

Clucking Chickens

DESIGNED BY CHRISTY HARTMAN



Whip up cute-and-chunky chickens using easy paper-mache and painting techniques.

INSTRUCTIONS ON BACK

Designer's Note: This project is designed for children of all ages. If float shading is too difficult for the child, that step can be eliminated. Outline, instead, with a permanent marker. Using a liner brush can also be difficult for children when their fine motor skills are not fully developed. If that is the case, use the fine end of a toothpick as a lining tool. I do believe that children should be encouraged to care for and use good quality brushes. Like adults, they will encounter less frustration if they use a quality product. Children should always be encouraged to use their own creativity in choosing the design and color scheme for a project.

Keep in mind that this project is a basic guide and meant to stimulate the child's natural creativity.

IMPORTANT

Have an adult help you with this project.

You'll Need

02 Micron Fine Point
1-inch strips of white paper
2mm 9-by-11-inch craft foam sheets (www.darice.com)
4-inch Styrofoam ball
15.4 oz plastic soup bowl container (empty and clean)
Cutter Bee Scissors by EK Success
Delta Gesso
Delta Interior Matte Spray Varnish
Hot glue gun and glue
Natural sea sponges
Permanent Marker (www.gellyroll.com)
Ross Paper Mache Art Paste (www.eksuccess.com)
Ruddy Red Cheek Chalks (#29-078) (www.cdwood.com)
Sobo Glue
Stylus
Tracing paper

DELTA ACRYLICS

Crocus
Light Ivory
Poppy Orange
Pumpkin
Tomato Spice

DYNASTY BLACK

GOLD BRUSHES SERIES 206
1/4-inch deerfoot
1/2-inch angle
no. 2 round
no. 5/0 short liner
no. 8 filbert

PREPARATION

1. After you have emptied the soup container, wash and dry the container and remove the outside label. Discard the plastic lid and the pop-top lid from the top of the container. Using your hot glue gun, run a bead of glue around the metal lip of the container and press the Styrofoam ball in place. Allow the glue to dry.
2. Paper mache is an inexpensive, but fun, material for children to use. It can be purchased at many art/craft supply stores. I used Ross Art Paste. This paper mache material can be stored in the made up form for weeks and should be mixed according to the manufacturer's instructions. If you are unable to purchase art paste, you can always use the old standbys: flour and water or wallpaper paste. Using the 1" strips of white paper, tear the pieces into manageable sizes depending on the children's hand size and spread the art paste onto each strip as you work. After you have applied the paste to the strip, smooth the piece onto the chicken's bodies making sure that you try to smooth out as many bumps and ridges as possible. Using white paper eliminates the need to paint your piece with Gesso prior to painting to achieve a pure color. Remember to use a thin paper, such as computer paper or roll paper of some sort. If you use newsprint, you will need to paint the piece with Gesso prior to painting.

LET'S PAINT

1. Place a puddle of Crocus, Light Ivory and Pumpkin side by side on your palette and pounce your sponge into all three at once. Pounce-blend your sponge beside your paint puddles until you have achieved the look that you desire. Sponge the entire body of each chicken. Add as many coats of paint as you need to fully coat the chicken.
2. Transfer the face and wings of each chicken.
3. Paint the beaks Light Ivory, the inside of the mouth with Black. Dot the nostrils using a stylus and Black. Float Crocus around the bottom of the beaks. Children are very capable of floating and are less concerned with the need to perfect the technique than are adults. Teach children to use lots of water and less paint and to build the paint up slowly. By teaching them this technique early on, they will become proficient at an early age. Encouraging them to use a good, quality brush, and to learn to care for the brushes early on, is important.

