

Mardi Gras Inspired Jester Hat



Using decorative papers for costumes, handbags or hats is not a new idea. The Japanese have been doing it for centuries. Making hats out of paper can be a lot of fun and certainly rewarding. The colors and traditions of Mardi Gras inspired this hat. Use our inspiration to inspire you.

Materials Needed:

- 3 colors of Soft Unryu Paper
- Gel Medium or White Glue
- Bells or Ornaments
- Cotton Balls
- Cotton Batting
- Poster Board or Chipboard 25" x 2"

Make an elongated triangle pattern, 15" long. Cut two pieces out of each of the three colors of the Soft Unryu papers. Glue the two matching pieces all the way around, except the bottom. When completely dry, carefully flip the three shapes inside out so that the glued seams are on the inside. (This is the same principle as sewing, except you are using glue and not a sewing machine) Push cotton balls to the end and finish stuffing with lightly rolled up cotton batting. Cut a strip of soft unryu to 25" x 4" for the stiff band. Put an even coat of gel medium on one side of the poster board and place the gel side down, in the center of the soft unryu strip. Wrap and glue edges to the center. This becomes the inside. When dry, form a circle and join with torn strips of unryu and gel, inside and out, which makes the join invisible and strong. Glue one of each edge of the stuffed points together so that the glued edges will be on the inside. This will form a circular shape. Let dry. Cut 3 large diamond shapes out of one of the soft unryus. Glue one side of the diamond shape to the free side of stuffed point so that glued edge is on the inside. Do this for all three stuffed points. With circular band on the outside, pull jester points upwards through the band. Glue the underside edge to the band all the way around. When it's dry, glue any places you might have missed. To hide the exposed batting and handy work on the inside, cut a circle 1" larger than the band out of one of the Soft Unryus and glue into place. Hand-sew or glue lightweight bells or ornaments on the ends of the jester points.