

How to Easily Make a Beautiful Paper Maché Fish



Supplies



SUPPLIES LIST A:

Glitter (or glitter glue or both - any color or type - Joanne's Fabrics has this)

2 Plain white 9" scalloped edge paper plates (Dollar Tree store has them - not shown)

Labels - Avery self adhesive address or use white copy paper cut into 1" (2) and 3/4" (1) strips (not shown).

1 Sheet tissue wrap paper for each fish you want to make - any color you choose.

1 Bamboo skewer to cut into 1" lengths

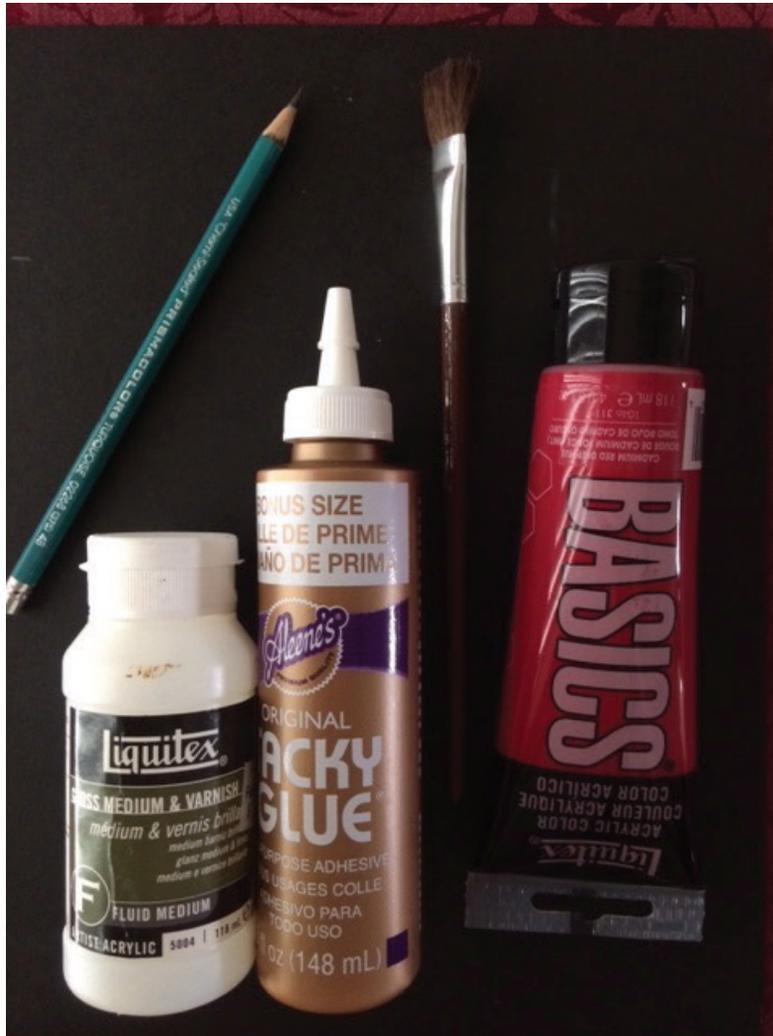
Fishing line (thick) - Cut as long as you require to hang.

1 pair 1" diameter googly eyes or use self stick foam sheeting (gli

Tape (any kind that adheres well to paper for inside of fish and taping tissue)

Decorations like sequins - Joanne's Fabric carries them.

Scissors - plastic safety and with adult supervision



SUPPLIES LIST B:

1/2" flat paint brush - you may also like a small round brush)

Pencil and eraser

Liquitex Gloss medium and varnish (or similar brand)

Tacky glue or similar fast set glue

Acrylic paints - include one metallic like silver or gold also - *Basics*® is relatively inexpensive and available at Michaels or Richards Arts & Crafts stores.

Recommended colors: Cadmium Red, deep; Cobalt Blue; Cadmium

Yellow Medium or lemon yellow; Titanium White; Silver and/or Gold

Interference (optional - available from art supply stores - gives opalescent look)

How To Assemble



HOW TOS:

