

Drama Team

Animal Balloon Making

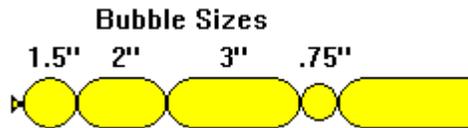


Hosea 12

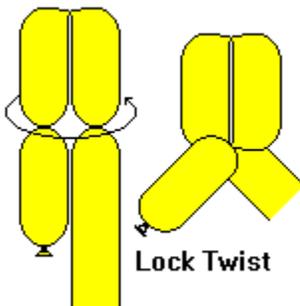
¹⁰ I spoke to the prophets,
gave them many visions
and told (*acted out*) parables through them."

Balloon Twists

Here are the steps to some of the basic twists used in balloon sculpture. By combining these twists in various ways one can create thousands of figures from balloons.

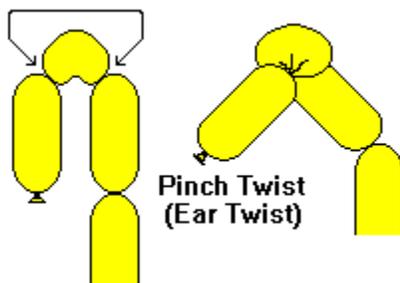


Lock Twist



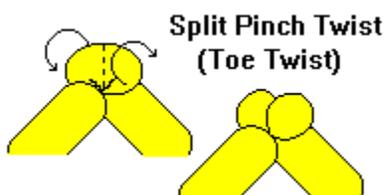
Twist two bubbles, usually about the same size. Bring opposite ends together so that the two bubbles are parallel and touching each other. Twist them together to lock in place. This is the most common method of making legs and ears on simple figures.

Pinch Twist (Ear Twist)



Twist a 1 to 1.5 inch bubble, leaving it a little on the soft side. Then twist the two ends of the same bubble together. This makes an ear-shaped bubble that is good for ears, lips, or sometimes to hold another bubble in place.

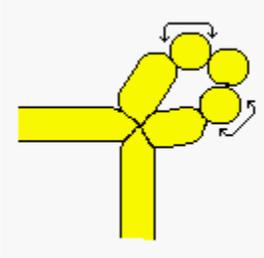
Toe Twist(Split Twist)



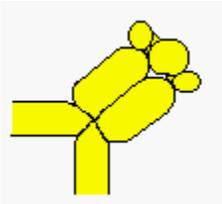
Begin with an ear twist. Grab the two sides of the bubble and twist it in two, making two bubbles about 1/2" or less in diameter. These are good for adding fine detail to faces or hands and feet.

Another method of beginning the twist is to roll it so that the center part attached to the adjacent bubbles splits the pinch twist in two. Then wind the two bubbles in opposite directions to make it hold.

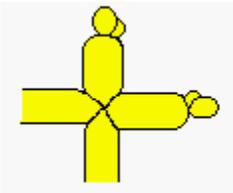
Pinch-pop Series



The pinch-pop series is used to separate two sections of a balloon. It consists of three small bubbles in a row within a loop of bubbles.

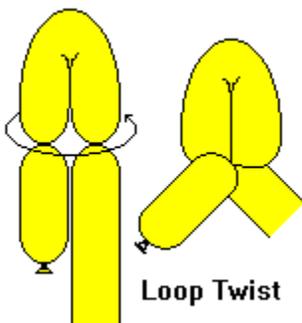


Make a pinch twist in each of the outer bubbles in the series. Then toe-twist each of the pinch twists to secure them. Both the pinch twists and the toe twists should be given three full twists to ensure that they will hold.

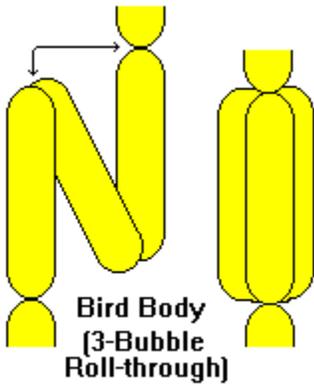


Now comes the 'Pop' part. You pop (break) the center bubble to allow the rest of the loop to separate. The pinch twists and toe twists will seal the ends and keep the balloon from deflating.

Loop Twist(Fold Twist)



This is a lot like the ear twist, but it is done with a much longer bubble. Just take a long bubble, fold it back on itself, and twist the two ends together. This is good for large ears, hands or feet on multiple balloon figures.

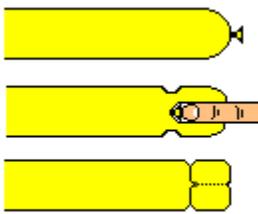


Bird Body
(3-Bubble
Roll-through)

Bird Body (3-Bubble Roll-Through)

Twist three bubbles, usually about the same length. Twist the opposite ends of two adjacent bubbles together to make a pair. Now take the third bubble and carefully push it through the pair, rolling the outer two bubbles around it, so that you have three bubbles all joined together at both ends.

