

Make an Emergency Halloween Pinata

by **Kiteman** on October 12, 2009

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Author: **PRO** Kiteman [author's website](#)

An East Anglian Maker, who spends a lot of time in a very small shed. Interested in science, kites, beer (proper beer, not lager) and the general Maker ideal.

Need help on the site? Drop me a PM.

Credo:

Faith, noun; Belief that does not rest on logical proof or material evidence.

"Faith is believing what you know ain't so" - Mark Twain

Science, noun; Set of processes that explain the universe and its contents through hypotheses and theories based on observable evidence.

I am in the universe, a part of the universe. I was not created, I am the most recent product of several billion years' worth of random mutation selected by environmental and sexual pressures, plus a healthy dose of accidents.

I am a unique individual, with my own mind, knowledge, skills, dreams. I am a husband, father, son and friend. I teach others and learn from others.

No god had a part in my genesis. I have no religious faith, although I respect those that have (so long as they do not expect others to share it without question). I take responsibility for my own actions, and bear the guilt for any wrong-doings without feeling the need to confess them to a higher being. When I die, all that will remain of me will be the memories held by those that knew me. I will go to neither heaven nor hell, nor will I be resurrected. When I am gone, I am gone.

To quote the famous philosophers; "Cogito ergo sum" and "I yam what I yam!".

"Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities" - Voltaire.

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Intro: Make an Emergency Halloween Pinata

OK, so we got invited to a Hallowe'en party, one of those where people bring contributions to the buffet.

"Of course we'd like to come - what shall we bring?"

"Could you manage a Hallowe'en-themed piñata?"

Er, OK...

...and here we go.

Oh, and the emergency? Version one, a papier mache construction failed. Four days of pasting and gluing, and it all went wrong. I didn't have four days left to make another that way.

So, to the cardboard!

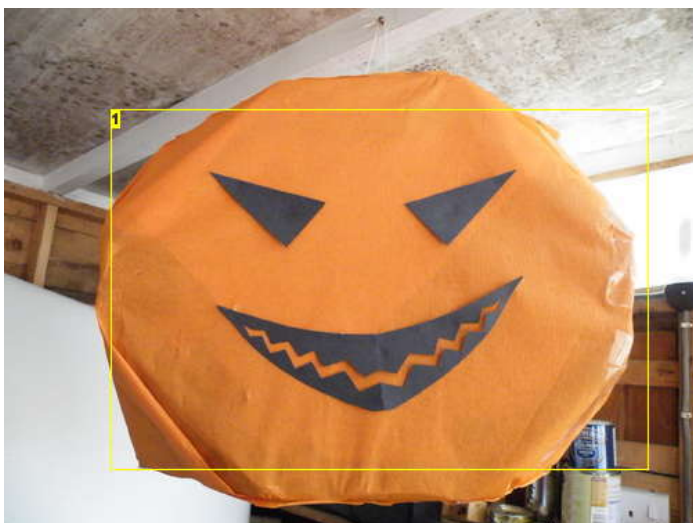


Image Notes

1. Happy, yet slightly evil.

step 1: The template

I didn't have time to make another frame and cover it in a stiff shell, so I decided to go straight for a stiff shell.

I had some thick corrugated card, too thick for smooth curves, so I decided to go geometric, and make a *truncated cuboid* - six octahedra, in the planes of the faces of a cube, with equilateral triangles filling in the corners.

I used the largest handy sheet of paper (a page of newsprint) to make a square.

Folding into four, then a triangle, and cutting off one point makes a nice octahedron when opened.

I cut two "proper" octahedrons out of the card, then folded the template across the middle to make it narrower - I wanted the piñata to be slightly flatter than a cube.