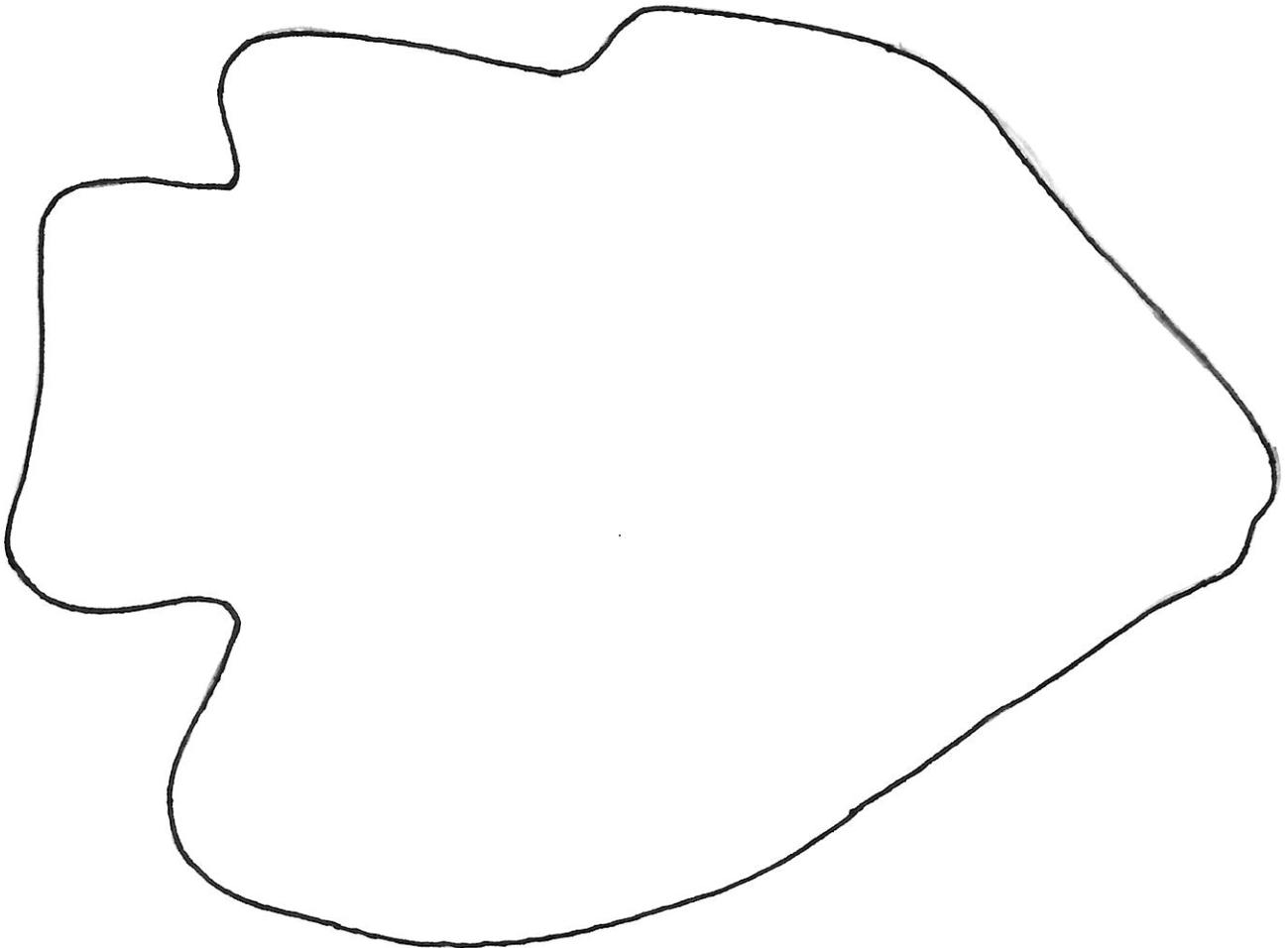
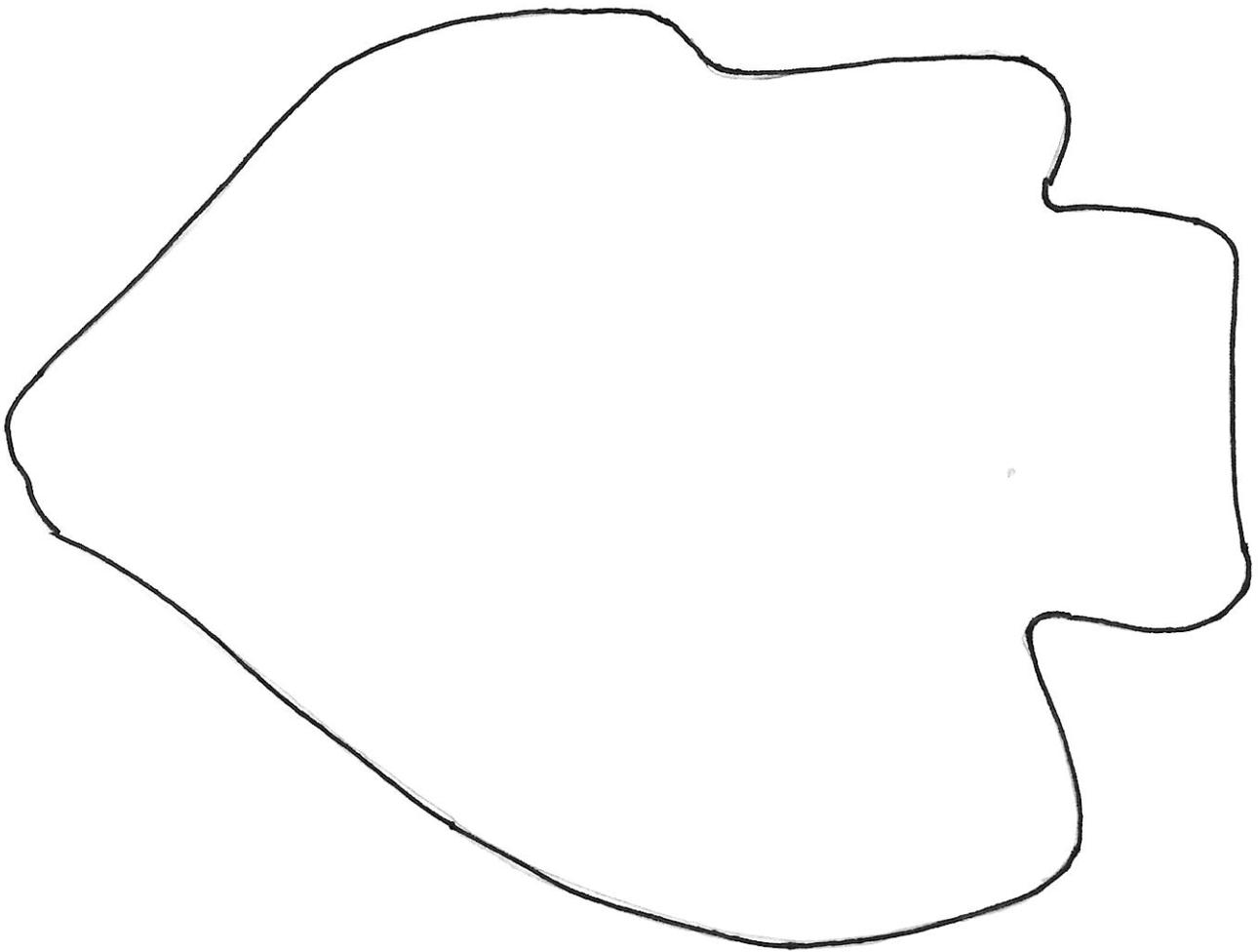
Cut out two paper plates to make your fish. (The template for making these is on the next page.) You can tape the template to the plate if it helps flatten it while tracing.

