

Dragon Making 201

Greetings! And welcome to a more detailed and technical dragon-making guide.

Puppet making is a multimedia art form that opens up lots of creative possibilities.

These instructions combine basic stop motion animation techniques mixed with personal improvisations.

These techniques will also enable you to create just about any other creature imaginable.

Before starting, be sure to read these instructions completely.

Let's get going!



1 Gather dragon-making materials

Creating your own dragon will go more smoothly if you gather all the materials before starting construction.

- **Masking tape.**
- **Tape measure.**
- **Scissors.**
- **Needle nose pliers.** Be sure the pliers come with a snip for cutting wire.
- **16-gauge aluminum armature wire.** Considered the ideal armature building gauge, being both flexible and sturdy. Check art supply stores or order online.
- **Plumbers epoxy putty.** Found at Ace, True Value and most other hardware stores. Comes in a round plastic tube and resembles a gray tootsie roll.
***Note:** This putty can potentially cause skin irritation, so use latex gloves whenever handling it if that's a concern.)*
- **2-part epoxy glue.** Found in craft and hardware stores.
- **Hot glue gun and glue sticks.** Found in craft stores.
- **E6000 clear adhesive glue.** Found in craft and hardware stores.
- **Cardboard.** Either thin gauge construction cardboard or cardboard boxing.
- **X-ACTO knife.** For cutting cardboard.

- **Yarn.** Worsted weight in any fiber and color as it will be hidden. One skein is plenty.
- **Cotton fabric or rags for body.** Flannel is my favorite as its fuzzy texture holds together nicely when shaping the body and it can be easily ripped into 1" strips. The amount in an old pillowcase or shirt is more than enough.

***Note:** Upholstery foam is commonly used in puppet making instead of fabric but typically comes in much larger quantities than you'll need for a single project, which is why I suggest rags. If using foam, I suggest **fabric headliner foam** used for car ceiling repair; its 1/8" to 3/8" thicknesses work great for small figures.*

- **Fabric for dragon's wings.** Lightweight fabrics such as cotton, silk, rayon and polyester blends work best. Aluminum foil can also be used to create wings.
- **Felt.** Squares are easy to find at most craft or fabric stores. One to two squares in any color will be plenty.
- **Vet grade "Coflex" brand compression tape.** Buy 2 or 3 rolls in any color. I don't recommend 3M compression tape, which isn't nearly as stretchy and "sticky" as Coflex. Found online or at some feed and seed stores.

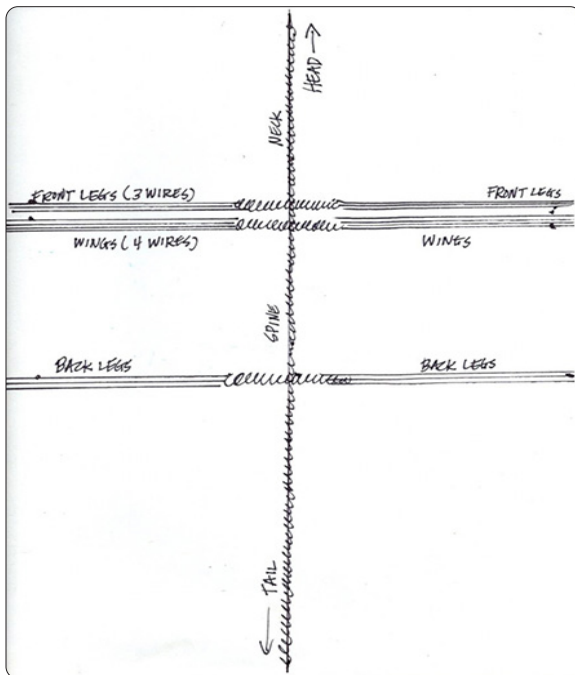
- **Sculpey or Fimo polymer clay for sculpting dragon's head.** Found in craft stores or online. Aluminum foil can also be used to make the dragon's head. See the short tutorial in the More Design Ideas section.
- **Sandpaper (150 to 220 grit)** for smoothing polymer clay dragon's head.
- **Beads or glass eyes for dragon.** Glass dragon eyes can be found on Amazon. Julie Wang's "Mixed Style Dragon Eyes" has a good assortment of sizes and colors and includes 100 eyes.
- **Mask latex for dragon's skin.** Optional, but a coating of latex helps bind and seal Coflex. It's also great for creating smoother textures such as skin. My favorite mask latex is Monster Makers RD-407. Found in craft stores or online.



Dragon with aluminum foil wings

2 Making the dragon's "skeleton"

To start, go to the last page of this document and print out *Template 201* the blueprint for an aluminum wire dragon "skeleton." This blueprint is for the placement of legs and wings along the body spine on a 10" to 18" dragon, as are the dimensions used in this tutorial. If you don't want an 18" dragon, cut some length off the neck and/or tail.



Template 201

Cut the wire

Body: Cut 3 lengths of wire 18" long. Loosely twist the entire length of the wires together.

Front and back legs: For a 3-toed dragon, cut 6 lengths of wire 14" long and separate into 2 sets of 3 wires. Starting in the center

of each set of 3 wires, loosely twist 1" to 1½" of wire together. Make sure the two untwisted sides are equal in length.

If you want your dragon to have 4 toes, cut 8 lengths of wire and separate them into 2 sets of 4 wires before twisting.

Wings: Cut 4 lengths of wire 22" long. Starting in the center of the wires, loosely twist 1" to 1½" of wire together. Make sure the untwisted ends are equal in length. Omit this step for a wingless dragon.

