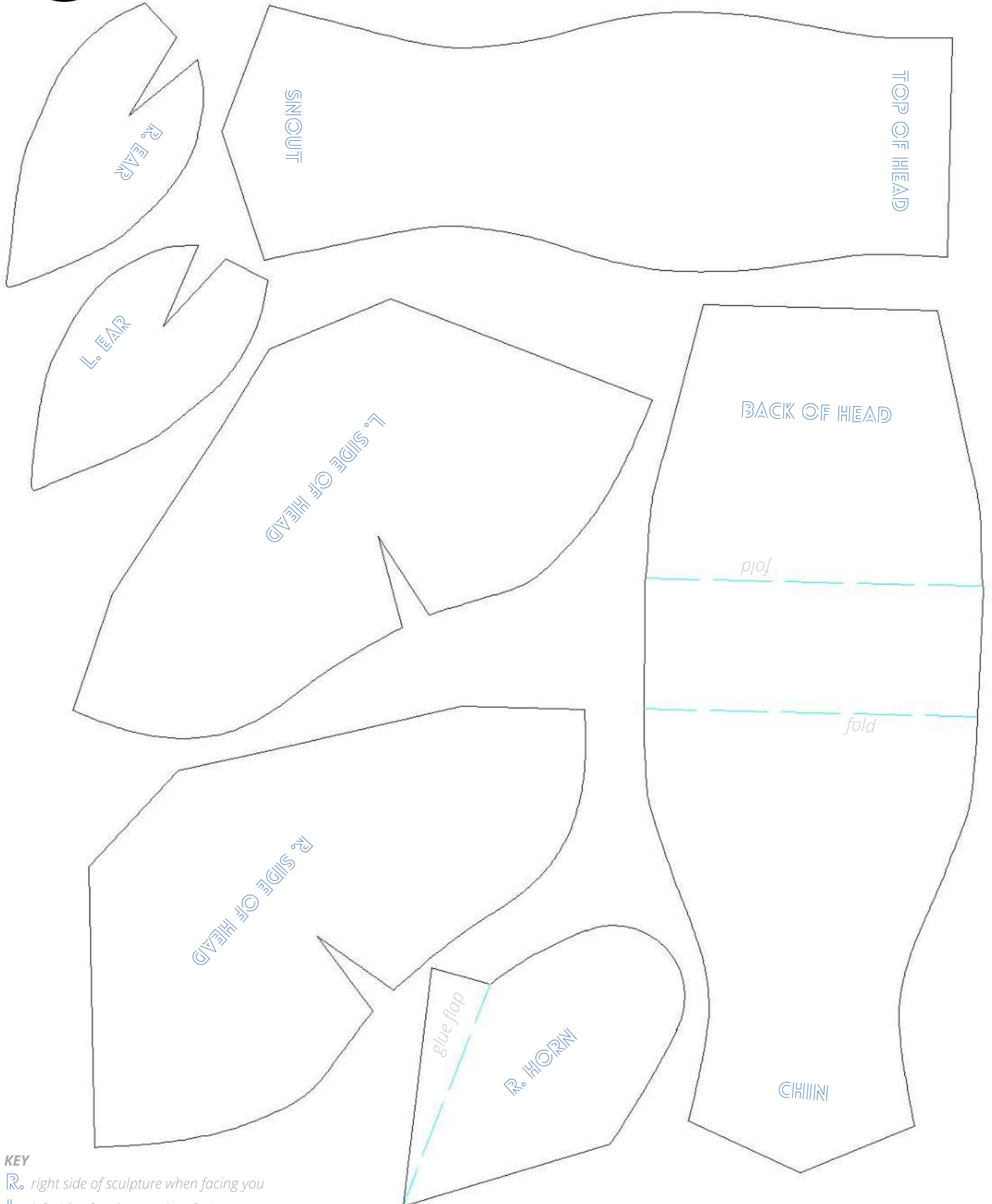
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FINISHING YOUR SCULPTURE