Cut One left and one right.

Use the template on the next page to trace out one fish shape for the left side and one for the right side. Make sure that the paper plates match when placed together and they form a puffed fish shape.

Trim any extra plate pieces away so they are exactly the same when left and right sides are paired together.

ADULTS HELP: Cut ~2" of bamboo skewer (Try using wire cutters or heavy duty scissors - pieces fly when cut - keep children away), and tie one end of the fishing line onto the center - make sure it's secure and won't come loose. (see diagram after fish template)

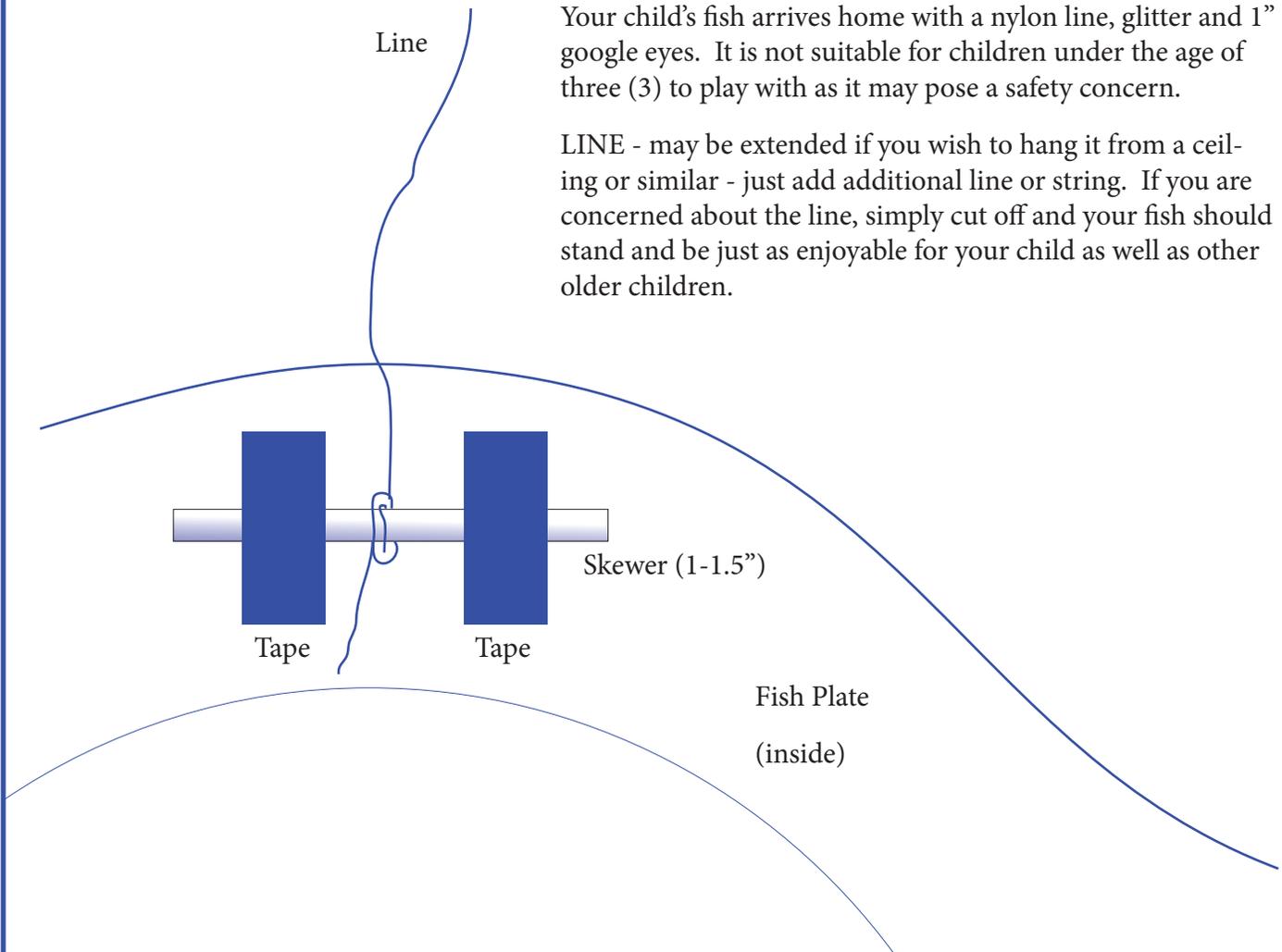


Hanging Fish

IMPORTANT NOTE TO PARENTS:

Your child's fish arrives home with a nylon line, glitter and 1" google eyes. It is not suitable for children under the age of three (3) to play with as it may pose a safety concern.

LINE - may be extended if you wish to hang it from a ceiling or similar - just add additional line or string. If you are concerned about the line, simply cut off and your fish should stand and be just as enjoyable for your child as well as other older children.



TAPE THE BAMBOO SKEWER with line attached firmly to the center top skewer only on the inside of one fish plate. Tape skewer anchor on both sides of the stick.

GLUE the top of the fish plates together 1/4" (or less) in from the edge and only along the longest top sides (don't glue the tail yet).

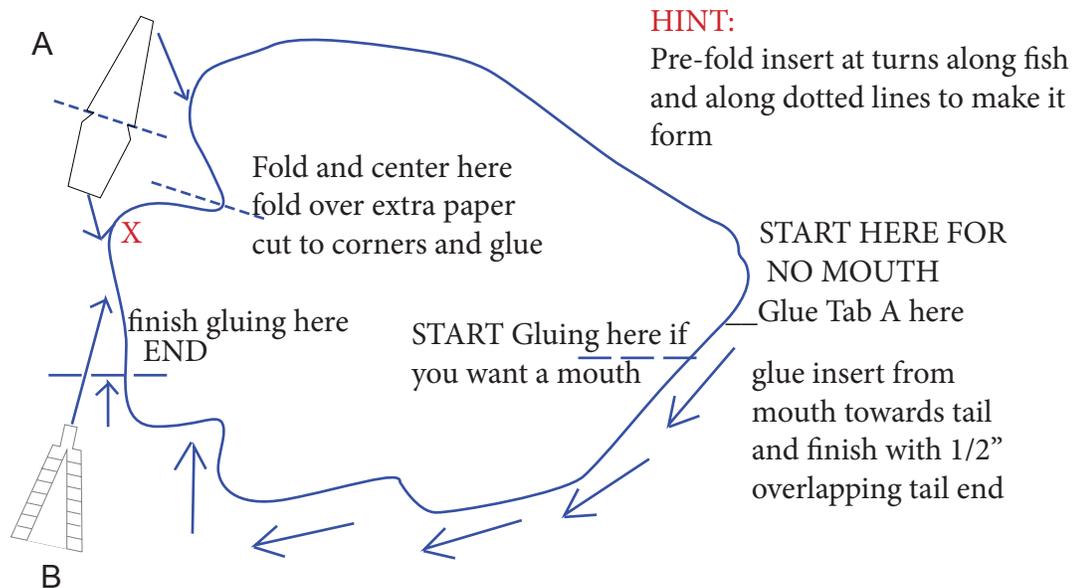
PRESS TOGETHER by running fingers up and down until it sticks well and fish hangs horizontally from line in a position that looks correct - you can adjust the line a little until the glue dries. If the line is in the wrong place, just undo the tape and reposition then press together again.

Insert your hand into your fish through the bottom opening to 'puff out' and make sure your fish will stand before going any further. Make trimming adjustments carefully with scissors if necessary. so fish stands without support.