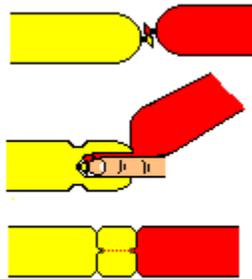
Apple Twist (Tulip Twist)



Apple(Tulip) Twist

This is a technique used in round balloons to make an apple shape. With long 2" balloons it is sometimes called a tulip twist. Push the knot about 2" down into the balloon with your index finger. With the other hand, pinch the outside of the balloon and grab the knot. Carefully pull out your index finger and twist a bubble at the point where you pinched the balloon on the knot.

Apple Link



Apple Link Twist

This twist is done exactly like the apple twist, except that you hold the knot of another balloon along side of the knot that is getting the apple twist. When you grab the knot from the outside, grab both knots, and the two balloons are linked together.

Hook Twist

The hook twist is similar to a very deep apple twist. Push the knot as far into the balloon as your finger will reach, and grab it through the balloon with the opposite hand. Instead of just pulling your finger out, bend the finger and peel the balloon off from the outside of the curve. This takes a bit of practice, but it allows you to make some unique figures.

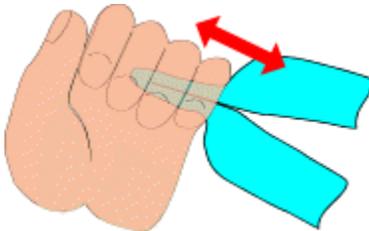


S-Hook Twist

Once you have mastered the hook twist, try the S hook. This works the same way, except that you bunch up the balloon to get your finger even deeper into the balloon. I think it makes a terrific squirrel tail.



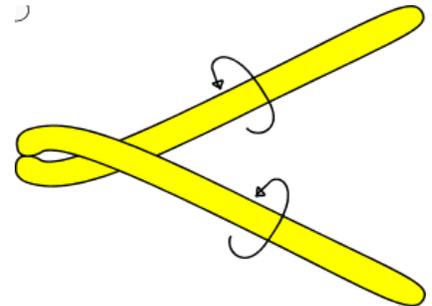
Z-Bend



To make a sharp bend in the middle of a balloon, fold it over and squeeze the air out. Then pull the balloon out of your fist, and the bend should remain. Repeat if necessary.

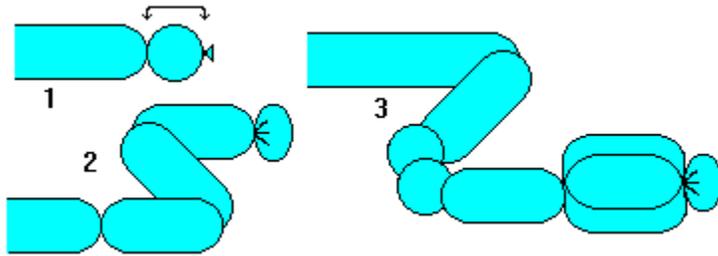
Spiral

Make a twist in the middle of a balloon and fold the ends toward each other. Rotate both ends in the same direction and the two segments will spiral around each other.

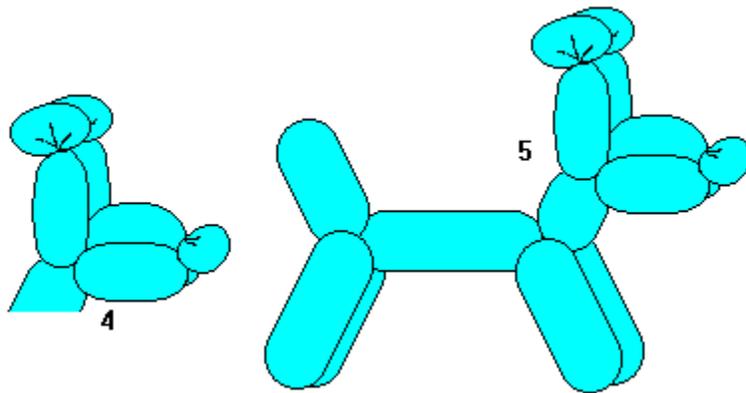


The Dog

Here are the directions: 1-inch bubble, for nose. Then, two x 2.5-inch bubbles twisted together. Another roughly 2-inch bubble rolled thru the 2.5-inchers. (This is often called a Bird Body.)



This completes the nose and chops. Next, comes a series of a 2-inch, 1-inch, 1-inch, and 2-inch. Twist the final 2-inch back to the back of the chops. Ear twist each of the two 1-inchers for ears, and the 2-inchers become the eyes.

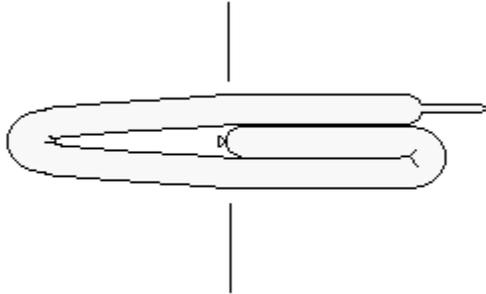


After that, you Lock Twist front and rear legs to finish it off with a regular dog body. The goal is to make a large, black, Labrador retriever.