DRAGON HEAD MOUNT

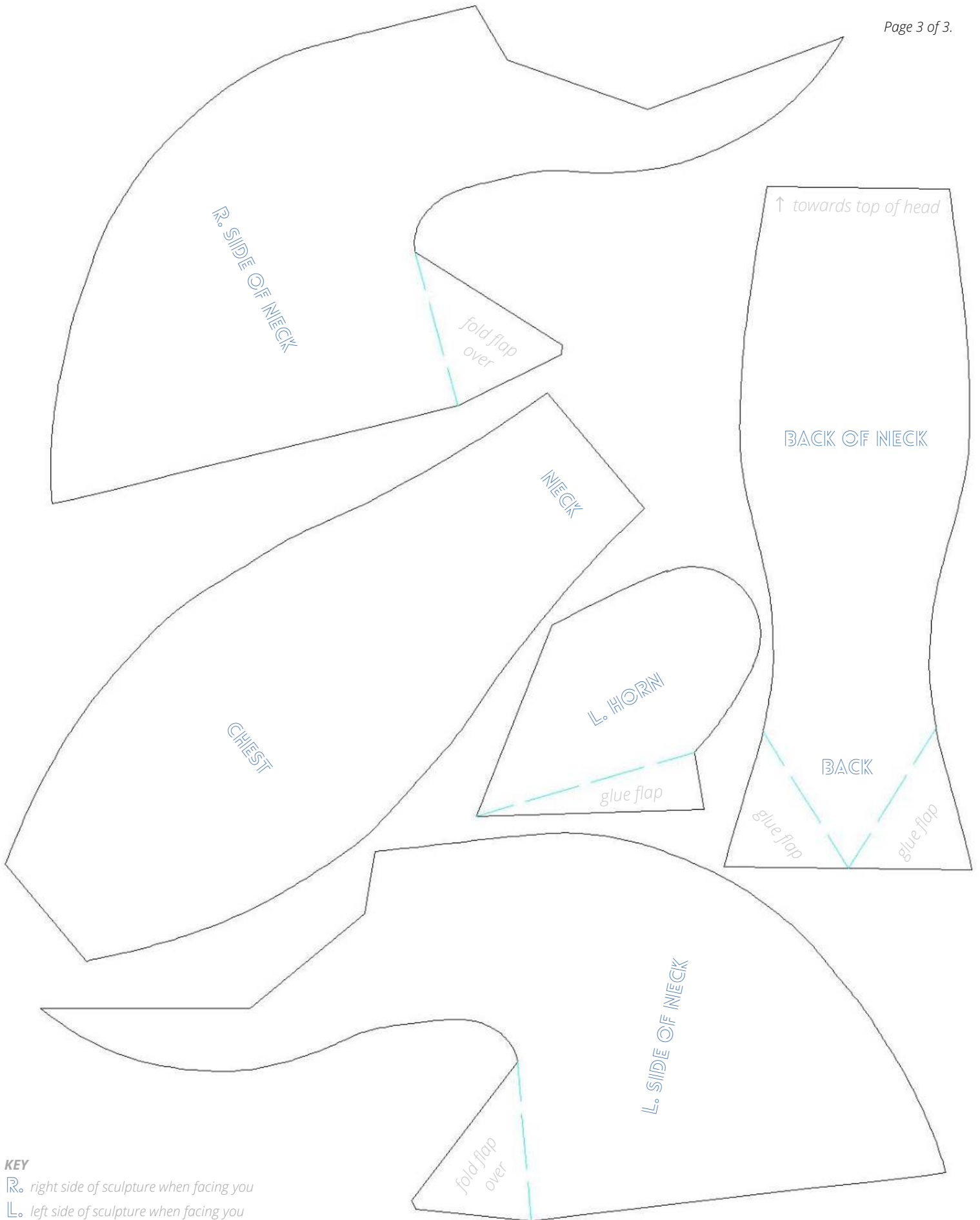




KEY

R. right side of sculpture when facing you

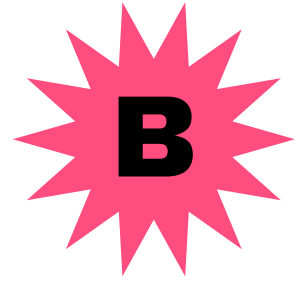
L. left side of sculpture when facing you



KEY

- R.** right side of sculpture when facing you
- L.** left side of sculpture when facing you

TOOLS & SUPPLIES



You can build an awesome dragon with these basic tools and supplies.