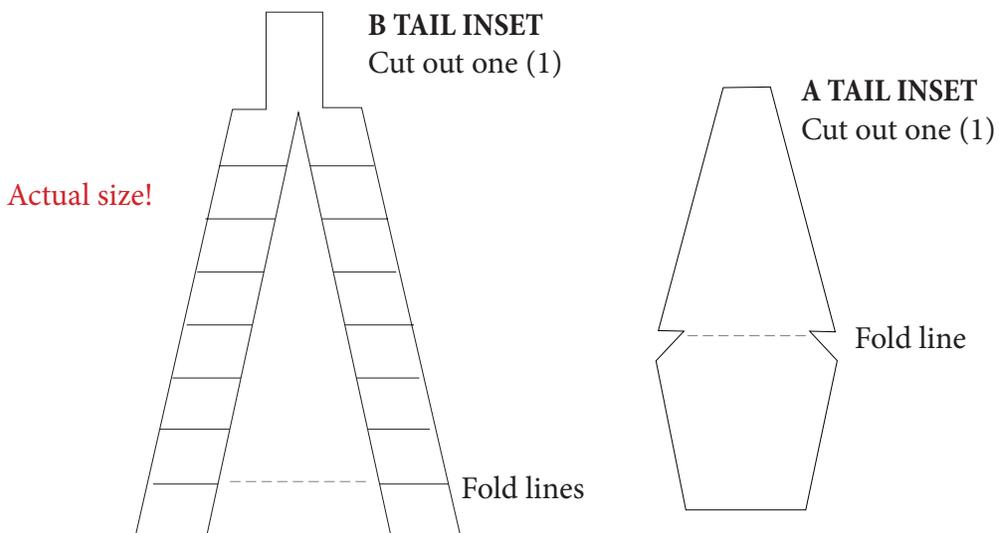
Fish Tail Insets

Now glue together the top of the tail (just a small glue amount on the very tip - (X). This forms an open gusset for 'A' tail inset.

Cut out pieces A AND B. Follow directions and glue in A and B then STOP.



STOP WHEN YOU HAVE A & B DONE

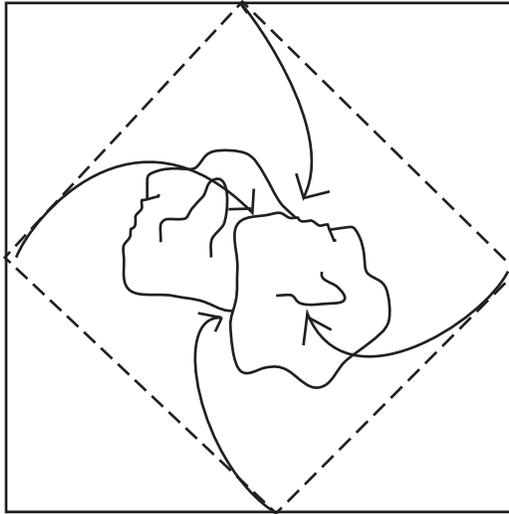


Fish 'Guts'....ooooeee!

Now you have tabs A and B in place. We will make the fish 'guts' out of tissue paper. Choose any paper you like that's plain or colored. Suggest using colored if you have an open 'mouth' so it shows through. Pink or red is nice!

(2)

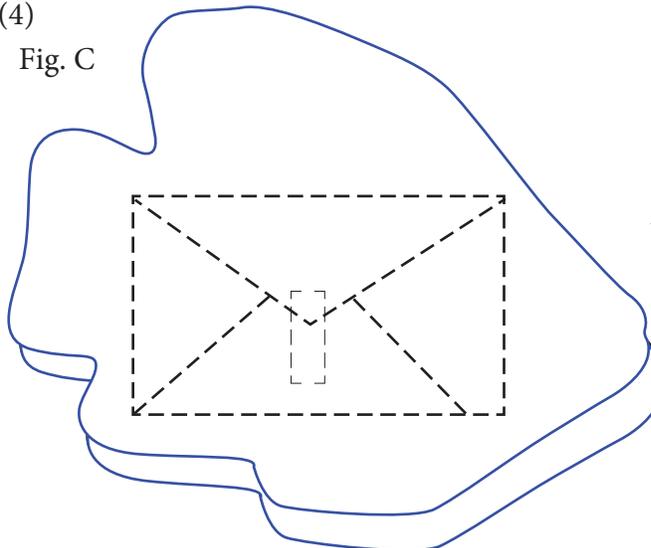
Fig. A



Ball up two of the squares and place them into the center of one of the un-balled tissues. (Fig. A)

(4)

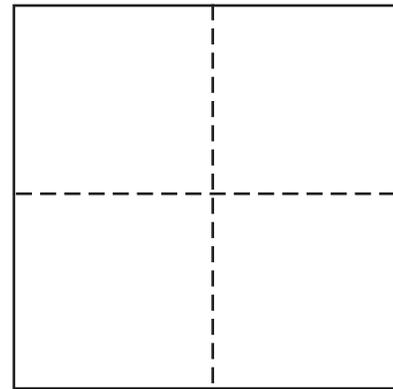
Fig. C



Stuff this envelope into the inside of your fish so that it does not show past the edge of the cut out pocket. Fig C.

(1)

Fold full size tissue in half and then half again and cut along the fold lines.