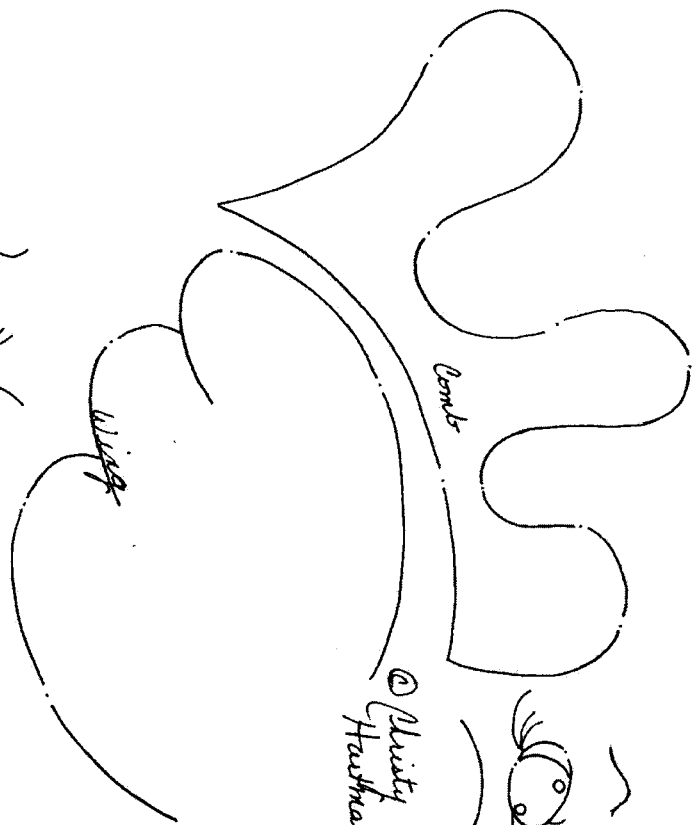
4. Base the rooster's eyes with Light Ivory. The pupil is based with Black. Using a stylus or toothpick, dip-dot the reflection in the eye with Light Ivory.
5. Base the rooster's wattle with Poppy Orange, shade with Tomato Spice and highlight with Light Ivory. Add a comma stroke highlight with Light Ivory at the base of the wattle. I find that children are very capable of doing comma strokes, if they use a stylus or a toothpick.
6. Float a highlight using Light Ivory above the eyebrows, on top of the cheeks, on top of the chicken's eyes. Using the no. 8 filbert brush, thin the paint to an inky consistency and lightly highlight the wing area of each chicken by using a slip-slap technique.
7. Using Ruddy Red Cheek Chalks and a stipple brush, chalk the cheeks. I find that cheek chalks are much easier for children to use and allow for more control than paint. Gently load the small stipple brush with the chalk and wipe a small amount off onto a paper towel. Using a circular motion, apply the chalk to the cheeks. Continue applying the chalk until you achieve the depth of color that you prefer.
8. Using the no. 5 short liner, line the hen's feather below and above the beak allowing each previous color to show through: Crocus, Light Ivory, Pumpkin, Poppy Orange, and Tomato Spice.

FINISHING

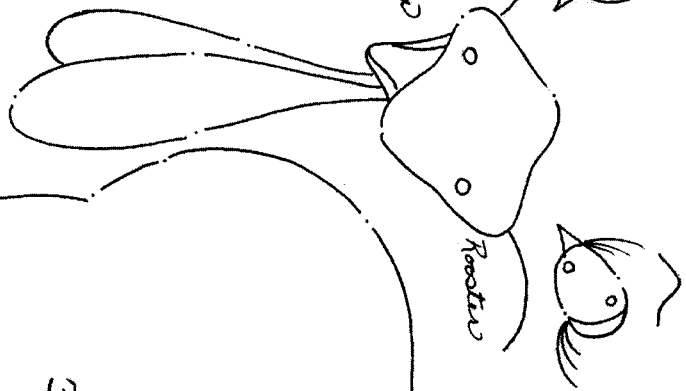
1. Using 2mm red foam sheets, cut out the feet using your Cutter Bee Scissors. Careful! These scissors are very sharp, but allow for a great cut on the foam. Glue the feet to the base of the chickens.
2. Using 2mm red foam sheets, cut out two of the rooster's combs and glue them together so that the comb is doubled. Cut a strip of red foam 3/8"-by-11". Trim one end of the foam so that the end is rounded. Glue the strip 1/2" in from the rounded strip and on around the front and top edge of the comb. You may trim any excess off of the back of the comb or glue it to the head to help stabilize it. This extra piece will finish the comb off and gives the rooster's comb a wider appearance. Glue the base of the comb and the rounded strip to the rooster's head.
3. Using a black permanent marker line the details. Spray varnish and enjoy!



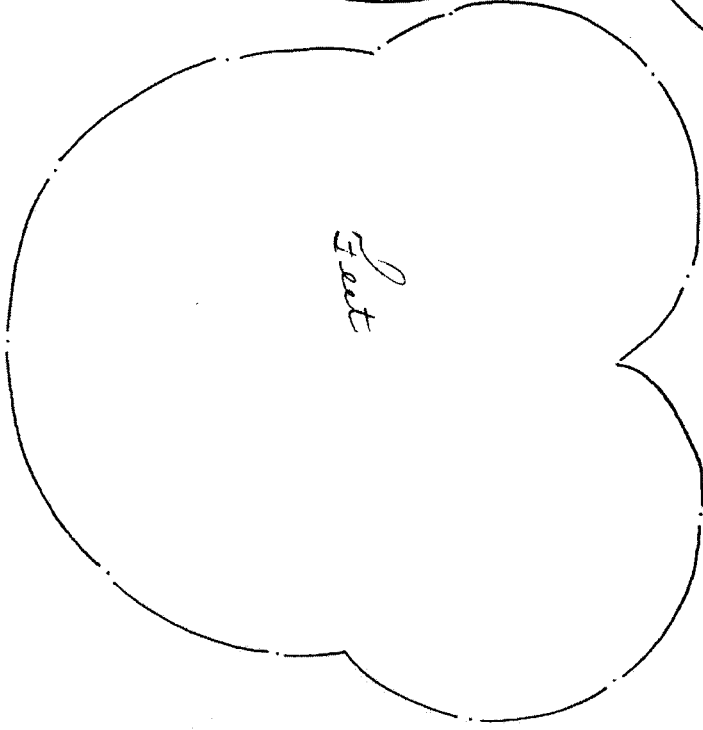
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Rooters



Foot