TOOLS

- scissors
- old gift card/ putty scraper
- glue gun
- craft knife
- mixing container
- firm bristle paint brush
- plastic placemat

SUPPLIES

- print-out of the template on letter or A4 paper
- white glue
- water
- hot glue
- masking tape
- thin cardboard (*A cereal box is perfect. You can also use sturdy poster board, folder stock, etc.*)
- corrugated cardboard (*from a shipping box*)
- paper maché paper (*newspaper, packing paper*)
- painting stuff

Optional

- aluminium foil
- 20 mm glass eyes
- glass floral stones
- air dry or polymer clay



LESS MESS PAPER MACHÉ



With a plastic placemat covering your workspace, mix up a soup of 1:1 White PVA glue and water in a resealable container. Rip up a stash of small strips of paper. I use packing paper but newspaper works great too!



Use a firm-bristled synthetic paint brush to coat the front and back of the paper strip with glue.

Tip: clean the glue off your brush with a little dish soap and warm water.



Use the brush to smooth the paper onto the project. You can use a bit more glue to help smooth it on, but you don't want to make your project wet and soggy. Glue should not be dripping off your project.



If you need multiple layers, there's no need to let previous layers dry before applying the next layer. When you're done, place the piece in a warm, dry place with good airflow for quick drying.

This is how I apply my paper maché, but you can use any method you like. There's really no wrong way!

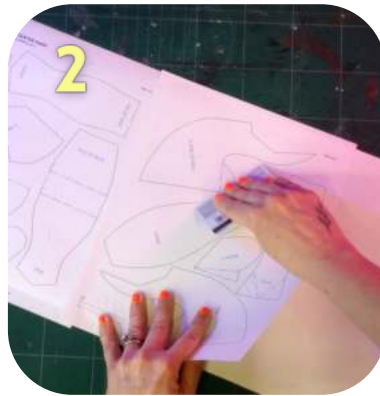
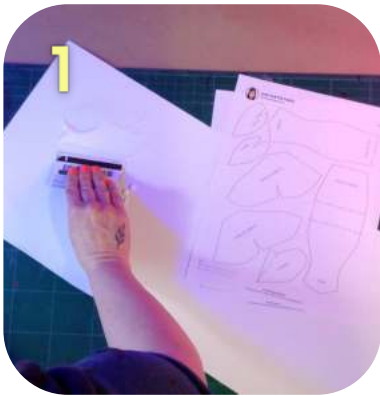


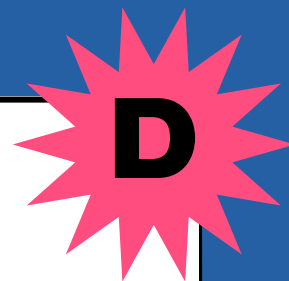


INSTRUCTIONS DRAGON HEAD

See a corresponding figure for each step on the following page.

- 1** Use an old gift card to spread a thin, even layer of glue onto your thin cardboard.
- 2** Grab page 2 of the template. Use a clean edge of the gift card to smooth the sheet onto the glued cardboard. A few bubbles are ok. Do this to page 3 too.
- 3** Let the template dry at least an hour. Cut out the pieces along the black lines with scissors or a craft knife.
- 4** Use short pieces of masking tape to close the darts on the *Ears* and the *R. and L. Sides of Head*.
- 5** Put the ears aside and locate the *Top of Head* piece. Line up the *Top of Head* and *L. Side of Head* as shown.
- 6** Firmly tape the edges together. Work down the seam, towards the snout, inch-by-inch, curving the *Top of Head* piece along the *L. Side of Head*.
- 7** Attach the *R. Side of Head* piece in the same manner. Supporting the back of the joint with a finger can help you get the tape nice and compressed.
- 8** Take the *Back of Head/ Chin* piece and gently crease along the dashed lines.
- 9** Center the *Back of Head* against the *Top of Head*. Attach with tape to the *R. Side of Head*, working inch-by-inch down to the snout. Bend and squish the cardboard to fit as you go. Don't tape the snout to the chin yet.