Now fold each corner to the center and repeat until you have something looking like an envelope. Tape the top piece to the rest of the package. (See Fig. B)

(3)

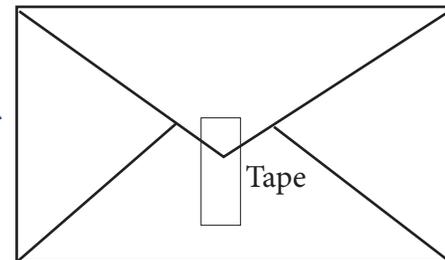


Fig. B

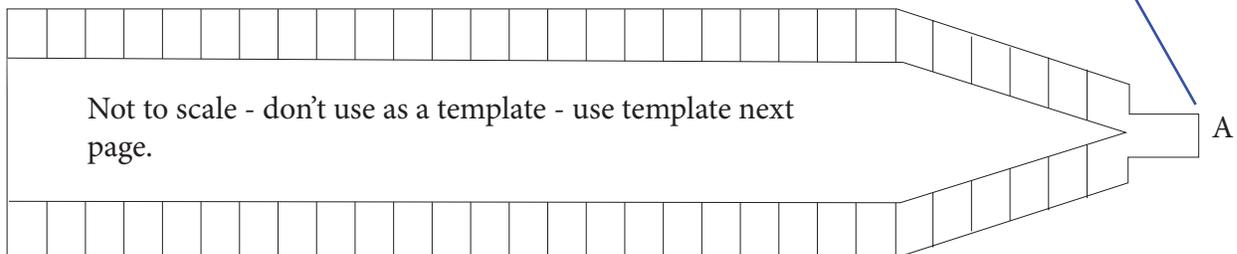
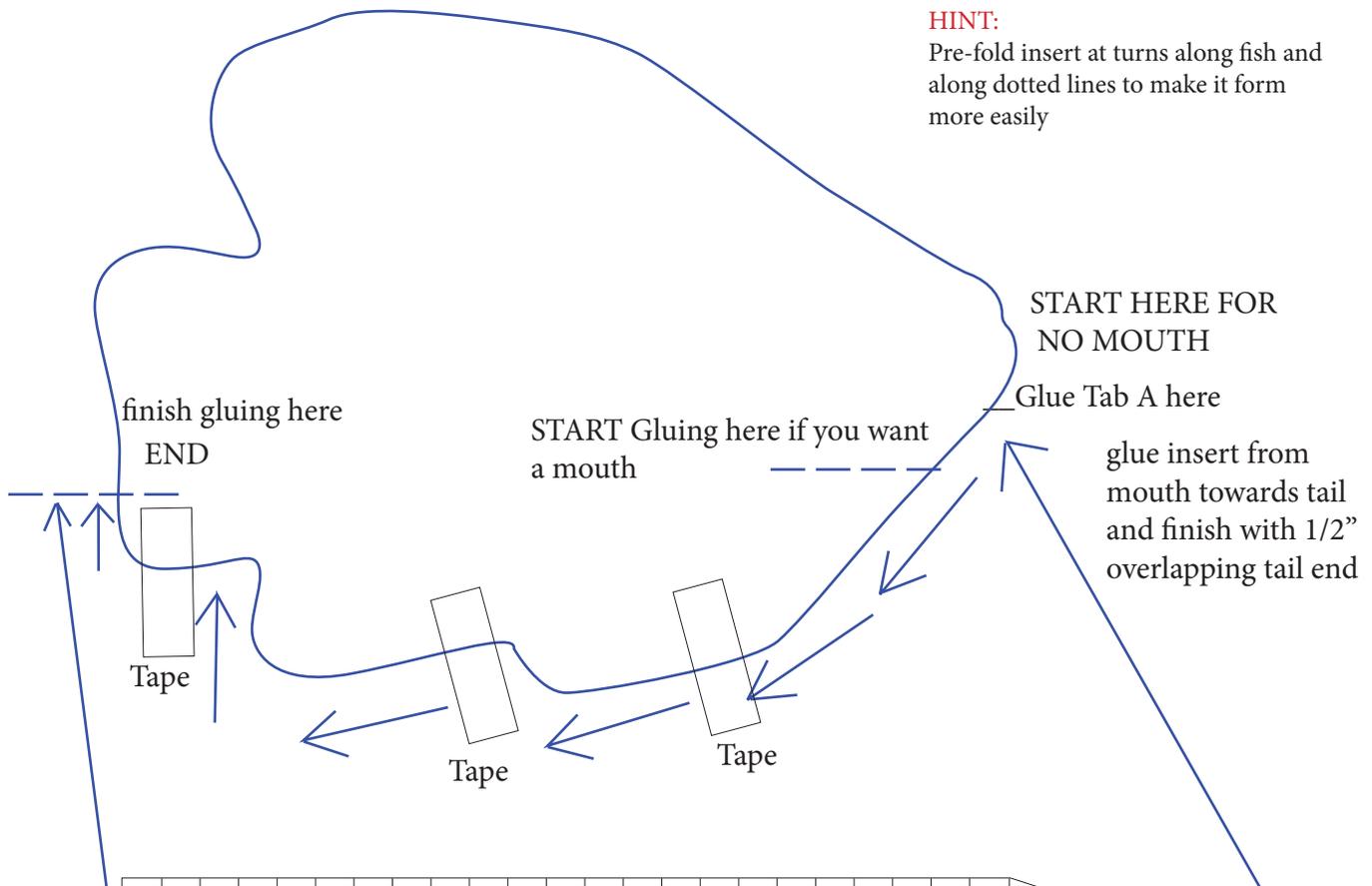
Stuff this envelope into the inside of your fish so that it does not show past the edge of the cut out pocket. Fig C. Scrunch edges of envelope if necessary.