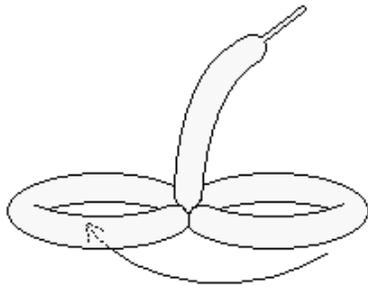
Swans

The swan balloon figure is a classic that belongs in every balloon sculptor's repertoire.

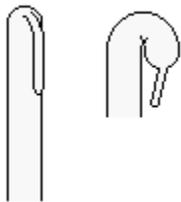
Version of the Kissing Swans



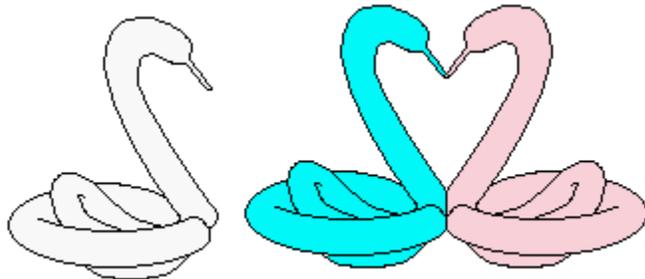
Begin with a white 260, inflated leaving a 4" tail. Bend the whole balloon into a large circle, bringing the knot to a point about 6-8 inches from the uninflated tail. Flatten the circle by bringing the point opposite the knot across to the knot (see drawing) and twist everything together at this point. Be sure to catch the knot in the twist.



One should now have two large loops with a long bubble sticking out from the point where they join. Fold one of the loops closed and tuck it through the center of the other loop to make the body.



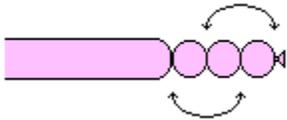
To make the head, Fold the uninflated end of the balloon back along the balloon body. Holding the end in that position, squeeze the air from the main chamber around the bend in the balloon. This will cause the balloon to inflate in the bent position creating a curve for the swan's head. Pull the neck back so that the friction of the sides of the body loop hold it in place.



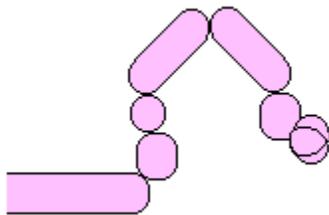
This completes the basic swan. To make the kissing swans, make another swan like the first, making sure that the proportions and the curve of the neck are the same. Before pulling the necks back into position, twist them together at the point where they meet the body. Then arrange the necks so that the beaks just touch, with their necks and heads forming a heart shape between them.

Bunny

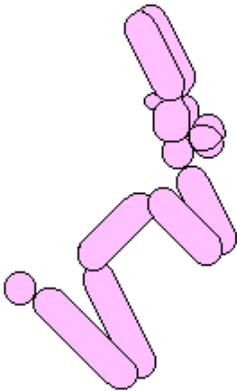
Eric Reimer has a terrific Gospel presentation using colored bunnies. I liked it so much I purchased the script and adapted it to do with balloon bunnies. Of course, after using blue, red, green, yellow, purple, and orange bunnies, I couldn't resist adding a pink one with the message that God's love keeps on going and going and.....



Inflate a pink 260 leaving about a 6-inch tail. Twist 3 soft 1-1.5 inch bubbles and make them into a bird body. This is the nose/muzzle.

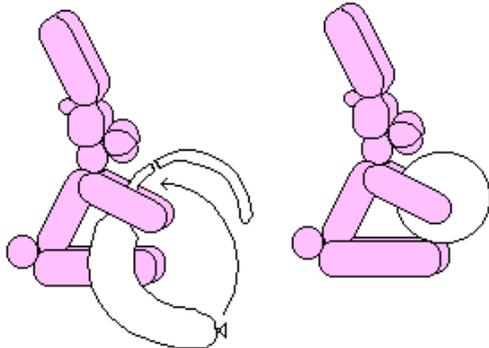


Next make a 2-inch, 4-inch, 4-inch. Twist the two 4-inchers together to make the ears. Follow this with a pinch twist at the base of the ears. This holds the ears together and keeps them upright. Now another 2-inch goes next to the first one, twisted together. The two 2-inchers form the two sides of the upper face.



Finish the body with a neck, 3-4 inch arms, a body, legs and a 1.5 inch tail. Arrange the bunny in an upright sitting position.

This is the basic bunny that I used for the other colors. All that's needed now is to add the drum.

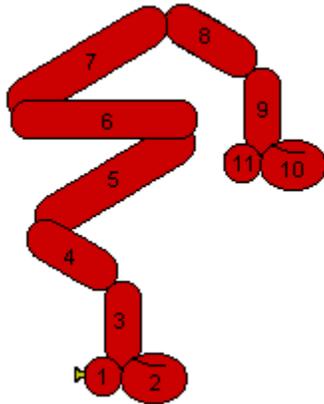


Inflate a white balloon about 6 inches and tie it off. Thread the uninflated end between the arms and tie the knot as close to the other end of the bubble as possible. Cut off the extra balloon and hide the knot between the arms.

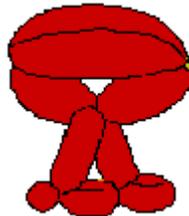
Turkey



Inflate a brown 260 leaving 6" uninflated. Twist off a 1" bubble followed by a 2" bubble. Give the 2" bubble a loop twist. This forms one foot.