Image Notes

1. Cut off this triangle.



Image Notes

1. Octahedron.

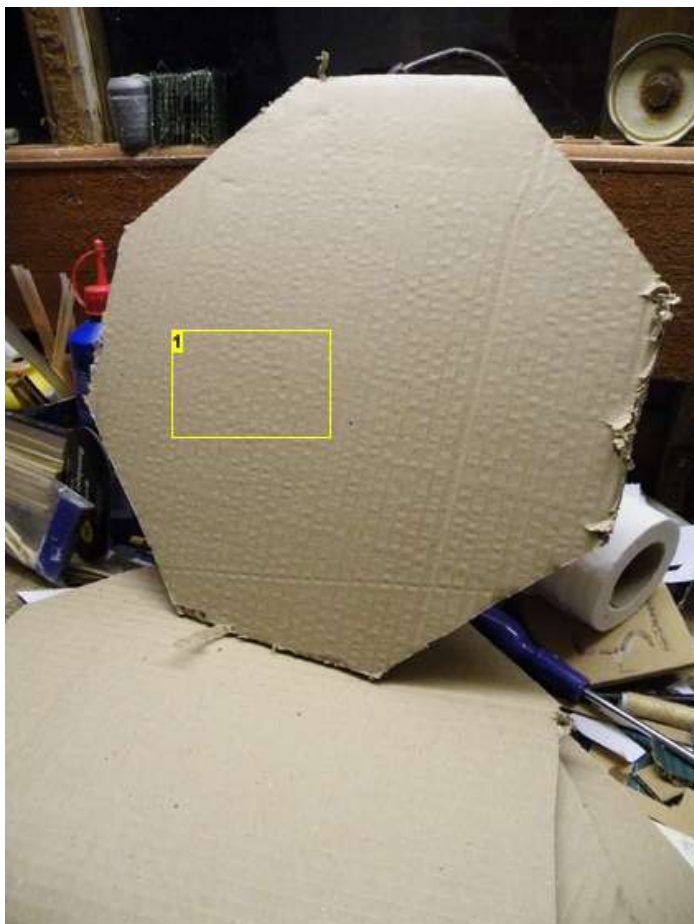


Image Notes

1. Two "proper" octahedrons to make the top and bottom.

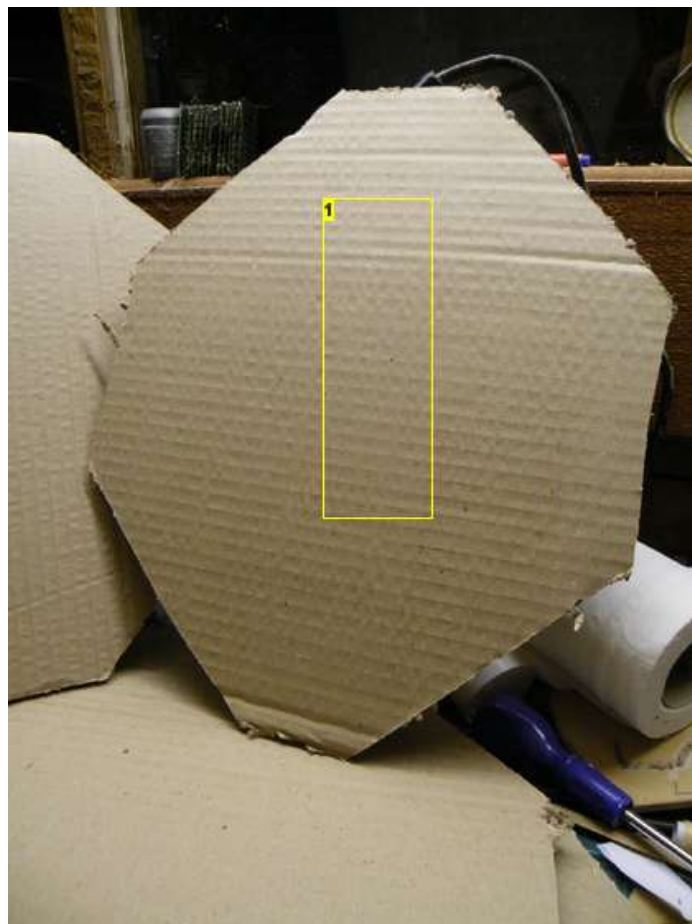


Image Notes

1. Folding the template along here made these 4 octahedrons narrower.

step 2: Construction.

