



[My Ghoul Friday](http://www.ghoulfriday.com/vampy)

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Vampy



This is Vampy. As I write this, he doesn't have a body, but in case anyone wants to make a similar head, here's a how-to using paper mache, play dough and a goalie's mask.

Step 1: Start With a Base



Go to a secondhand store. You might be lucky like me and find a goalie mask for \$1.50.

Obtained from
Omarshauntedtrail.com

Step 2: Build the Basic Features



I used cheap play dough for the facial details on this one. I am always trying to find and experiment with different inexpensive materials (usually found around the house) that I can use to build creatures.

I shaped his nose, creating a bulbous shape with nostrils. You can fine-tune the nostrils as you add the paper mache, so don't sweat it if the shape isn't perfect. Remember that the paper mache will make the opening of the nostril smaller than what you see at the dough stage.

The mouth was just a circle that is built up higher on the inside than it is on the outside.

The bridge of the nose and eyebrow areas also need to be raised. Play around with it until it looks like you want it to.

Finally, I covered it in tinfoil and added layers of paper mache, allowing each layer to dry before adding the next one.

Step 3: Building Details With Paper Towel



I used twisted paper towels dipped in glue to build up details like lips, cheekbones (oval clumps of paper towel), the bridge of the nose (two rectangular clumps sideways across the nose to give him a dent in-between) and brow-bones.

I also ran small twists of the paper towel out from his lips toward his cheeks.

Step 4: Create an Ear Shape on Cardboard



While Vampy dried, I drew a basic shape for ears onto cardboard. Look around online for different ear shapes on masks and in pictures until you find a shape you like.

Step 5: Shaping the Ears



Using the cheap play dough I got from the dollar store, I shaped the ears onto the cardboard. In retrospect, I probably would not have used the greasy play dough because it took a long time to dry out and harden.

But I will say it is a cheap alternative to modelling clay and I don't care about it being trapped inside my creature for as long as he lives.

To figure out how the ears should look, I went and looked into a mirror. Seriously. Then I exaggerated what I saw and made it pointy on the ends.

Step 6: Cover Ears With Paper Mache



Cover the ears in paper mache. Let dry at least overnight. You need it to be solid before you attach it to the head.

Step 7: Create a Base (Neck) & Skull Shape

I scavenged around the house looking for a base for my creature's head. I found two large pop bottles and some cardboard. Are there better things you could use? Sure, but I'm a scavenger and a recycler.



I cut the bottom off one of the bottles and slipped it over top of the other one. When it got a bit snug, and was at the height I wanted, I taped the two together.

I then wrapped the two of them in cardboard, taping the cardboard closed around the bottles.

I popped the eyes into place (you'll see/read about them in the next step) and taped them before I slipped the entire goalie mask over the top of the bottles and filled in the back of the head (beneath the straps from the mask) with plastic bags. Taped it all together and covered it with tinfoil.

Step 8: Eye Details, Adding Ears and Paper Mache



I used a ping-pong ball as the eyeball and printed out irises from a great resources I found online (after I resized the eyes to match the proportions of my monster). I glued them to the ping-pong balls and smoothed them flat. I taped them to the mask from the inside.

I placed the first layer of paper mache on, let it dry, and then glued the ears on. I smoothed paper mache over parts of the ear and mask as I added layers to ensure the ears wouldn't fall off.

Step 9: Paint

I gave Vampy a base coat of white paint before worrying about details.

I painted the inside of the mouth red/black. I cut apart a plastic pair of Halloween teeth, and painted them pinkish-white with purple. I cut slits into the inside of the lips, dipped the edges of the teeth in glue and slid them in.



As always, I used a dark colour to fill in the contours on the face (greys and purples), then lighter shades and colours to highlight any protruding areas.

I blackened the area around the eyes and put a coat of clear nail polish on the eyeballs to make them shine.

Step 10: Add a Bit of Blood



I felt he was missing something. Gore. I wanted to make it look like he had bitten into and torn something so I painted splatters of blood along the right side of his face (with smears on his neck). Be sure to use browns along the edges of your red splatters. It makes the blood appear as if it's starting to dry (a bit more realistic).

Step 11: Add a Little Gloss



I glossed up the splatters of blood with more nail polish. Now all he needs is a body!

..and a little lighting



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