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Tummy Inset

HINT:

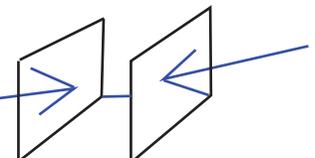
Pre-fold insert at turns along fish and along dotted lines to make it form more easily



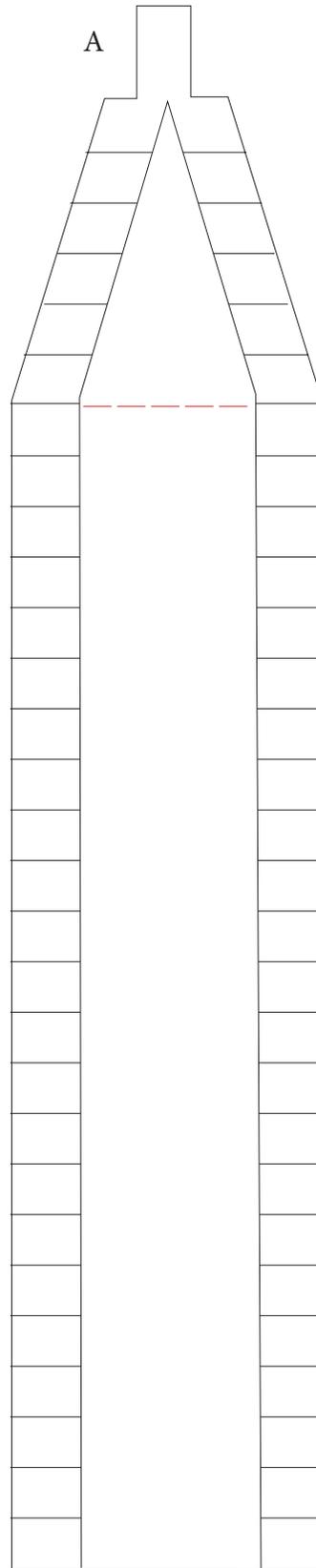
ASSEMBLE:

1. On outside of fish, use self adhesive labels to tape one side of fish over to the other side and crease at the corners so it forms a box shape. Tape forming 'tummy' of fish should be 1" wide.
2. Starting at the 'mouth' after deciding to leave an opening or not, use cutout C and fold at areas that change direction to make the fish stand neatly. Next add a small amount of glue all the way around on the fish. Fold tabs over along solid long lines and carefully stick down along the length of the tummy of the fish towards the back where it meets the tail inset. Fold over any extra paper and glue down.

1. Glue to fish left & right sides



CUT out 'C' and then cut along each small gray line. Do not cut off the front (top) tab if you do not want to leave an open 'mouth'.



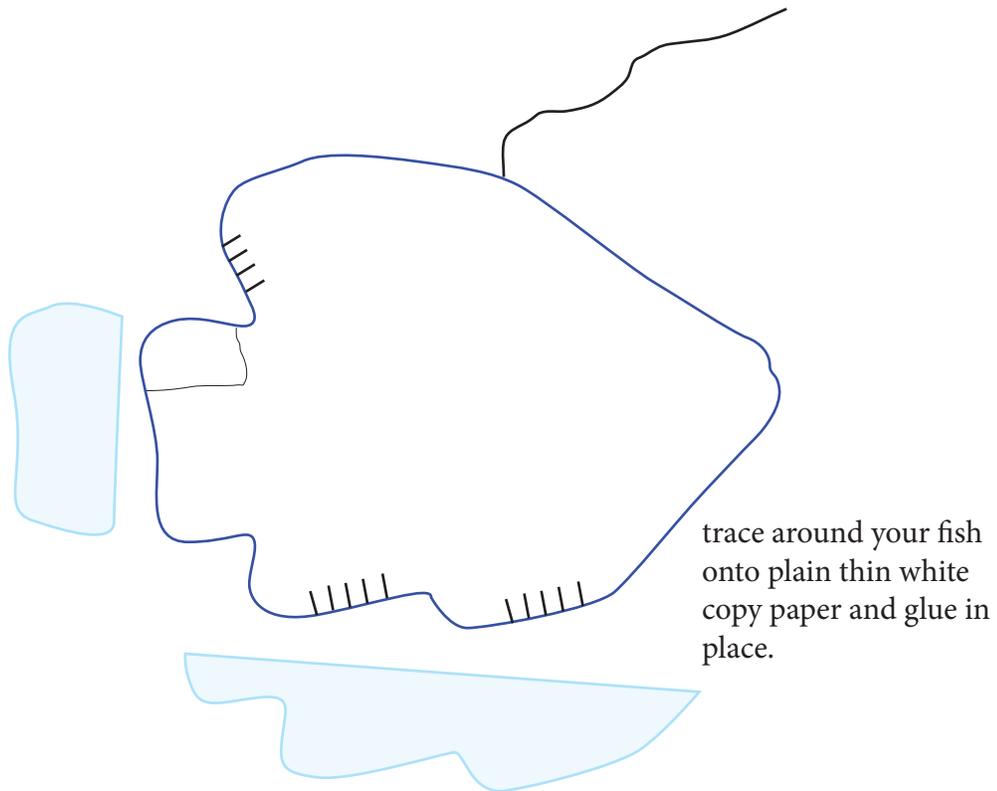
Actual size!