The shots in this step were taken by #2 son, using my camera for the first time.

Duct tape time!

I taped the six octagons together, arranged as the faces of a cube. I put tape on both sides of each joint, reaching through the corner triangles to tape the inside of the joints for extra strength (I don't know how many children will be having a go at this).

Rather than calculate or measure the size of the corner pieces, I simply drew around them on the card, then cut them out.

Before taping on the last corner piece, I added the candy. Knowing that the piñata could be getting hung out-doors, in the dark, I used candies that were individually-wrapped.

The piñata needs to hang up, so I pierced two holes in the top, and tie a loop of string through them. To stop the string "sawing" through the card as the children smack at it, I duct-taped a length of bamboo skewer beside each of the holes, on the side between the holes.

The basic piñata is now done - all else is detail.



Image Notes

1. Taping corners on.



Image Notes

1. Taping the insides of the joints.

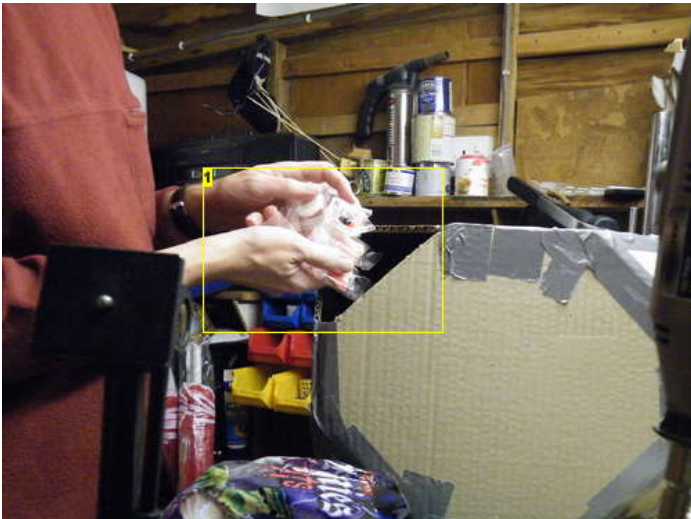


Image Notes

1. Adding candy - jelly eyeballs and fangs. I used individually-wrapped candy because the piñata might be used outside in the dark.



Image Notes

1. Sealing in the candy.



Image Notes

1. Piercing holes in the top.

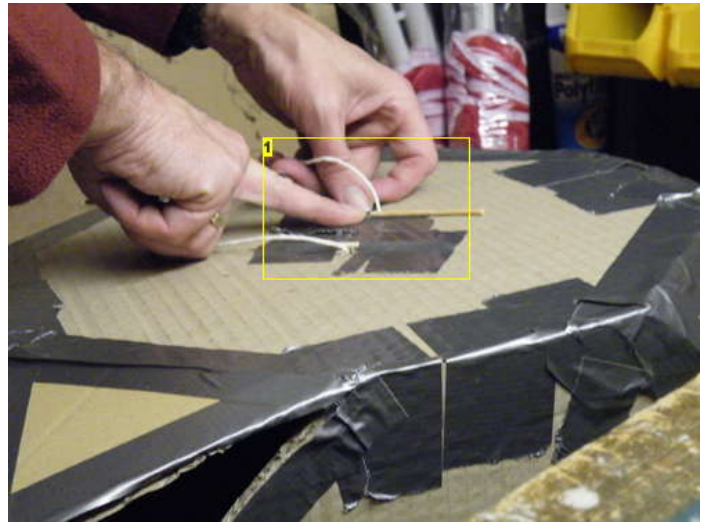


Image Notes

1. Two holes, with a length of bamboo duct-taped beside each hole.

step 3: The Details

Time constraints being what they were, the easiest seasonal object to make was a pumpkin.