Tape wire bundles to template

Lay the 4 wire "bundles" (body, front legs, back legs, wings) over the template and tape close to the edges of the paper to secure. Make sure both right and left sides of legs and wings are equidistant from

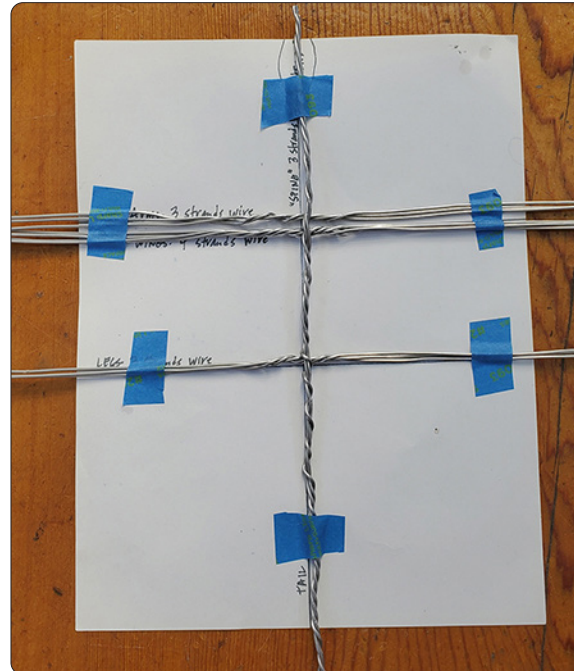


Photo 1

the body spine. All 4 sets of wires will go beyond the boundaries of the paper. Decide how long you want the neck and tail and position the central body wire on the template accordingly as shown in *Photo 1*.

Apply epoxy putty to spine intersections

For the front legs and wings, cut a ¾" slice of epoxy putty and knead well until the tan and gray colors have thoroughly blended. If not well combined, the putty doesn't set.

Divide the ball of putty in half. Lift the spine, wings and front legs and place half the putty underneath the intersection of the wires.

Press the wires firmly into the putty to ensure that it spreads ¼" or so beyond the intersecting wires as in *Photo 2*.

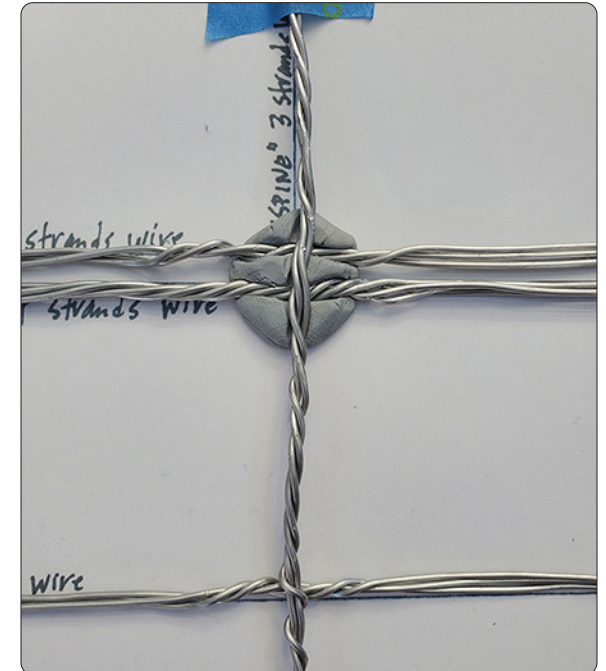


Photo 2

Next place the other half of the putty on top of the bottom putty and press firmly to form a single mass. Smooth and flatten the top of the putty.

For the back legs, slice off a ½" round of putty, knead and repeat process above, being sure to blend the tan and gray colors thoroughly.

Allow putty to set for an hour. *Photo 3* shows how this looks after adding the second layer of putty to both intersections.

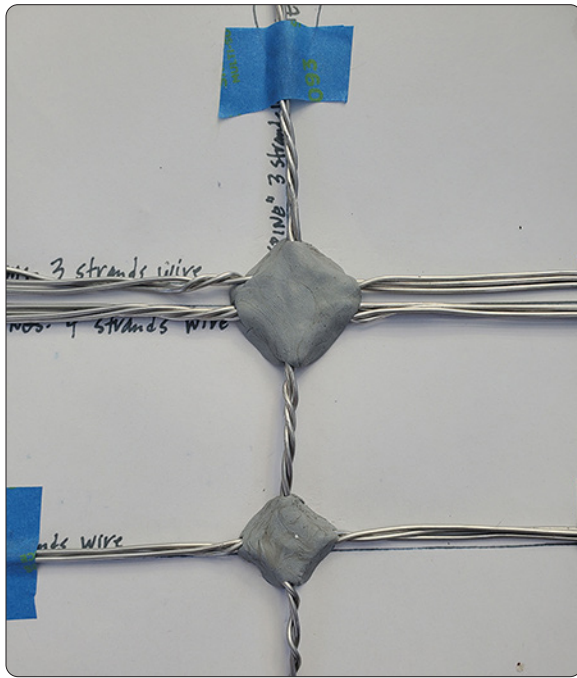


Photo 3

While waiting for the putty to set, rip the flannel fabric for the body into 1" strips. Two feet is a good length to work with.

3 Making the dragon's torso

Tape sets of wires together

Remove the wire skeleton from the paper. To make construction easier, loosely tape each set of wires together near the cut ends.

Build the underbelly

Begin fleshing out the torso with fabric. Start by cutting two pieces of flannel, one 11"x7" and another 11"x5 ½" as in *Photo 4*.

Next cut a 9"x4" piece of felt to create a fuller belly. Place the 3 pieces together as shown in *Photo 5* and then roll up lengthwise to create a "tube."

Secure the tube by wrapping with yarn, making sure to taper both ends by tightening the yarn to create a kind of "lens" shape, which will make a smoother transition between the belly and neck, and the belly and tail. Hot glue each end of the yarn to the fabric, and then hot glue this tube to the flat sides of the epoxy. See *Photo 6* on next page.