Follow this with a 3" leg and another 3" bubble. Next come two 7" bubbles lock twisted together for the wings. A third 7" bubble goes over the top to form the back, and then a 3" comes down the front and locks to the top of the leg. You should have just enough balloon left to make another 3" leg and another foot.



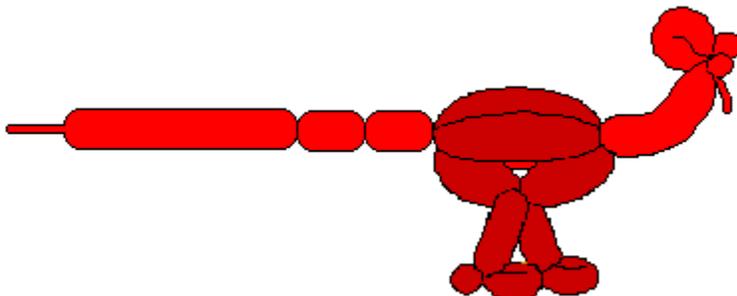
This completes the body, which so far looks something like a walking football. Now we need to add the head and tail.



Inflate a red 260 leaving about 5" uninflated at the end, and leaving about a 3" long nozzle before tying the knot. Twist off a 3/4" bubble and a 2" bubble. Give the 3/4" a pinch twist and then toe twist it to make the upper and lower beak. Give the 2" a loop twist for the head. The long uninflated nozzle forms the wattles that hang down from the beak. Trim off the rolled end for a better appearance.

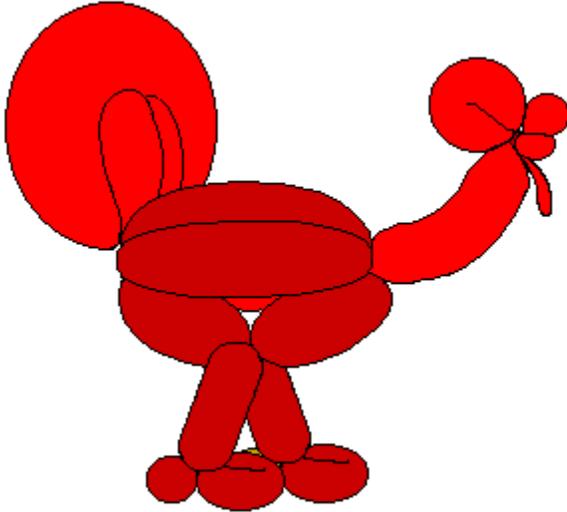


Twist a 3" neck and then fold it over about 1" from the bottom. Hold the fold and squeeze it for a few seconds to make a bend in the neck. Twist off a 4" bubble behind the neck and squeeze it lengthwise inside the body. The neck should stick out of one end and the rest of the balloon from the other.



Twist two 2" bubbles and lock twist them together. Wrap the remainder of the balloon around these to make the tail. It may be necessary to squeeze some of the air down into the uninflated part to reach all the way around. Tie the nipple off at the base of the tail and arrange the tail to stand upright. David Graves has posted a variation on the tail to Balloon HQ.

In the U.S., Thanksgiving Day brings to mind images of roasted turkey, parades and football. We take a day off from work, eat too much, and plan the next day's holiday shopping. But Thanksgiving in America is much more than that. Here's a few notes from the *World Book Encyclopedia* about Thanksgiving:

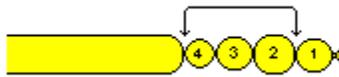


- The first American Thanksgiving day was a religious day and did not involve feasting. It occurred Dec 4, 1619 at Berkley Plantation (near Charles City, Va.) in accordance with the charter which specified that their day of arrival be observed yearly as a day of thanksgiving to God.
- The first New England Thanksgiving set the theme of feasting. In the early autumn of 1621 the surviving settlers (nearly half had died) of the Plymouth colony held a three-day festival to give thanks to God for the progress made.
- There were eight special days of thanks observed during the revolutionary war for victories and God's protection.
- President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November, 1863 as "a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father."
- Thanksgiving day was proclaimed formally on the last Thursday of November by presidential decree each year until 1939. That year President F.D. Roosevelt set it one week earlier.

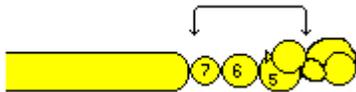
WildCat

The instructions for this wild cat were originally posted by Andy Oppenheim, a professional clown and balloon sculptor who lives in Florida. Done in Yellow, this makes a good lion cub. Orange would make a tiger, and a panther could be made from black (or pink?).

Inflate a 260 leaving 8" uninflated.



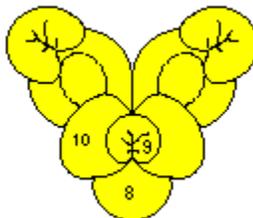
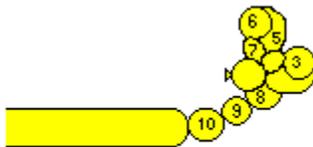
Twist a 1" bubble a 1.5" bubble a 1" bubble and a 1/2" bubble and lock the 1" to the 1/2".



