

EASTER GONKS

This quick and easy upcycle transforms unusable baby-grows into these charming Easter Gonks. Even better, there is no sewing involved! Make each one as they are or combine the different methods to make your own unique version. The possibilities are endless!



WE USED	
MATERIALS	EQUIPMENT
Baby grows (you can use socks or any scraps of fabric) Wool/felting wool/toy fur Small piece of felt (optional) Strong thread Polyester toy stuffing Polystyrene cone (or make one from cardboard) Plastic bottle Small piece of cardboard	Glue gun Cutting board Scissors Tape measure or ruler Pencil or pins
<p>NOTES:</p> <p>The beauty of these Gonks is you can make them using bits and pieces you might already have in the house. There are no particular rules or proportions to follow, you just judge as you go along. Neither are we looking for precision here – cut freehand if confident or simply make a template if it helps you.</p>	



The Main Body:

We like using sleeves for our bodies where we can as it allows for a neat edge that won't fray which can be useful. Simply cut straight across from the underarm – this gives you the longest length to work with and you can always cut away any excess as necessary.



1) Version A: Turn the sleeve inside out and using your fingers to pinch the fabric together, gather up the raw open edge. Secure in place with strong thread before adding some glue to the gathered edge (this just helps hold it together).



2) Turn the body through to right side. Flatten the bottom and measure the diameter. Cut a corresponding circle in card and then cut a smaller circle in the middle. Turn back through to the wrong side and push the gathered end through the middle hole. Glue in place and once set, turn back through to the right side arranging the gathers evenly around the base. Stuff until you are happy with the size and then finish by gathering and securing as in Step 1.

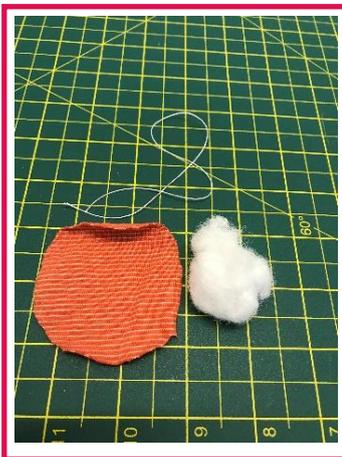




Version B & C: This involves using a pre-constructed base, in our case a polystyrene cone (you can also make your own from cardboard) and a plastic bottle.

For the cone, we marked a straight line from top to bottom and using this as a guide marked the correct size and shape onto our fabric. We allowed for a small overlap around the base to give the bottom a tidy finish. To give the body a softer feel, we also added a layer of felt to the cone before sticking the outer fabric on.

To cover the bottle we used a sleeve, tucking the end underneath and gluing in place. To tidy the top we cut off most of the excess and stuffed the remainder into the neck of the bottle. We also added a small bit of polystyrene to the neck so our hat would be fully supported.



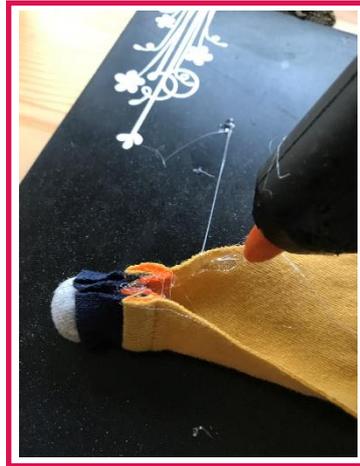
Nose, hands and feet::

These are all made the same way, you can simply vary the size as necessary. Cut a circle in fabric approx. twice the size you want your finished ball to be. Loosely roll a small amount of stuffing into a ball and place in the middle of the wrong side of your circle. Gather up using the same method as in step 1 for the body and secure tightly (you can always cut your circle a little bigger which will give you more to hold onto while gathering and then trim away the excess. To add definition to the hands, just wrap the thread vertically around the ball and pull slightly. Repeat as you like until you get the desired effect and then secure the thread.



Arm and legs:

These are very simple to make. Cut two rectangles making sure the width will stretch around your hand/foot while also allowing for a small overlap. Using a pre-neatened edge will allow for a tidier finish here. Glue the bottom edge around your hand/foot approx. halfway down it. Once set, start to glue along the long edge, pinching the edges together to form a tube. You can either leave this flat or stuff slightly (and carefully so not to burst the glued edge) to create a more rounded tube. You can then create an elbow or knee by wrapping and tying with thread.



Hat:

Here you can either use sleeves or create your own shape in fabric. We used a short sleeve for our stripy hat and simply cut around the armhole, then glued the raw edges together to form a cone shape. For the spotty hat, we used a long sleeve and wrapped and tied some thread a third of the way down. We also added a small amount of stuffing to our stripy hat to help it stand up (this wasn't necessary with our cone or bottle as they already created the solid base for the hat).



The Ears: Here you can have some fun! The ears can be cut freehand in fabric or felt. If you want to help create some depth to them, just cut the bottom a little wider and make a pleat in the centre, gluing it securely in place. Or as with our spotty hat, you can cut the excess fabric lengthwise down the middle to create two pieces and then simply cut them into ear shapes!



The Beard:

This couldn't be any simpler. We used wool, some felting wool and also a remnant piece of toy faux fur. We wrapped the wool around our hand to create loops and once we had enough for our beard, we just removed it keeping the top loops together. We tied these loosely to keep them together and then cut along the bottom loops to create strands. We then cut the bottom of these into the desired shape. Felting wool creates a realistic appearance but you need a little more patience when using your glue gun! The fibers are very fine and it is easy to get in a mess with it. We would suggest pulling off a thin strip and working the wool in sections, gluing a small amount at a time overlaying the strips slightly. You can then finger comb the fibers so they merge together. When cutting faux fur, cut from the back and only through the backing fabric. Do not cut through the fur itself as this will create a sharp unrealistic edge.



Assembly:

Once you have all your elements made you can start to bring them all together. This is just a matter of placing them where you want them and making sure no raw edges are showing (unless you want them to)! Gluing can get a little messy so just use small quantities and work a small area at a time.

As a rough guide, the features should sit approx. halfway on the body but it really is up to you. Don't be afraid to just play around with the placement before gluing.



We had so much fun making these! They don't take long and make great decorations and you can make them any size you want. Why not give them a little basket filled with chocolate eggs to hold and give as a gift? Or make a family of them and use them for an Easter Gnome hunt instead of the usual chocolate eggs!



Designed by Vanessa from the CBSA Tool Shed project, funded by The National Lottery Community Fund.