Explainer: This tapered shape is really important for the finished shape of your dragon. If 3 separate sections are created for tail, belly and neck, messy discontinuities result which are almost impossible to smooth over, especially since these 2 areas are places which are typically bent.



Photo 4



Photo 5

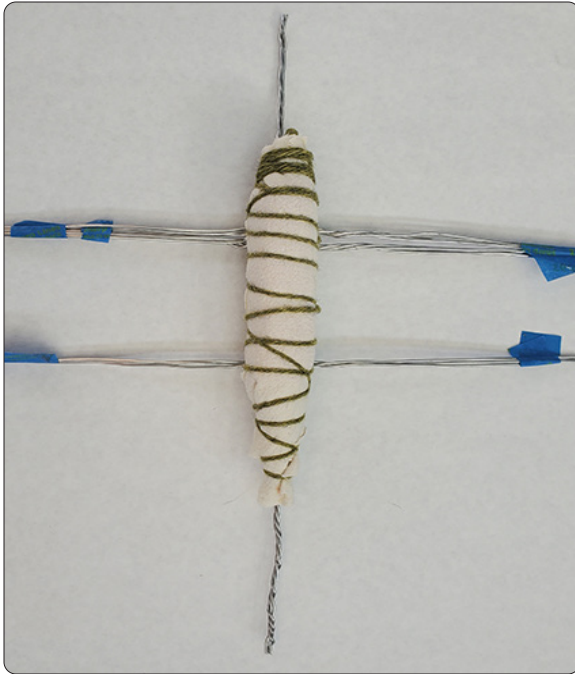


Photo 6

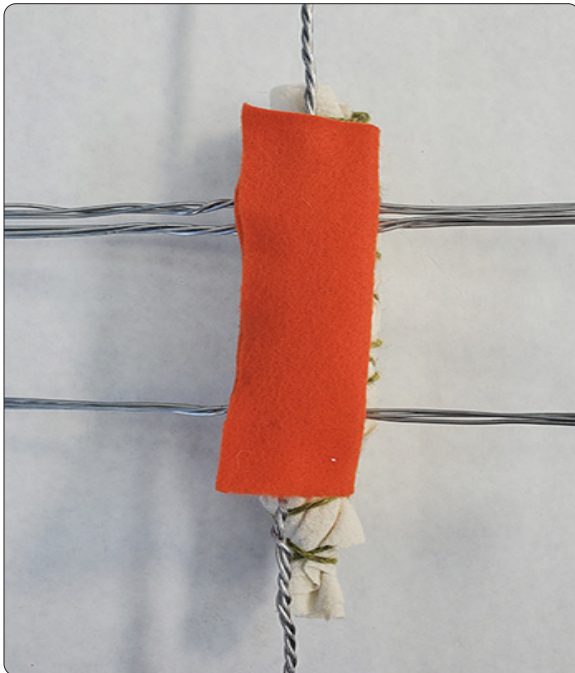


Photo 7

Attach the underbelly to the skeleton

Hot glue this tube to the flat sides of the epoxy which will be the dragon's underbelly. You might wonder why you are building up the torso from the underbelly only. Well, you *can* form a torso by simply winding fabric around the midsection, but by the time you're finished, the leg and wing wires will be situated halfway down the sides of the torso. Building from the underbelly keeps the legs and wing wires in their correct anatomical positions. *Photo 6.*

Even out the torso if needed

Flip the tube over onto its belly. On the spine side, there will probably be a slight "valley" between the front and back leg epoxy pads. Even this out by laying 2 or more pieces of felt over the spine, then wrapping with flannel. *Photo 7.*

Finish the torso

Now wrap the body with flannel strips. Is it full and round enough after wrapping? For a fuller belly around the abdomen, cut more felt and attach to the tube with flannel and yarn. *Photos 8 and 9.*

4 Making the dragon's tail & neck

Build the tail

Glue the end of a 1" strip of fabric to the tapered tube behind the back legs using a small dab of hot glue. Wind around the taper to build up a little thickness for a transition to the tail.

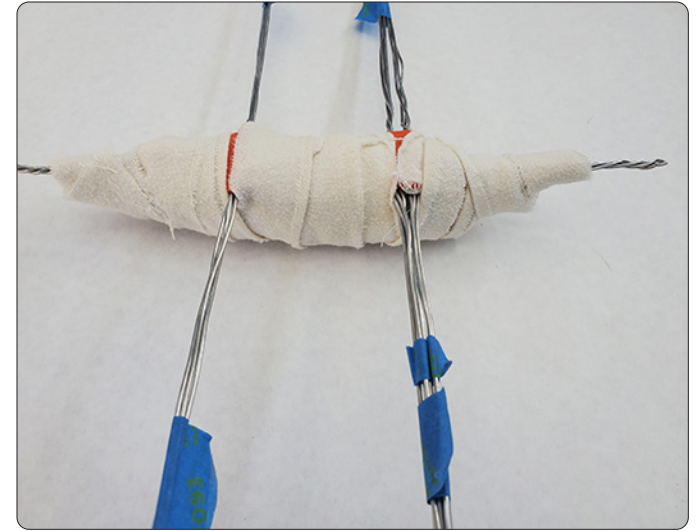


Photo 8

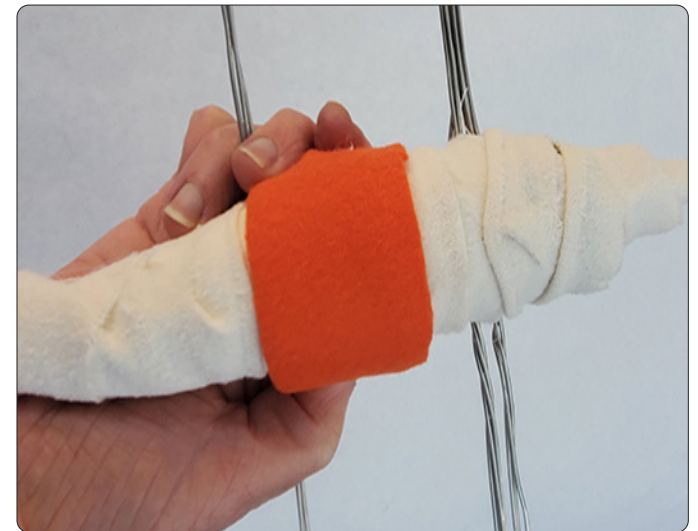


Photo 9

Next begin winding around the wire to create the desired tail shape. A dab of hot glue on the front and back ends of each strip of fabric should be enough to secure them. For a thin tip to the tail, finish with yarn glued to the wire with E6000.