CONTINUED DRAGON HEAD

10

Working again from the back of the head assembly, secure the *R. Side of Head* in the same manner as you did the *L. Side*, taping the seam inch-by-inch.

11

Now tape the *Snout* to the *Chin*. If it doesn't line up perfectly, just smooth over the gap with tape.

12

Set the head assembly aside. Locate the 4 pieces that make up the chest and neck.

13

Line up the *L. Side of Neck* and the *Neck/ Chest* piece as shown.

14

Tape down the seam inch-by-inch, working down the chest, curving and bending the cardboard as you go.

15

Line up the *R. Side of Neck* and tape down the seam in the same manner as you did the *L. Side*.

16

Locate the *Back of Neck* piece and give it an S curve. (Now is a good time to plug in your glue gun too!)

17

Line up the pieces as shown. Tape down the seam but stop when you get to the tip of the "fold over flap" triangle.

18

Attach the *L. Side of Neck* to the back of the neck in the same manner as you did the *R. Side*.





CONTINUED DRAGON HEAD

19

Put hot glue on each of the glue flaps and stick down the fold over flaps.

20

Squish the cardboard to round out the base of the neck.

21

Hot glue the head assembly onto the neck-chest assembly. Smooth over any gaps with tape or hot glue.

22

Crease the glue flap for each horn along the dashed line. Bend the top of each horn into a cone.

23

Hot glue the horn closed. Hold while the glue sets. Tightly wrap each horn in a long strip of tape.

24

Hot glue the ears and horns to the head in whichever position you like. You can also leave them off, enhance them, or make different ones as you please! Cover your assembly in one layer of paper maché.





MOUNTING PLAQUE INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut out the pattern for the base layer of the mounting plaque.



2. Trace and cut 2 base layers from a flat panel of a corrugated shipping box.



3. Cut out the pattern for the top layer of the mounting plaque.



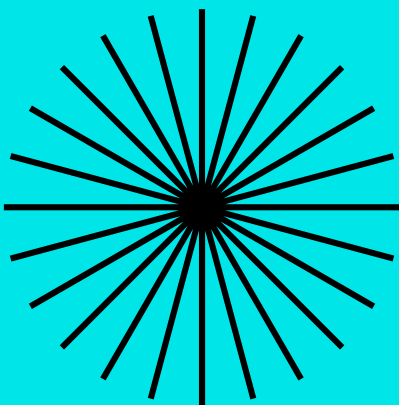
4. Trace and cut 2 top layers.



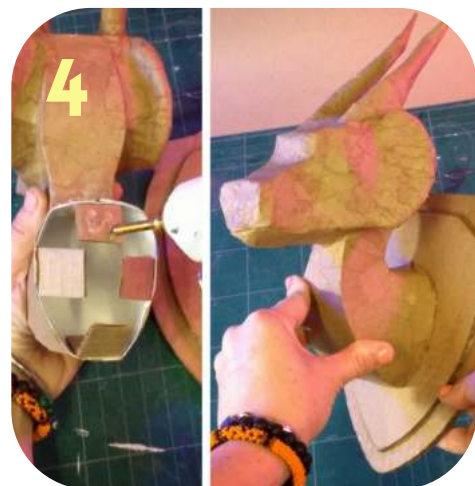
5. Stack and glue the 4 layers as shown. Place them under something heavy to dry.



6. Optional: Paper maché over the mounting plaque or fill in the corrugations with wood filler, spackle, or caulk.



ATTACHING THE HEAD TO THE MOUNTING PLAQUE INSTRUCTIONS



- 1** Cut four strips from cardboard about 2-3 cm (1") wide by about 5 cm (2") long.
- 2** Bend each into an 'L'.
- 3** Align the corner of each L with the interior base of your sculpture and hot glue in place. If you need to, trim them to make them fit nicely.
- 4** Apply hot glue to the free tab of each bracket and stick the head onto the mounting plate. Hold until the glue cures. You can fill any gaps with hot glue or smooth over the attachment with paper maché.