Kitewife bought me some orange crepe paper and some black plain paper

Parcel-wrapping skills to the fore, and the orange became the pumpkin's skin, held in place with small pieces of sticky tape.

Over-lapping sections were tacked in place with small loops of tape to try and hide as much of it as possible, but I had to visibly reinforce one section that was under tension and started to rip.

The black paper became the face, glued in place.

I used a piece of green paper, rolled tightly, as the pumpkin's stem. No glue here, I just poked a small hole in the piñata with a sharp thing, and prodded the rolled of paper through it.

Piñatas need bashing, so off-cuts of the crepe and green paper turned a length of broom-handle into a matching bashing-stick.

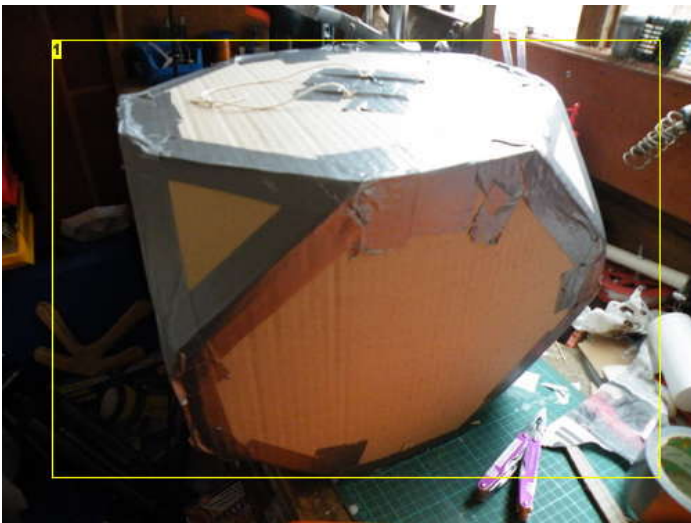


Image Notes

1. Structurally finished, simply waiting for the details.



Image Notes

1. OK, so my wrapping skills are a bit crepe...

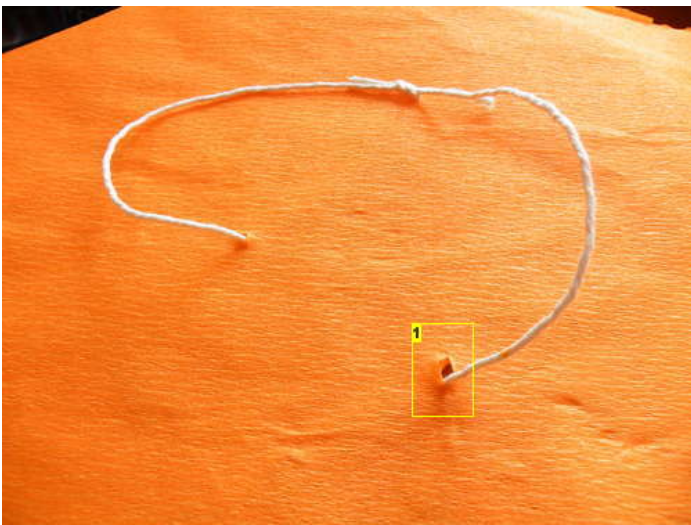


Image Notes

1. As I laid the top sheet on, I poked small holes for the hanging string, unknotted the string, threaded it through and re-knotted it.