Build the neck

For the neck use the same procedure as for the tail, starting at the base of the neck. Build up a transition between the tube and the neck, then taper up towards where the head will be attached.

Be sure to leave a minimum of 1" wire exposed for attaching the head to the neck. You'll finish the neck after the head is glued in place. *Photo 10* shows wrapping for both neck and tail.

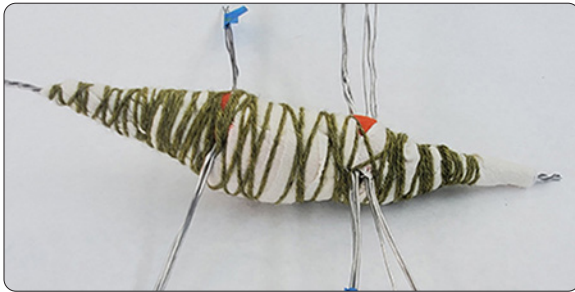


Photo 10

5 Making the dragon's legs

Building up the fabric on the outside of the leg, rather than wrapping strips of fabric evenly around the wire, ensures the leg will fit snugly against the body.

Build the thighs

Shape the top of each leg into a rough oval by fanning the 3 wires to create the outline of a thigh proportionate to the torso. Front legs are typically smaller than back legs so the ovals should be sized accordingly.

Pinch the bottom of the 3 wires together and hold with pliers, then give a couple twists to the wires to hold them together.

Photo 11.



Photo 11

Next use the X-ACTO knife or scissors to cut cardboard (either construction cardboard or cardboard boxing) sized to cover the wire ovals formed above. Apply hot glue to the 3 wires forming each oval and firmly press the cardboard into the glue. Hold in place for a few seconds until the glue hardens.

Photo 12.



Photo 12

Give the thighs some muscle

Now build up the "muscle" of the upper legs using felt. The more felt, the bulkier the leg muscle.

Lightly glue a few 4" squares of felt together using E6000, then cut to shape. Hot glue

the felt onto the cardboard and trim if necessary. *Photo 13.*



Photo 13

Cover the legs with yarn

Now decide the length of the lower legs (not including the feet) and add more twists to the wires, making sure to leave untwisted wire for the toes (3 or 4 toes, whichever you chose). *Photo 14*



Photo 14

Begin wrapping the legs with yarn. Use E6000 to affix the yarn to the twisted wire at the base of the thigh or upper leg. By wrapping upward (rather than downward) around the leg, the lower coils of yarn hold the upper coils in place.

Then fill the gap at the top of the legs between the leg and torso by winding yarn around the wire behind the thigh. *Photo 15.*

The dragon in this tutorial has skinny lower legs, using only yarn glued around wire. For fatter lower legs, first glue fabric to the lower leg with E6000 and then finish covering the leg with yarn.



Photo 15

6 Fine-tune shaping with yarn

The body, neck and tail may now look a little lumpy and uneven. Not to worry. This is where yarn works to smooth out lumps and bumps; it also helps create more definition.

For example, to shape a smaller waist, tighten up on the waist yarn and wrap more loosely around the chest. A tiny dab of hot glue on each end of the yarn will hold it in place.

The body doesn't need to be completely covered with yarn to create the desired shape.

7 Making the dragon's head

After the body has been fleshed out, design the head. This makes the proportioning of head to body easier because as the body is filled out, the materials quietly and mysteriously assume a look and life of their own, at least in my experience.

Making the head is one of the most fun parts of this project. So, use your imagination and get creative!

First decide whether you want to use polymer clay or aluminum foil to create the head, as these are two very different processes. The instructions for both follow.

Note: *If using Coflex to wrap a clay or aluminum head, it's much easier to wrap before the head is glued to the body.*

Use clay to make the head

The most popular brands of polymer clay are Sculpey and Fimo. Each can be carved, baked and sanded.

Be sure to follow the package instructions for baking temperature and time as these vary by brand.

Shape the head with clay, carving lines to for the mouth, nostril and other details.

If you're using glass dragon eyes or beads for eyes, press them into the clay before baking. Partially cover the eye with upper and lower eyelids for a more realistic look as in *Photo 16*. The baking temperature of polymer clay will not affect glass eyes.

Before baking the clay head, use a nail to poke a hole in the base of the skull, a

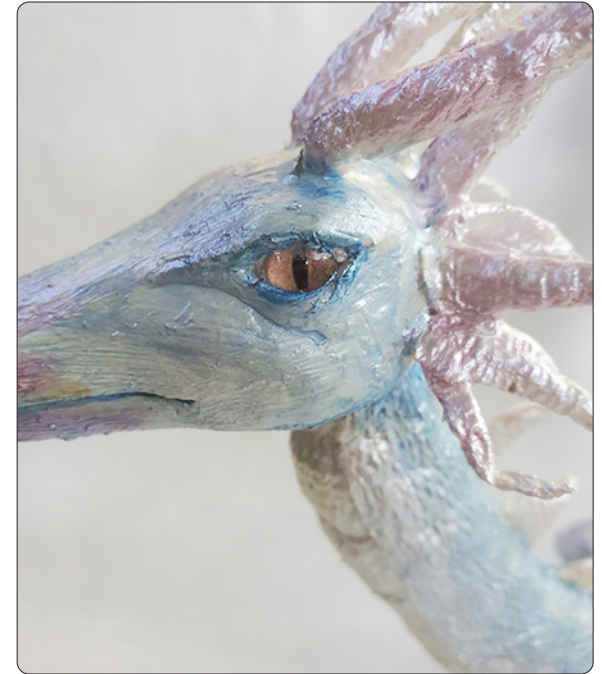


Photo 16

minimum 1" deep and wide enough to fit the 3-wire neck end.