END

Fish 'Covers'

If tabs and paper joins become too visible or bulky, you can trace around your fish with plain white paper and cut out pieces to cover over the tabs and paper labels and adhere right over the top - your fish will have few visible tabs or joins when you paint it. Allow plenty of time for glue to dry before painting.

The best looking fish result from fewer paper joins and glue visible BEFORE you paint them.



Paint & Decorate

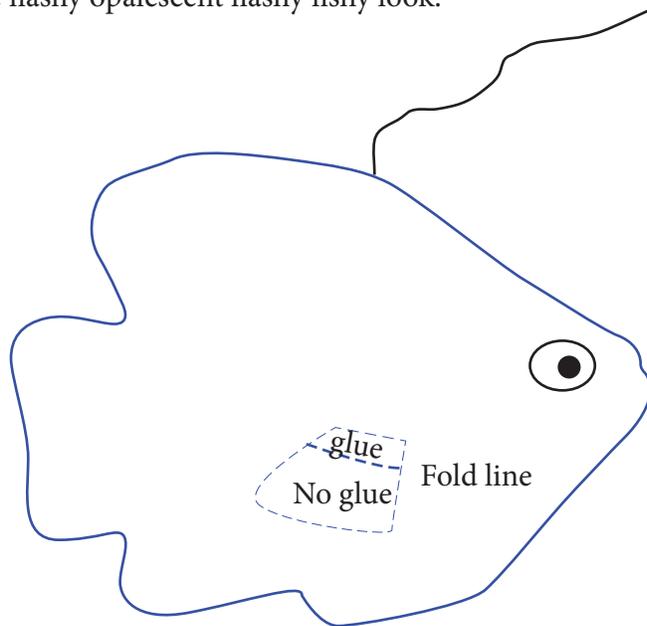
Here's the fun part you've waited for!

Start with fins **FIRST**.

Fins are optional - there is a left and a right fin. Fold the fin along the fold line and place glue only on the small folded part. Make sure the fins and eyes are dry first before proceeding

Mix paints and apply several coats to your fish the way you like it. Choose bright colors like cadmium reds, lemon yellows mixed with cobalt blue for turquoise. Make purple using cadmium red and blue or lavender by adding some white as well. Allow each coat to dry first before adding the next or it will mix.

You can make your fish shiny by adding a small amount of Gloss Medium and Varnish. Liquitex is one brand. Also try C.T. Interference by Golden (Green-Blue gives your fish a nice flashy opalescent flashy fishy look.

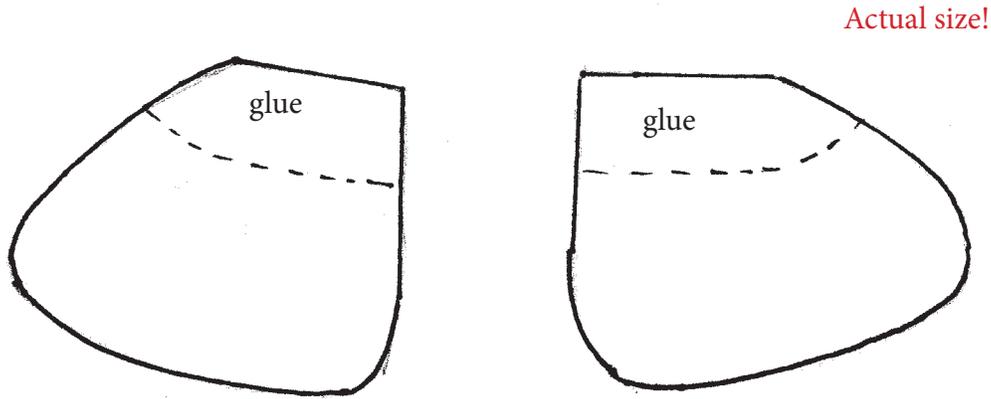


When your fish is just the way you like it and it's dry, you can start adding the fun **glitter, sequins and eyes**. Position them similar to the illustration above. You can use googly eyes or cut out sparkle eyes from the self-stick foam.

Add thin beads of glue and sprinkle glitter onto your fish - but don't use too much glue as it takes a long time to dry - especially on days with moisture in the air. You can air dry your fish by taping it securely to a table from the nylon fishing line.

CONGRATULATIONS! Your fish is now ready to swim around your room!

Add Fins



CUT out fins for your fish. There is a left and a right side fin. Place these templates onto the paper plate and position them as the photo shows below, so you have ridges along the edge of your fins. Fold up from the edge of the ridges to the shortest side (diagram above). This becomes the area to place your glue and attach to your fish.



IMPORTANT NOTE TO PARENTS:

We hope your child enjoyed making the Paper Fish Paper Fish Maché project.

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