Foam Skull Pattern and Instructions

Material List
- Foam
  - 10” x 10” square of 1/2” foam

Tool List
- Sharpie or Fabric Pen
- Light Colored Crayon
- X-Acto Knife
- Contact Cement (3oz Bottle DAP Weldwood with Brush) or Hot Glue
  I buy my Contact Cement from my local Ace Hardware
- Cutting Mat/Board or Cardboard

Inserting Foam Skull into Puppet

Step 1: Fold the foam skull in half and then into quarters, so it’s easier to stuff in the puppet head.

Step 2: Push the skull up in the head so the foam dome shape fills out the dome behind the puppets eyes. Darkened area in photo shows approximate skull position. The open area of the skull fits on top of your hand. Adjust position of skull so it’s comfortable for your hand. The skull also helps to keep the puppet on your hand.

Animal Hand Puppet Patterns & Instructions PDF are available at: Etsy & Craftsy:
The Tucson Puppet Lady

Bonus Video Tutorials:
www.thetucsonpuppetlady.com/patternvideos
www.TheTucsonPuppetLady.com
Visit our website for more information about puppets and puppetry!

Round Skull Foam Pattern Credit: Foam skull included in this pattern is adapted from a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.5 licensed pattern created by Michael Moore of HMS Creative Productions. The skull pattern is free to share and adapt, including our adaptation.
www.hms-studios.com
Foam Skull Instructions

Step 1: Cut out the Foam Skull Pattern.
*Note:* The foam skull keeps the puppet lightweight and cooler. Stuffed puppets tend to be heavy and hot.

Step 2: Lay the pattern on the foam and trace with a sharpie. Turn the pattern over to trace the second piece.
*Note:* Use a sharpie color that is visible on the foam but not too dark or it might show through light colored fleece.

Step 3: Carefully cut the foam on the traced line with a sharp X-acto knife.
*Note:* Sharper blades slice easier through foam. Be sure to protect your cutting surface with a cutting mat, board, cardboard, etc.

Step 4: Choose Glue - Either Contact Cement or Hot Glue

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Contact Cement</th>
<th>Hot Glue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Danger</strong></td>
<td>Toxic and Flammable - use in well ventilated area.</td>
<td>Non-Toxic and Hot - be careful not to burn yourself.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ease of Use</strong></td>
<td>Paints on with brush all at once. Bond holds better than Hot Glue and is easier to apply.</td>
<td>Only glue small sections at a time. Might take more glue when it doesn't bond fully. Strings are messy. Have to press and hold foam together when glue still hot.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>How to Use</strong></td>
<td>Paint on with brush on both sides of foam seam. Let dry really well. Press glued areas together to bond.</td>
<td>Apply hot glue to one side of seam and a small section at a time. Press seam together and hold. Takes about 1 minute for glue to set up.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Preference</strong></td>
<td>Dangerous chemical, but less hassle to use. Stronger bond.</td>
<td>Non-toxic, but harder to work with.</td>
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Step 5:

**Hot Glue:** Apply hot glue to one side of Seam 1. Immediately press Seam 1 together and hold for about 1 minute or until glue cools and bonds. Check for hold by gently pulling at seam. Reapply glue to any cracks in seam. Repeat for Seam 2 and Seam 3.

**Contact Cement:** Brush on Contact Cement to both sides of Seam 1. Let DRY until tacky, then press the seams together. Repeat for Seam 2 and Seam 3.

*Note:* Start the bond from outer edge, working in to the center.

Step 6:

**Hot Glue:** Apply hot glue to one side of Seam 4 in small segments. Immediately press to Seam 4 on other piece of foam pattern. Hold for about 1 minute until bonded. Continue until you reach the end of Seam 4.

**Contact Cement:** Brush Contact Cement to Seam 4 on both halves of the skull. Let DRY. Press Seam 4 together to bond and form head.

*Note:* Align seams 1 and 2 so that they look like a cross when the two halves are pressed together.

Step 7: The foam skull should form a dome shape when all glued together.

*Note:* Let dry for about 24 hours before handling it too much, so the bonds will strengthen. You can make the puppet while waiting. Skull tutorial video available as a Bonus Video Tutorial (www.thetucsonpuppetlady.com/patternvideos).
Foam Skull Pattern
Trace 1 on foam
Flip pattern over and trace again
Cut out with X-Acto knife
Glue seams with contact cement or hot glue