If you plan to add optional finishing touches such as head horns and frilly fringes (see Step 11), be sure to poke holes for inserting the wires before baking the head. If you forget this step, use a small drill to make holes in the baked clay.

After baking the head and before attaching it to the body, gently sand any rough spots.

Use aluminum foil to make the head

Aluminum foil is a simple alternative to clay. For the 10" to 18" dragon in this tutorial, the head is approximately 3"x1". You can make your dragon's head larger or smaller, but use this basic process:

Start by crinkling a sheet of aluminum foil measuring 12"x24", then open it up and slightly smooth out the crinkles. Crinkling bulks the foil up and makes it adhere more easily to itself.

Fold the 12" width in half, then in half again. Then fold the remaining 3" piece into thirds to form a strip 1" wide by 24" long. Next fold the 24" length in half 3 times (24" to 12" to 6" to 3"), roughly forming a 1" wide by 3" long snout.

The U forms a natural mouth. The end of the snout has open layers of foil which can be bound together with hot glue after you shape the snout.

Next build up the dome of the head with crinkled foil, using hot glue to hold each layer in place. The size and shape of this dome is up to you. Press eye sockets into the foil with the tip of a paint brush or nail.

To smooth the texture of the crinkled foil inside the mouth, use hot glue, spread with a popsicle stick to even the surfaces. You can also paint construction paper, then cut and glue it to fit the upper and lower palates of the mouth.

Use scissors to further fine-tune the shaping, such as creating a more pointed snout. *Photo 17.*

Cover head with Coflex

Although a clay head can be painted directly, you can add texture and details to both clay and aluminum heads by covering with Coflex before attaching to the body.

Use E6000 to glue strips of Coflex over the entire head, paying attention to the direction of its texture as a design detail.

For the open-mouthed aluminum head, don't use Coflex inside the mouth as it creates too much filler and makes closing the mouth more difficult. *Photo 18.*



Photo 17



Photo 18

Coflex can also be used for fine-tune sculpting. To create eyelids and nostrils, fold Coflex into 2 or 3 thicknesses, cut to size and glue in place with E6000. *Photo 19.*



Photo 19

Before gluing the head to the neck, use an X-ACTO knife to punch a hole through the Coflex skin at the base of the head, then cut down into the head foil. If needed, use a nail to assist with punching the hole a minimum of 1" deep and wide enough to fit the 3-wire neck end.

Glue head to body

When the dragon head is finished, whether using clay or aluminum foil, generously coat the neck wires of the body with 2-part epoxy glue, and insert them into the head hole. Let this cure for an hour.

After the head is firmly glued in place, finish the neck by wrapping it with felt and/or yarn so it smoothly transitions to the body.

8 Covering the dragon with skin

Coflex compression tape, sold as a 4" wide roll, is perfectly made for dragon sculpting, with a rough texture very reminiscent of reptilian scales. It can be used to fill out the body and cut into shapes such as the fins for back, neck and head, as well as eyebrows, nostrils, etc. It's the closest a fabric comes to clay.

Working with Coflex

Unroll a 6" to 8" long swath of Coflex, then cut it lengthwise into 1" strips. This width makes it a lot easier to wrap smaller bodies

Coflex has a warp and a weft just like fabric, and its stretch runs in one direction only, along the length of the roll. The tighter it's stretched, the more it sticks to itself. Coflex won't stick to fabric, so for the first wrap around the body, stretch it tightly around the body and stick it to itself.

Wrapping the body & legs with Coflex

I typically wrap the body before the legs, starting at either the top of the neck or the tip of the tail and slightly overlapping each loop until the length of the body is covered. Make sure to completely cover both fabric and yarn.

To work around the legs and wings, use a crisscross, figure 8 pattern. When coming to a leg (or wing) pull the Coflex across the back and around the front of the opposite leg. Loop it under the leg, around the back of the leg, then up and over the spine to the front of the first leg. Loop under that leg



Photo 20

and repeat the crisscrossing X pattern 2 or 3 times until the yarn and fabric are covered. *Photo 20.*

For covering legs, begin at the "ankle" of one leg, wrap up to the top of the thigh then across to the other leg. Crisscross this tape (using the method outlined above) between one leg and the other a couple times, then wrap the tape down (not up) the opposite leg. This really helps with creating smooth, seamless transitions between the body and legs.

After wrapping the whole body, the crisscross pattern may look out of synch with the loops around the rest of the body. If so, use the full 4" width of Coflex to cover back and sides. Cut out U-shapes for the width of the legs, stretch tightly and cover the sides of belly. Glue with E6000. *Photo 21.*



Photo 21

Note: If you are planning to add optional underbelly segments to the dragon, wait until Step 9 before covering the back and sides with this large sheet of Coflex.

For the toes, cut thin strips of Coflex (1/8" or so), wrap around the top of the foot to secure, then down and around each toe. For toenails, leave some exposed wire to paint later. *Photo 22.*



Photo 22

9 Making the underbelly segments

The underbelly segments are completely optional but if that's what your dragon wants and needs, here's how:

After wrapping the body with Coflex, draw lines down both sides of the underbelly to mark the width of the segments between the lines. *Photo 23.*

Cut long strips of Coflex 1"-1½" wide (or wider depending upon your design) and fold a quarter inch of tape over on itself to form a raised ridge on one side of the tape. *Photo 24.*

Beginning at the bottom of the tail, cut and overlap one segment on top of another so the folded edge shows at the bottom of each segment. Glue each segment into place with E6000.