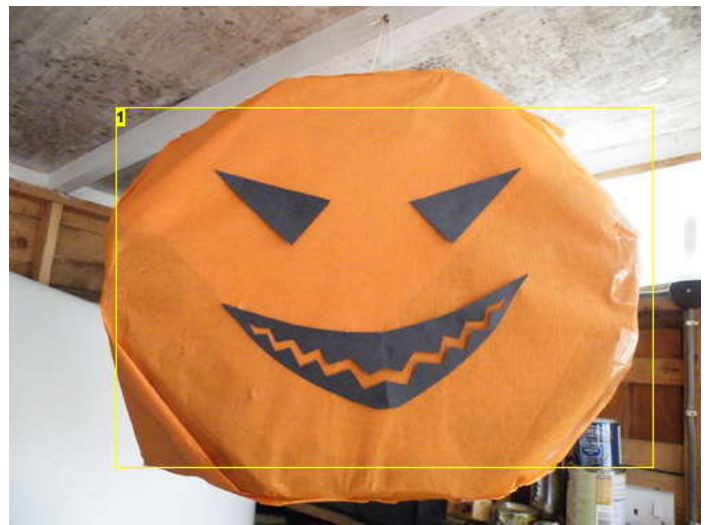


Image Notes

1. Happy, yet slightly evil.

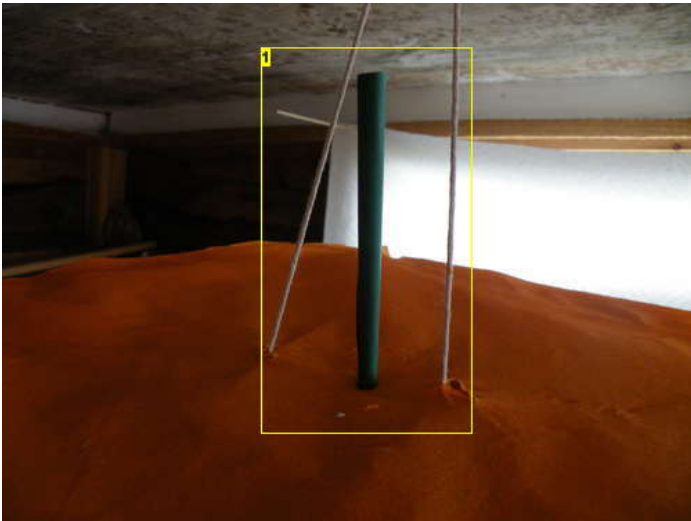


Image Notes

1. The stalk.

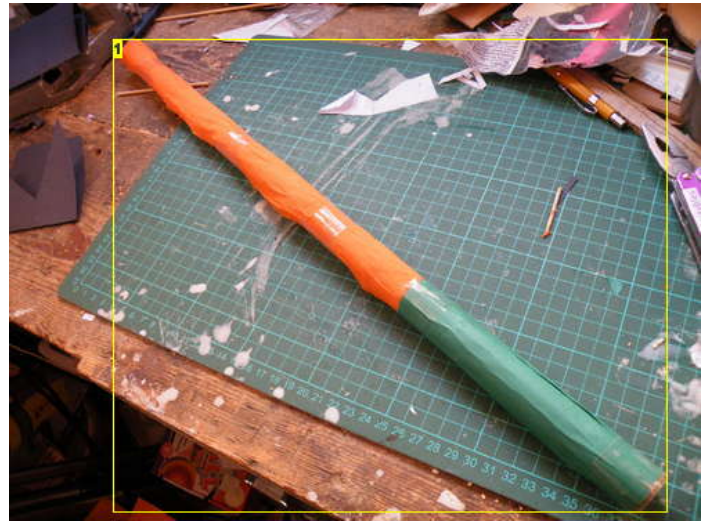


Image Notes

1. Camera angle has made the green section look much longer than it really is.

step 4: And...?

Did it work, I hear you cry.

No idea - the party is on Friday, so I'll edit this step the next day.



Image Notes

1. ...in the meantime, here is some music.

Related Instructables



Generic Superhero Costume (Captain Pinata). by Kiteman



Pumpkin Head Halloween Costume by msraynsford



The Great Pumpkin by jesse.hensel



It's the Great Instructables Pumpkin Hand, Sunbanks by caitlinsdad



Infant Pumpkin Costume (slideshow) by ewilhelm



Scary Halloween Ooga Pumpkin by SubBass100



The mini pumpkin LED face by jarv34



Giant Hydra Pinata by bofthem