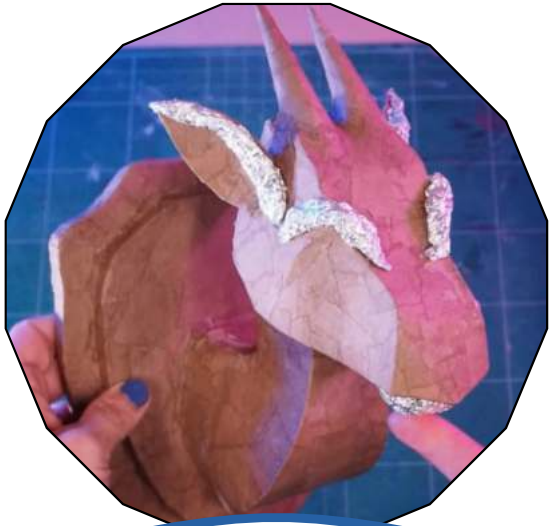
FINISHING YOUR SCULPTURE



If you'd like **EVEN MORE** ideas look for Jane Sawyer's **Expert Dragon Taxidermy** available June 2022!

Many a great dragon can be made by painting on top of your dried paper maché at this point like this purple guy above. However, if you'd like to customize your dragon even more, you can add and alter your sculpture to your imagination's limit! Following is a summary of just one of the ways you can use what you've built so far for an even cooler sculpture!

CONTINUED FINISHING YOUR SCULPTURE



1

I added a bit of aluminium foil to beef up the ears, brow, and chin. I covered that in paper maché.



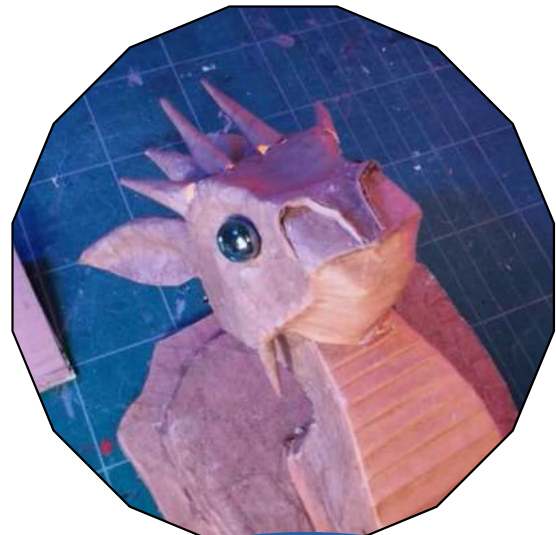
2

I made a bunch cardboard cones in various sizes for extra horns. I glued them down her back and all over her head. I made eyes out of inexpensive glass stones from the floral section of a discount store.



3

Belly scutes were made from strips of a heavy paper bag, painted in glue, folded in half, and overlapped up the chest.



4

I curved some thin strips of corrugated cardboard into nostrils and made some eyelids with folded over strips of paper.

CONTINUED FINISHING YOUR SCULPTURE



5

I used scalloped scissors to cut strips from a cracker box. I overlapped these up the chest and head as shown on this sample piece.



6

I tried to imitate scale patterns from nature. Looking at reference images of lizards helped with this part!



7

I applied a few heavy coats of gesso all over. This filled in any little gaps, and helped unify all the textures of the different materials used.



8

I based-coated the head in yellow acrylic paint, then brought out the details with washes. I dry brushed a touch of copper paint over her scales!

If you'd like **EVEN MORE** ideas look for
Jane Sawyer's
Expert Level Dragon booklet
available June 2022!



Jane Sawyer

Maker. Artist. Goofball.

Jane Sawyer is a Canadian art and craft enthusiast who loves to share how she makes stuff. Jane's goal is to show the world that everybody can make really cool, high quality art with supplies that can be found in the trash, or in easy to access, easy to afford places.

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