Photo 23

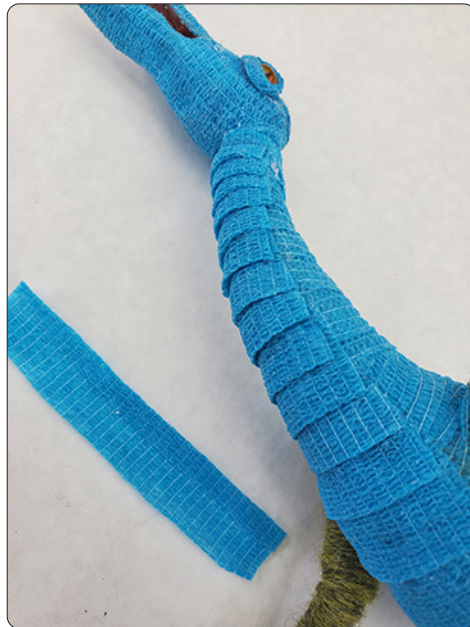


Photo 24



Photo 25

To cover the ragged edge formed by all the segments, start at the tail section, cutting a piece of Coflex roughly the length and diameter of the tail. (If the circumference of the tail's tip is too small, start by placing the Coflex a little higher up on the tail where it's easier to work.)

Create a 1/8" fold down one side of the Coflex (the same folding process used for belly segments) and use this edge to cover the ragged line of segments along one side of the tail. Glue in place and let glue dry before proceeding. *Photo 25.*

Next trim the other side of the Coflex so that it that roughly follows the line of segments along the opposite side of the tail. Allow a little extra Coflex for the 1/8" fold. Glue in place.

You should now have nice clean lines covering the segments on both sides of the tail.

Repeat this process for the torso, only you'll need a much wider piece (or two) of Coflex. Pre-cut U shape slots out of the Coflex for each of the legs. If the Coflex under the legs

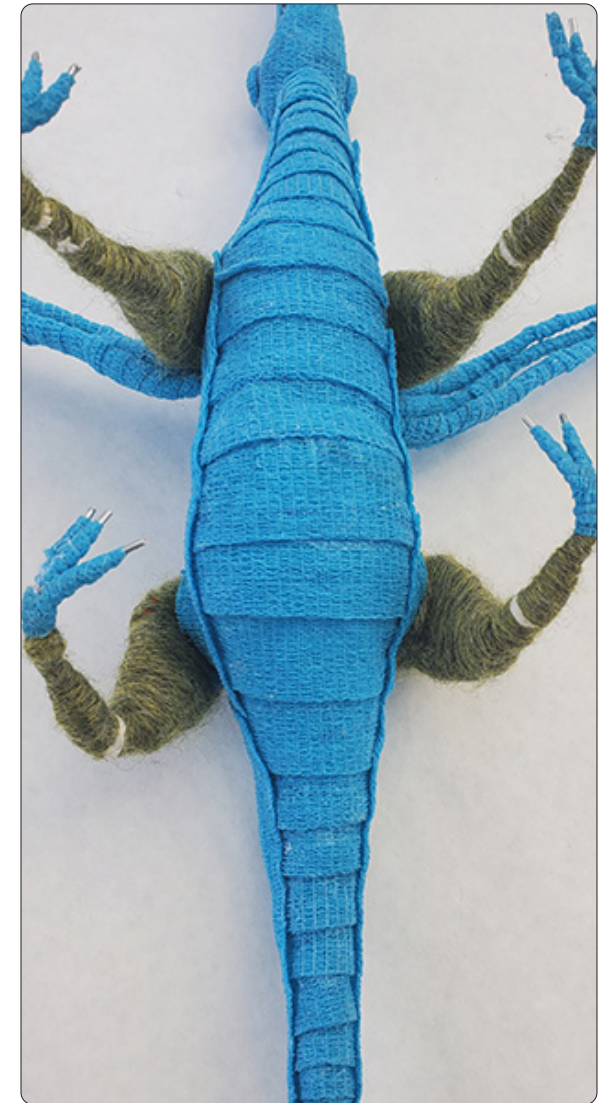


Photo 26

looks a little ragged and uneven after gluing in place, cut out a “patch” of Coflex and glue with E6000. When making “patches” be sure the “grain” or weave pattern (warp and weft) of the patch matches the weave of the bottom layer of Coflex. Paint will cover up most all inconsistencies.

Repeat this process for the neck. See *Photo 26* on the previous page for an image of the completed process.

10 Making the dragon's wings

Shape the ribbing

The shape of the wings is up to you; bend the 4 wires this way and that until you find a shape that you like, cutting wire if needed. Wires can be made into a simple fan shape or bundled together at the base of the wing to create a more “bat-like” look to the wing as in *Photos 27 and 28*.

Wrap the ribbing

Before covering the ribbing with fabric, add thickness to each rib by either wrapping it with yarn or Coflex. If using yarn, run thin lines of E6000 along each wire and wrap, first building up a thicker base where the wing meets the shoulder. If Coflex is used, no glue will be necessary. *Photo 28*.