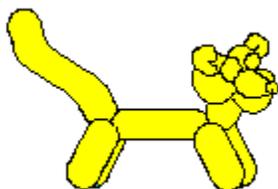
Make a 1.5" bubble a 1" bubble and a 1/2" bubble and lock the last twist to the joint in step 2.



Twist a 1" bubble and tie the knot to the lower end of the twist. (If you want to add a button nose, make a 1/2" bubble [bubble 9] here and give it a pinch twist. -PW) Twist a 1" bubble and move it so the twist you made goes between the 1/2" bubbles. Arrange the three 1" bubbles so you have 2 on top and one on the bottom. (See enlargement of face.) Make an ear twist in each of the 1" bubbles (bubbles 3 and 6) next to the 1/2 inches to make ears.



Make a 1 1/2" neck a pair of 3" legs and a 4" middle and a last set of 3" legs. Draw eyes if you wish and arch the back and tail for a scary effect.



Frog

First inflate a 260 balloon about 1/3 of the way and tie it off.



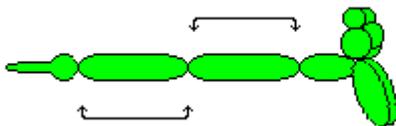
Begin with a **soft** 1.5" bubble, followed by 2", 1.5", 1.5", 2". Twist joints 1 & 5 together.



Pull the knot over joint 3 and stretch the nozzle down the back and secure to joint 1. This completes the head.



Now finish the figure with 2" front legs, a short body and long hind legs folded back on themselves in a Loop Twist.



Leave just enough of a 'tail' to tie off the back end and wrap up any remaining uninflated end in the last joint.



Eye and mouth details may be added with a dry erase marker

Orangutan

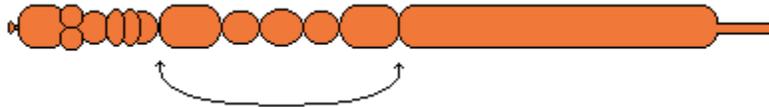
Head and Face:

1. Inflate a 260Q leaving approximately 8 inches uninflated. Form a 1 1/2 inch bubble at the knot end of the balloon. This 1 1/2 inch bubble will form the back of the head.
2. Form a 1 inch pinch twist. Twist the pinch twist in half to form the eyes. (toe twist)
3. Form a 1/2 inch bubble for the nose, followed by a 1/2 inch pinch twist. This pinch twist will be the upper lip.



4. Form a second 1/2 inch pinch twist. This pinch twist will be the lower lip.
5. Form a 1/2 inch bubble for the chin, followed by a 1 1/2 inch bubble for one side of the face, a 1/2 inch bubble for one ear, a 1 inch bubble for the top of the head, a 1/2 inch bubble for the second ear, and a 1 1/2 inch bubble for the other side of the head. Twist the two 1 1/2 inch bubbles together forming a 5 bubble loop.

6. Tuck the 1 1/2 inch bubble at the knot end of the balloon through the loop to hold the eyes, nose, and lips in position.

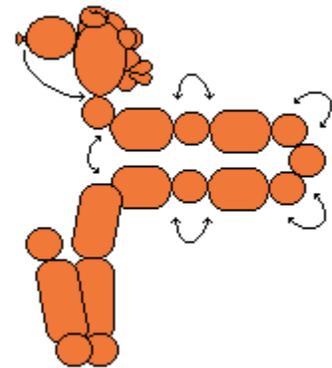


7. Pinch twist the two 1/2 inch bubbles for the ears.

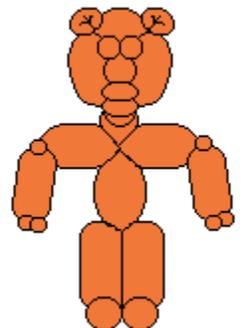
8. Pull the knot at the end of the balloon down and wrap it around the twist at the base of the head.

Body, arms, and legs:

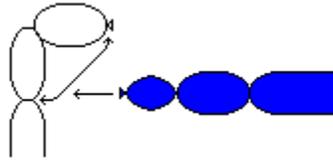
9. Form a 1/2 inch bubble for the neck, followed by a 2 inch bubble, a 1/2 inch bubble, a 2 inch bubble, three 1/2 inch bubbles, a 2 inch bubble, a 1/2 inch bubble, and another 2 inch bubble. Twist the first and fourth 2 inch bubbles together to form a 9 bubble loop. This loop will be the arms.
10. Form a 2 inch bubble for the body, followed by a 1 1/2 inch bubble, two 1/2 inch bubble, and another 1 1/2 inch bubble. Twist the two 1 1/2 inch bubbles together to form the legs and feet. If you are lucky, there will be a very small bubble left at the end of the balloon for the tail. You may have to make it a few times to get it just right but keep trying. It's worth it.



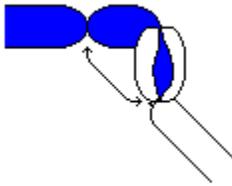
11. Pinch twist the first and fifth 1/2 inch bubbles in the arm loop for the elbows, and the second and fourth 1/2 inch bubbles for the hands. Pop the third 1/2 inch bubble to separate the arms. I usually twist the two pinch twists that form the hands in half but it is only a personal preference.



