

- The figures of Anthony Gormley, even the iconic Angel of the North were made by the artist literally modelled on his own body. This art technique can be imitated by wrapping children in cling film then mod rock—but here’s a better way of approaching this with primary children by using brown parcel tape! You will need about one roll of tape per person. This technique uses an Easter egg principle—casting body parts on real people, cutting them into “egg halves”, then rejoining them. You can use two children (of similar sizes) to make each character as follows:
- Think of the character you are creating and decide on your pose—it must be something the wrapped person can hold for some time!

- To cut the person out at the end of the process you need to begin the casting process by creating card “seam lines” - on the bottom half of the body these follow the line of the outside trouser seam (go up beyond the waist) - on the torso create a T shape with card down the spine and across the shoulders. Attach the card with masking tape.



First part of the process is to create an underlay for the cast which is made of two layers of tissue paper (the two layers are to prevent water seepage and staining), attach these as a close around the body with the masking tape —make sure there are no gaps your coverage..



But don't tape the paper on to your actual model.



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- The top layer of the body cast is made of strips of pre-gummed brown parcel tape. Each piece of tape needs to be wetted first, so trays with wet J cloths or sponges are helpful here. Note—be careful where the children put down the roll of tape—if it sits in a pool of water it will solidify into one solid mass! Tip—hold the tape in place for a moment on the body of your model before you go for the next piece so as to allow it to set.



- Once the first layer of parcel tape is in place scribble over it in felt pen, so that you can see where you've been, then put on a second layer of tape.

- When creating the torso you can create mitt like hands on the body at the same time, but if you want more distinctive hands these can be cast separately (likewise the feet)



- Of course you are not going to wrap a child's head in this way, so cast your figures' heads using either a balloon as a model, or even a balloon wearing a mask!

- The parcel tape will harden very quickly, but it will still be wise to have something for your model to lean on, as we don't want them keeling over! You can cast each part of the body in two sections e.g. lay the child on the floor and cast the front part of the legs one day and the back half the next— just make sure they are holding the same pose if you do it this way!



- Soon you will be able to cut the child out of their cast using the card as the guidelines i.e. do not cut the card itself, use it as a trackway (be careful which scissors you use— get an adult to do this!). Your model should then be able to wriggle out of the cast.

- Stitch the body parts together with masking tape or with the parcel tape, and then stuff your body with newspaper to help it keep its shape while it dries properly.



- When casting the individual pieces do make sure there is sufficient overlap to attach them together e.g. if casting hands separately, go above the wrist to slot into the sleeve.



- Fit all the pieces together. To help the figure to stand you may like to do something such as use a rounders' pole and base inside each leg, or attach to a back board
- Once ready, prime with white (dry brush) emulsion to give a fresh white base rather than brown card on which to apply your colour. You can then work on it with acrylic paints or tissue and cold water paste to create the details in bright colours. Add paper pulp and glue for textures such as hair.