Decide how to cover the ribbing

Fabric is the easiest and best choice for covering the ribs since it's flexible, enabling the wings to easily fold or move into different positions. I recommend lighter

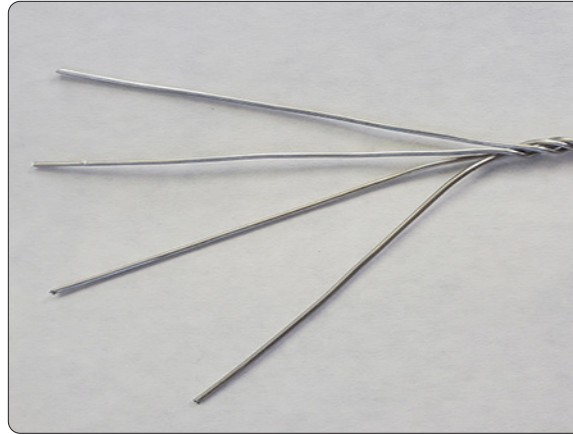


Photo 27



Photo 28

cottons, rayon, silk and polyester blends which will allow for movement. I personally love batik fabrics with their bright and lively colors and patterns, as in *Photo 29 and 30*.

Fabric color schemes are also a great help if you're not an experienced painter and are uncertain about how to paint your dragon. When stuck, I use the color palette of the fabric as a starting point for the dragon's colors, rather than trying to match fabric with a painted dragon.



Photo 29



Photo 30

If your dragon wings are more for looks and less for movement, try handmade paper, rice paper, painted plastic film, or crumbled and smoothed aluminum foil, etc.

Here are a couple more examples of wing coverings. The wing in *Photo 31* is sheer fabric. *Photo 32* is painted aluminum foil.

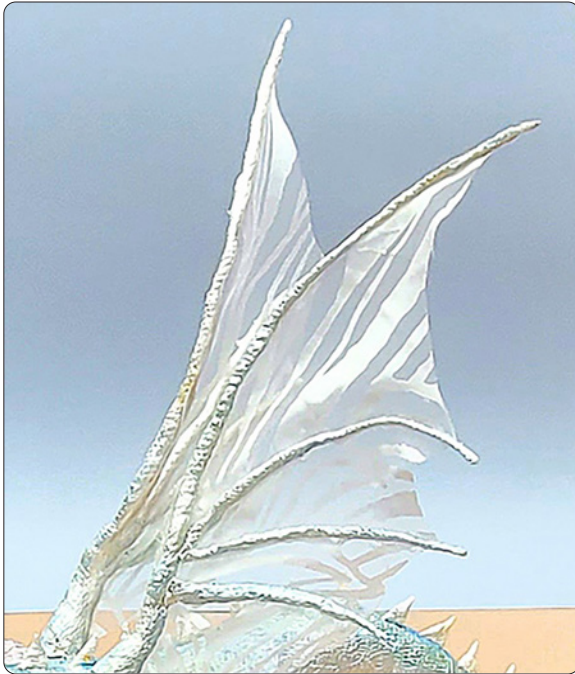


Photo 32



Photo 32

Make pattern and glue wing material

Make a pattern for your fabric or other material by holding a piece of paper or cardboard behind the ribbing and tracing an outline that will work for both wings, as shown in *Photo 33*. Cut out the drawing.



Photo 33

Decide which side of the material you want to show behind the ribs. Then trace the pattern onto the material and cut, adding a little extra fabric along each side of the wing, as shown in *Photo 34*.

To create wings that mirror each other, flip the pattern over before cutting the second wing. Alternately, you can fold the fabric in half and cut both wings at the same time.

Before gluing fabric to the ribs, make sure the cut fabric lines up with the ribbing. I often have to do additional trimming at this point.

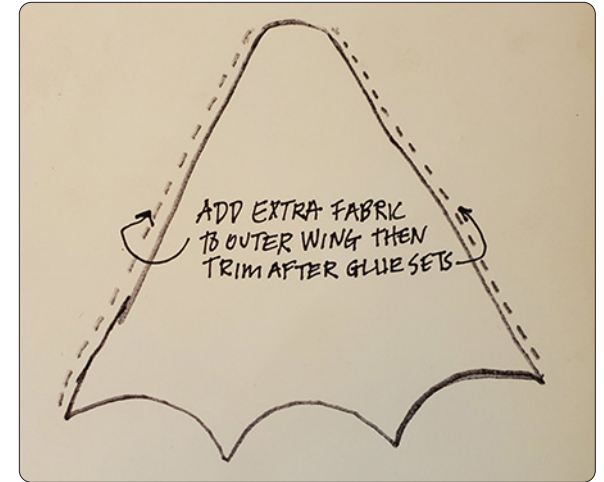


Photo 34

It's a toss-up between using hot glue or E6000 for attaching the material to the ribs. Hot glue sets fast and grips well, but the fast set time can be a problem if you don't lay the material down quickly and accurately.

E6000 sets more slowly, and is a little fussier to work with, but it's not as exacting as hot glue. Even if some of the E6000 smears onto the fabric, it dries clear and isn't too noticeable.

Whichever glue you use, go slowly and only glue one half of each rib at a time. After the glue has set on all ribs, trim off any extra fabric from the wings.

11 Adding finishing touches

Head horns and frilly fringes

For shaping the horns that sprout out of many dragon heads, Coflex can be wound tightly around wire.

For frilly fringes, cut Coflex into smaller shapes which can be twisted around wire and either inserted into the head or glued directly in place.

Be sure to leave a 1/2" of exposed wire for gluing the horn or frilly fringe into the head. *Photo 35* shows examples of a horn after wrapping and frilly fringe both before and after wrapping.

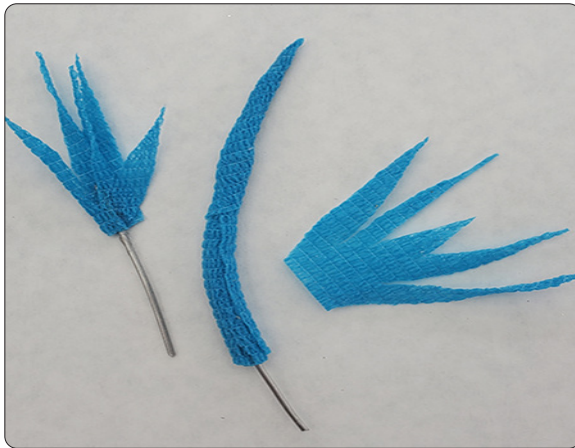


Photo 35

"Fins" on the dragon's back

For 1" high fins similar to those in *Photo 36*, cut a long 2" strip of Coflex (or 3" for a thicker fin), fold in half, then cut several fins at once. Use E6000 to glue in place. Felt is also great for creating fins.