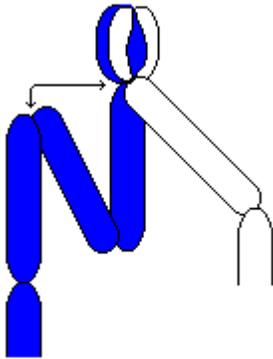
Penguin



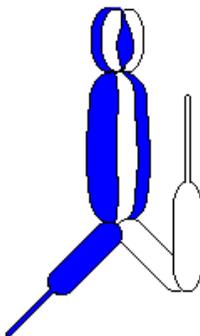
Begin by inflating a white and a black balloon about half way and tie them off. (The pictures show white and blue for better clarity). With the white: Make two 1.5 inch bubbles, tie the mouth piece to the base of the second bubble so you have two side by side. With the black: Make a half inch bubble, follow with a 1.5 inch. Twist the mouth piece together with the base of the two bubbles on the white balloon.



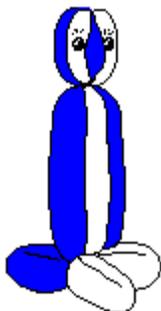
Now pull the 0.5 inch black bubble over the longer white ones to form a teardrop shape, making the beak. Twist the base of the 1.5 inch black bubble to the base of the white ones.



In the black balloon twist three equal 6-8 inch bubbles to make a Bird Body.



With the white portion left over, push a big section through the black bird body so it becomes part of the body. Position this so it faces the front of the bird. With the rest of the white balloon, make two large Loop Twists. Each loop begins as a 4-6 inch bubble and is then folded back on itself and the two ends twisted together. These become the feet. If you have any white balloon left, tie it and break it off.



With the rest of the black balloon, make another loop twist which becomes the tail. Tie and break off the rest of the balloon if necessary.

It really was not needed, but I used a Sharpie to draw in eyes on the white bubbles to either side of the beak.

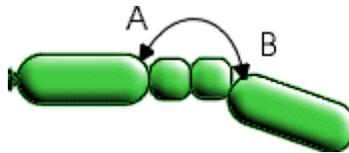
Crocodile

Step 1--Blow up the balloon half way.

Step 2--Start at the beginning with the knot and twist a 3 to 4-inch bubble or 3 or 4 fingers wide. Make sure you hang on to both ends of balloon, otherwise it will untwist. Twist it around 2 or 3 times. Do not worry it will not break. Why didn't it break? There is space at the end of the balloon for the extra air. That is why we only blow the balloon up half way.

Step 3--While holding on to the twisted balloon, make another bubble 1 to 2 fingers in size. This will be the one eye. Do not let go.

Step 4--Make another balloon bubble the same size. This is the other eye. Look at picture.



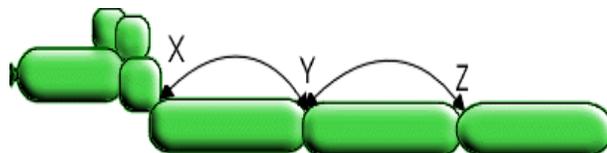
Step 5--Twist balloon joints A & B together. Twist 2 or 4 times all the way around. The balloon will not break, and they will stay together.



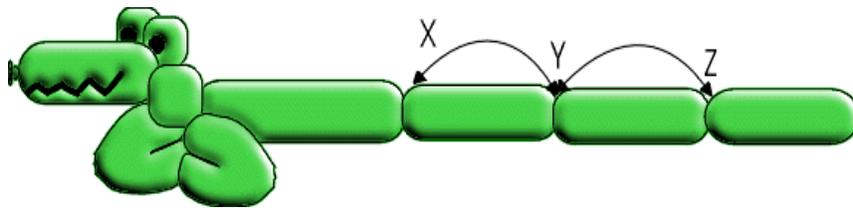
If yours looks like this, very good; if not, try it again. Practice makes perfect.

Step 6--Now for the neck. Twist a 2 to 3-inch bubble or 3 or 4 fingers wide. This is the neck. Make sure you hang on to the balloon, both parts.

Step 7--Let's make the front legs, after all--we want your crocodile to stand. Start by twisting a 3 to 4-inch bubble. Hang on to the neck as you twist the balloon, and do not let go of the leg. Twist point Y into point X, then twist point Z into point X

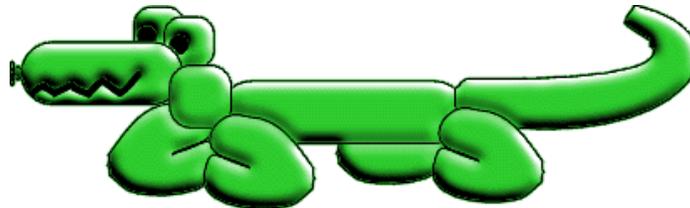


Step 8--Back legs, same as the first. Twist a 3 to 4-inch bubble. Twist those two parts together just like you did with the other legs. Remember twist around each other 4 or 5 times. Twist the parts together to look like the drawing.



Step 9--Have a lot of balloon left over? That's the tail.

