

## **How To Make A Scarecrow**

Originally used by farmers to keep birds away from important crops, in times gone by they were very much part of the landscape.

Scarecrows are not expensive to make, and you can have fun by easily making a scarecrow from everyday items that are lying about the house, they can be as crazy or silly as you like.

This easy set of instructions may be of help in making your scarecrow, and remember it requires no more complicated skill other than cutting and tying.

You only need a few items to make your scarecrow and clothes that are too far gone to give away are just great. Suggest that you will need a pair of tights or nylons, an old shirt, an old pair of pants or jeans, scraps of fabric, a hat, some glue, old rope for the hair, and paper or hay for stuffing.

Making the scarecrow head is possibly the hardest part, but with an old pair of tights or nylons you can make an easy start. Tie a knot at the top of the leg, or legs in the case of tights, then stuff the top, not the legs with hay or paper (shredded is easier). When the top is full tie a further knot in the top. You will now have a large round base for the head. Now cut scraps of fabric or felt into shapes for the eyes, nose and mouth. You can be very fancy if you wish, but simple triangles, circles, squares work just as well. Glue the shapes to the face and allow them to dry. At this point you can add hair made of long pieces of fabric, string, unplatted synthetic rope, and glue in place. If all fails you can of course simply buy a mask. (If you prefer, faces and hair can be glued on after the scarecrow has been assembled, when it will be easier to determine the front of the head).

For the body, button up the shirt, and starting with the arms fill with straw or paper. If you use hay, you can pull a bundle through the arms to resemble hands. A similar effect can be achieved by tying the wrists of the shirt with string. Fill the shirt as full as possible, but remember you will need room to get your hands into the front and back of the shirt when you assemble the scarecrow.

Next make the scarecrow's legs by stuffing the jeans or trousers with paper or hay, don't forget to close the zip, then fill from the ankles to the waist. Like the wrists, you just tie the pants close to the bottom with string, or let some hay hang out for feet. Leave the pants open at the top.

You now have all your pieces ready to assemble your scarecrow. Take the empty stocking legs of the head and attach them to the body. To do this, run one leg through the neck of the shirt at the front and the other through the back of shirt neck. Pull the nylon legs all the way through to the bottom of the shirt. Tug firmly on the legs so that the head sits firmly on the top of the shirt neck.

Add the legs to the scarecrow. Bring the filled pants close to the assembled head and body. Tie one leg of the nylons to the belt loop in the front of the trousers, making sure to pull the nylon leg through the loop until it's tight. Then do the same for the nylon leg at the back of the shirt.

All that remains is to top off your scarecrow with a hat or cap, with that the scarecrow is complete !!! Now if it is going to stand it will need a stick or broom handle up the back of the shirt, but it could be that you want it to sit on an old chair.

Some weather proofing can be achieved by firstly putting the hay/paper stuffing inside dustbin bags.

**Don't forget give your Scarecrow a name**

## **More Ideas !**

Scarecrows have been around for centuries originally as a means for farmers to protect their crops against attacks from harmful birds, such as crows. But scarecrows evolved and are no longer just for scaring off the birds. Scarecrows can be whimsical and fun and can be used for adding interest to the garden, especially a child's garden. Scarecrows are not hard or expensive to make. With simple items collected from around the house, you can help your kids create a silly scarecrow of their very own.

## **Recycle!**

Look for an old long-sleeved shirt and pair of jeans or overalls. Of course, this is a silly scarecrow so the wackier the clothes, the better. An old pillowcase makes a great scarecrow head. If you want the scarecrow to have hair, yarn works well or even better, an old wig. For facial features, kids can use waterproof markers, or they can glue on buttons and similar items. Find a hat, a straw one if you have it. For additional interest, you can even use an old pair of shoes or boots for the feet. You'll also need some leaves, rags, hay or straw for the stuffing and something to stake the scarecrow up with.

## **Use Your Imagination !**

First, stuff the pillowcase and tie the bottom up with string. Let the kids add a silly-looking face while you get the rest of the scarecrow's body together. Button the shirt up and tie off the bottom and wrists. Fill the shirt with stuffing and carefully run it through the stake, leaving just enough poking from the top for placement of the head. Secure this by tying a length of twine around the bottom. Next, tie off the bottoms of the jeans or overalls and stuff each leg up to the waist. Run a belt or twine through the loops of the jeans to attach it to the stake and shirt. Overalls can easily be slid over and attached to the shirt by its straps. Then pull the open-ended pillowcase head over the top portion of the stake, securing it with twine. Top it off with hair or a hat if you want. The silly scarecrow can be mounted to a nearby fence, propped against a hay bale, or placed in a lawn chair. You can position the scarecrow in all sorts of funny poses.

## **Other Silly Scarecrow Ideas**

Create a miniature scarecrow using some of the kid's old clothing. Nearly any long-sleeved shirt will work; however, overalls work best for the bottoms. A small pillowcase or large piece of fabric should be used for the head, which will be stuffed with crumpled newspaper\* (\*inside something like a bin liner to protect against wet weather) and tied off. Next, send the kids off to find two large sticks to support the scarecrow. Fasten the sticks together with twine into a T-shape. Slide the shirt onto the top of the support (with arms spread out) and tie off the bottom and wrists. Let the kids crumple up some newspaper and help them stuff it into the shirt\*. Tie the bottoms of the overalls and then let the kids fill the legs with newspaper\*. Place the support into the overalls, securing with the straps and using a belt or twine around the waist. Place the head on top of the support and tie it on well. Give the kids some markers and let them create a face. Add a hat and place your silly scarecrow in the garden.

Another way to create a silly scarecrow is by making one pop out of a flowerpot. For this project, you will need a lightweight six-inch plastic ball, some paint (any colour), raffia or yarn, a child-sized hat to fit onto the ball, two wooden dowels or sticks, some wire and glue, an infant or toddler-sized shirt, and some embellishments (buttons, pieces of foam board, etc.) for the face. Piece the two wooden dowels together in the form of a cross and secure with wire. Paint the foam ball and allow it to dry. Once the foam ball is dry, push the short end of the cross into the bottom. Place the shirt over the horizontal portion of the cross. Tie a piece of raffia or yarn around the waist of the shirt. Cut some raffia or yarn lengthwise to create hair and glue this on top of the foam ball, placing the hat over top. Next, use your chosen embellishments to create a face and glue them to the ball. Stick the remaining portion of the cross into a medium to large-sized plant filled flowerpot.