For a continuous line of ragged fins, cut a length of Coflex (the width depends upon you), fold in half and cut unevenly along length, as in *Photo 37*. Then glue in place.

To create a flat finned tail tip, fold a square of Coflex in half; the folded piece should be a little larger than the finished tail tip. For serrated edges, cut the Coflex to shape.



Photo 36

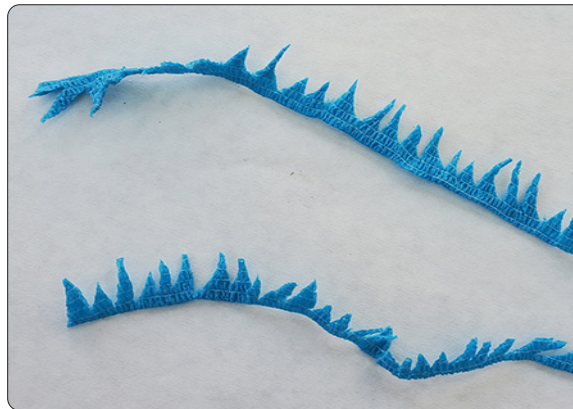


Photo 37



Photo 38

Then separate the bottom and top layers of Coflex and glue to each side of the tail using E6000. To create ribbing for the serrations, glue wire between the top and bottom layers. *Photo 38* shows both a folded ribbed tail and a continuous line of ragged fins.

Dragon's teeth and tongue

You can use construction cardboard, polymer clay, or aluminum foil to make dragon teeth. I've even used rose thorns! This is a great place to use your imagination to create dragon fangs or even a full mouth of teeth. See the two dragons on the last page before the template for examples.

Another option is to squeeze a wide line of hot glue onto paper (not too thick), foil or parchment paper (hot glue doesn't stick to parchment paper). Let it cool and cut into teeth. *Photo 39* shows a wide line of hot glue and some cut out teeth.

A tongue can also be shaped from glue, felt, or aluminum foil and painted before gluing into place.



Photo 39

12 Painting your dragon

Choose mask latex or Coflex skin

Will you be covering the dragon with mask latex, or do you want to leave uncoated Coflex for the skin? To help you decide, here are a few advantages to using mask latex:

a) it creates a thin protective and adhesive coating over the Coflex; b) it allows for paint washes, which Coflex doesn't, due to its more porous texture; c) it's thin enough that it doesn't cover over the scaly texture of the Coflex; and d) it's excellent for creating smooth-skinned characters such as people, whales, salamanders, etc. Otherwise, it's fine to paint on Coflex. The winged red creature in *Photo 40* illustrates the look of painted Coflex.



Photo 40

Other surface textures

Mask latex is also a great medium for creating really interesting surface textures. You can mix it with coarse sand, small bits of cut dried grass, bird seed, sesame seeds, loose wool, dog hair, and synthetic upholstery stuffing, etc. before using it to cover your dragon.

Painted yarn

One other option for dragon skin is to simply paint the yarn. Yarn has its own look, but different yarns will behave differently when painted.

In *Photo 41* the body was wrapped with a synthetic yarn which didn't change shape much when painted.

The dragon leg in *Photo 42* was wrapped with a 100% wool yarn and covered with mask latex. The soft pliable fibers create a web pattern resembling scaly reptile skin.

If you choose to paint the yarn, you'll need to completely cover all the underlying fabric with yarn as was done with the dragon in *Photo 43*. An optional coating with mask latex will help stabilize the yarn.



Photo 41



Photo 42



Photo 43

More Design Ideas

Adding additional wire

When first building a skeleton, I always add more inches of wire than I think is needed, both in body length as well as wings and legs. This is because as fabric and yarn are added to the skeleton, the scale and proportions of the dragon change, usually making the dragon look smaller than planned. And so it's much easier to snip away extra wire, but a little more challenging to add that missing wire. But it can be done.

If attaching extra wire to an area covered with thicker fabric such as the tail or neck where unattractive knots of wire won't be seen, simply twist the two wires together and glue with E6000 as in *Photo 44*, left side. Fabric, yarn and Coflex will further strengthen this joint.



Photo 44

To avoid this unsightly knot when adding length to thinner more delicate wing ribbing, liberally glue the additional wire to the wing wire (laid flat side by side with a minimum 2 inch overlap) with E6000, then bind with loops of sewing thread as shown in *Photo 44*, right side. After the glue dries, cover with yarn or Coflex to add extra strength to the longer rib.

Using Template 201 for a larger dragon

The template on the following page also works as a guide for dragons from a foot long up to a couple feet long; the actual length of the body (neck, spine, tail), legs and wings depends upon you.

For a longer dragon, sketch the finished size of your dragon, then measure the length of legs, wings and body based upon your drawing. Now take out a large piece of paper and use these measurements to draw your own blueprint for spine, legs and wings.

Whatever lengths you choose, always add a minimum of 5 to 6 extra inches of wire to each piece. As you start building, you may change your mind concerning the dragon's final size or proportions. As already discussed, it's easier to subtract wire than to add it.

Here is where I leave you.

Now bring your dragon fully to life with the magic of color!

I'd love to see what you've created. Send me your pictures and I'll start a photo gallery.

Best wishes and I hope this tutorial has been helpful.

~ Catherine ~