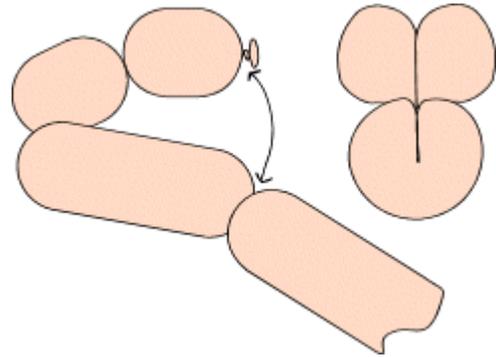
Congratulations, you just made you first Crocodile.



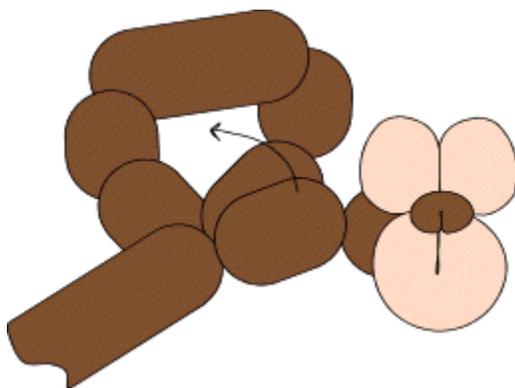
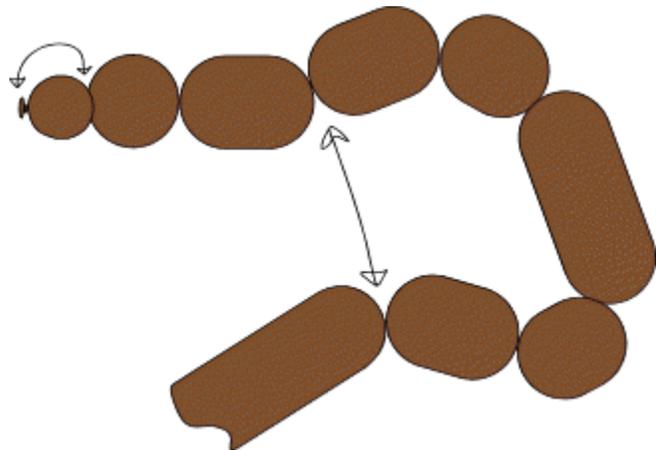
Monkey

A great Vacation Bible School theme and found a good one on Balloon HQ designed by artists like Ralph Dewey. His model is the inspiration for what follows.

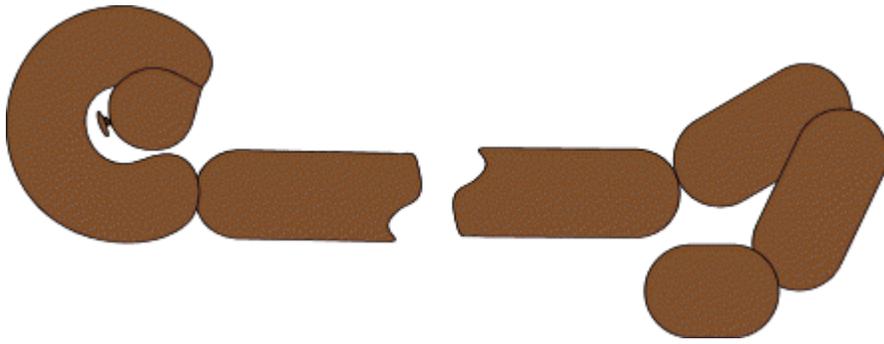
One will need three brown and one blush (pink or white may be substituted) 260 balloons. Begin by making the face with the blush, inflating it at least 10 inches. Make two 2-inch bubbles and a 4-inch bubble, and then *tie* the knot to the last twist. loop twist the four-inch bubble. You may pinch twist the two inch bubbles as well for a different look. Then break off the rest of the balloon. If you're making more than one monkey, you should have enough left for one or two more faces.



Inflate one brown balloon, leaving about 4 inches uninflated. Start with a 3/4-inch bubble and give it a pinch twist for the nose. Then make a 1.5 and a 2-inch bubble. The next five bubbles will make a loop and become the head, like the standard teddy-bear head. Sizes should be 2", 1.5", 3", 1.5" and 2".

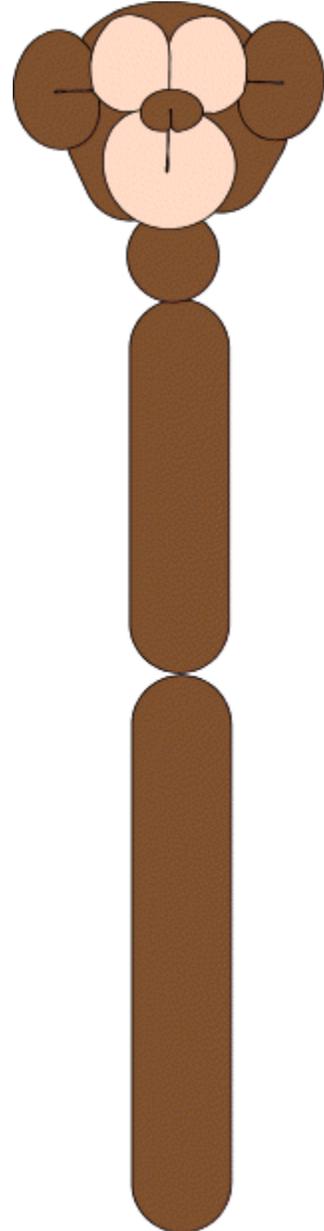


Slide the pinch twist between the 4-inch loop and the 2-inch bubbles of the blush balloon for the nose. Tuck the 1.5 and 2-inch bubbles into the five-bubble-loop, and give both of the 1.5 bubbles in the loop an ear twist.

