

Make Your Own Turtle Costume

Materials:

- 1 or 2 large cardboard box/cartons. I get these from appliance stores or bicycle shops
- 8 1-2" wide strips of fabric about 1-2 ft. long. I got fabric from a thrift shop, old sheets or bed spreads work well for this (try to find a color that is similar to your turtle).
- Quart of exterior house paint (possibly some Z-prime for an undercoat depending on quality desired).
- A *heavy-duty* stapler with 3/8" staples. Stapler needs to be the long handled heavy duty type. Staples longer than 3/8" tend to bend and come back through the cardboard creating a sharp, snagging hazard.

Instructions:

There are 4 separate cardboard pieces to the turtle costume: the front stomach, the back shell, the left and right flippers.

The front shell is about 2.5ft tall and 2ft wide. It is shaped like a gourd shape with some semi-circle cut outs (see photo).

The back is shaped like an elongated heart with feet flippers at the bottom (see photo). It is about 3.5 feet long. Horizontal slices (about 4 inches) need to be made near the top of the rear (large) shell so that a concave shape can later be made by bending the top of the rear shell forward and stapling (see photo and instructions on next page below the photo).

The flippers are shaped like half hearts and should be 8-12 inches long.

Once the pieces are cut out they can be painted. I used regular exterior paint. If you want to use an undercoating like Z-prime you can, but it's not necessary. One or two coats of exterior paint works fine.

After painting, attach the flippers with the stapler to the upper part of the *rear shell* (see photo).

Next staple 4 strips of fabric to the front shell, one on each side of the neck. (these should be close to the neck of the person wearing the costume. If they are too far out toward the shoulders the costume will slip off. Attached the two remaining strips at the waist.

On the rear shell attach the other four strips to the corresponding parts of the shell. The front and rear shells can now be tied together with bows so they can be easily untied and readjusted.



Make a cut about 6 inches from the top of the rear "shell". Pull edges so that they overlap, which will cause the shell to become concave.