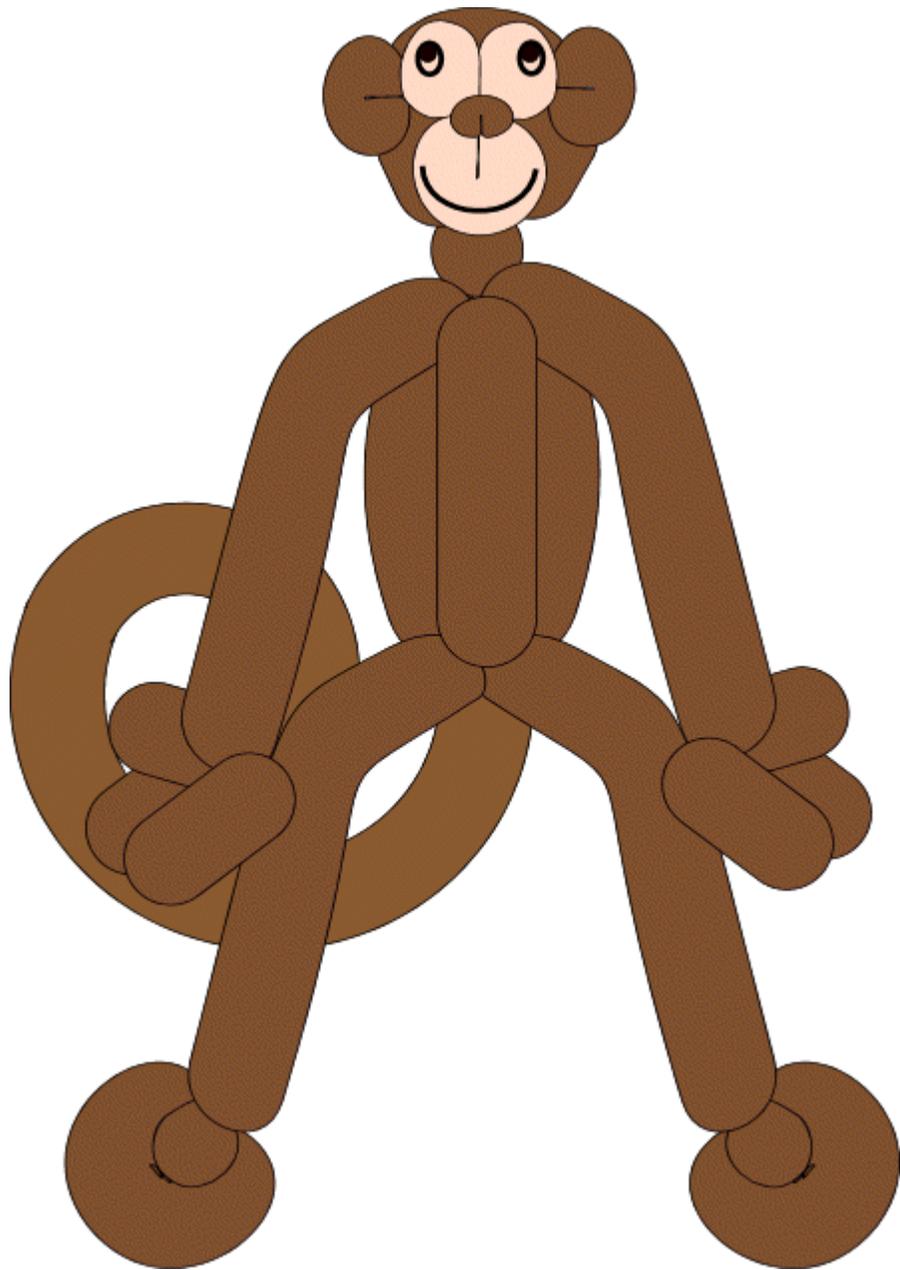


Inflate both of the remaining brown balloons leaving about 2 inches uninflated. In each balloon make a foot by making a 1.5-inch bubble and a loop just big enough to tuck the bubble inside.

If necessary, squeeze the air to the opposite end of each balloon, and then make a hand by twisting a 1.5-inch bubble (thumb) and two 2-inch bubbles. Lock twist the 2-inch bubbles together and tuck the base of the thumb between them.



Twist both of these two balloons together about eight inches from the hands. In the other balloon, make a 1.5-inch bubble for a neck and attach the arms at its base.



Hold the remainder of the three balloons together and twist them all about five or six inches below the neck. This will make a three-bubble body with the remainder being legs and a tail. Wrap the tail around your fingers to give it a curve. Position the arms by tucking them into the body. Hips, elbows, shoulders and knees can be added using the Z-Bend technique.

END