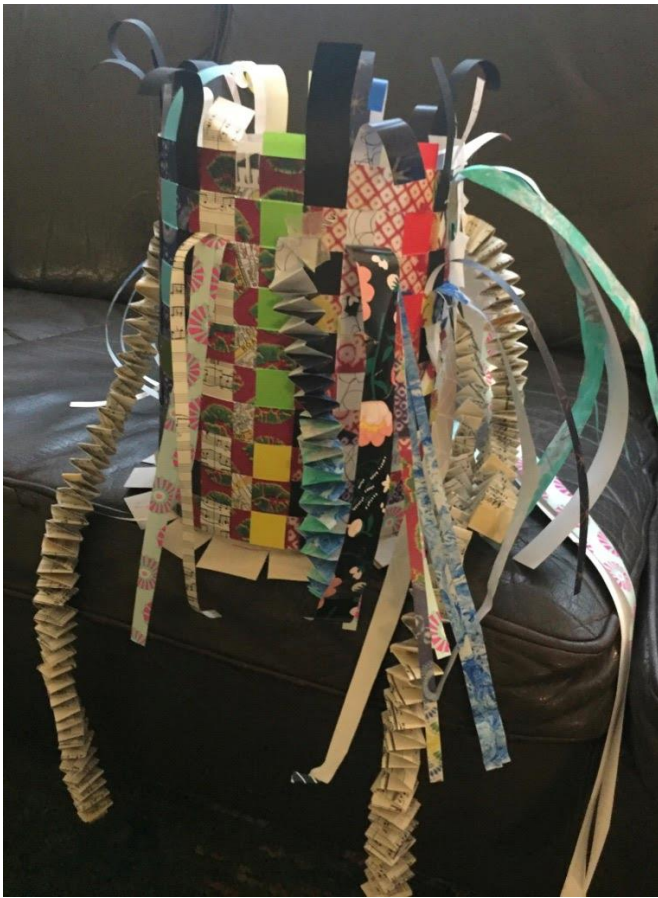


Make a Morris Dancer's Hat



Photographs: © EFDSS; photographer: Shelagh McCarthy

A creative paper craft resource by Shelagh McCarthy

English Folk Dance and Song Society

The English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS) is the national development organisation for folk music, dance and related arts, based at Cecil Sharp House, a dedicated folk arts centre and music venue, in Camden, North London. Cecil Sharp House is also home to EFDSS' Vaughan Williams Memorial Library (VWML), England's national folk music and dance archive, which provides free online access to thousands of searchable folk manuscripts and other materials. EFDSS creates and delivers creative learning projects for children, young people, adults, and families at Cecil Sharp House, across London and around the country, often in partnership with other organisations. Learning programmes draw on the diverse and vibrant traditional folk arts of Britain and beyond, focusing on song, music, dance, and related art forms such as storytelling, drama, and arts and crafts. www.efdss/education

Resource credits

Produced by the English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS), October 2020

Make a Morris Dancer's Hat: creative paper craft resource by Shelagh McCarthy

Edited by Beth Beamer, EFDSS Education Administrator

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Introduction: About this resource

This resource uses paper folding, cutting and weaving and sticking - a great fine motor skills activity for younger children and a beautiful design and art project for older children – and adults! It is also a good introduction to the art of weaving and knitting generally.

You can find out about morris dancing and other forms of folk dance, and learn about the rich history and costumes associated with morris, and the ingenuity and skill of folk costume makers past and present, by looking at two of our freely downloadable Beginners' Guides:

[Beginners' Guide to English Folk Dance](https://www.efdss.org/learning/resources/beginners-guides/37-english-folk-dance) -

<https://www.efdss.org/learning/resources/beginners-guides/37-english-folk-dance>

[Beginners' Guide to English Folk Costume](https://www.efdss.org/learning/resources/beginners-guides/34-english-folk-costume/2460-efdss-folk-costume-introduction) -

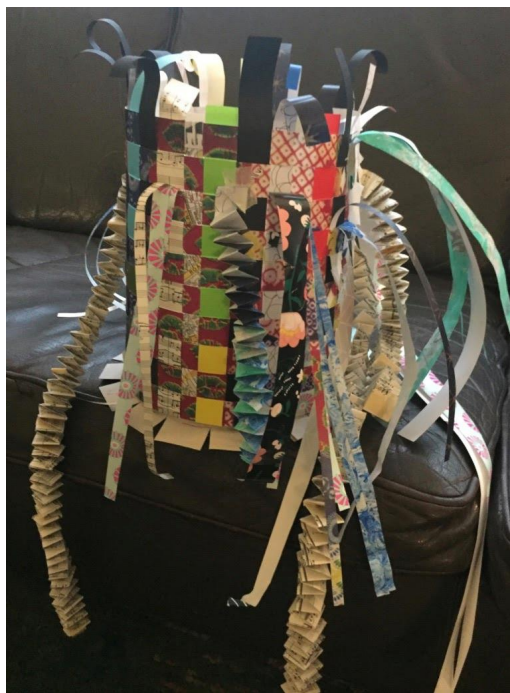
<https://www.efdss.org/learning/resources/beginners-guides/34-english-folk-costume/2460-efdss-folk-costume-introduction>

This creative resource was produced for the English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS) by Shelagh McCarthy during the Covid-19 pandemic of 2020 and the ensuing lockdown and closure of Cecil Sharp House (home of EFDSS) and other arts venues, theatres, shops, restaurants, businesses and schools across the country and world.

Shelagh produced this resource for all to use and enjoy after the arts workshop she had been booked to deliver at Cecil Sharp House as part of EFDSS' annual May in a Day! family festival was cancelled due to the pandemic.

This Make a Morris Dancer's Hat resource is freely downloadable from the EFDSS Resource Bank: www.efdss.org/55-resources/learning-resources/10158-how-to-make-a-morris-hat

Make a Morris Dancer's Hat



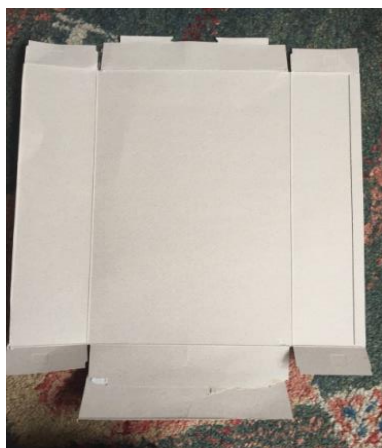
Materials

You will need:

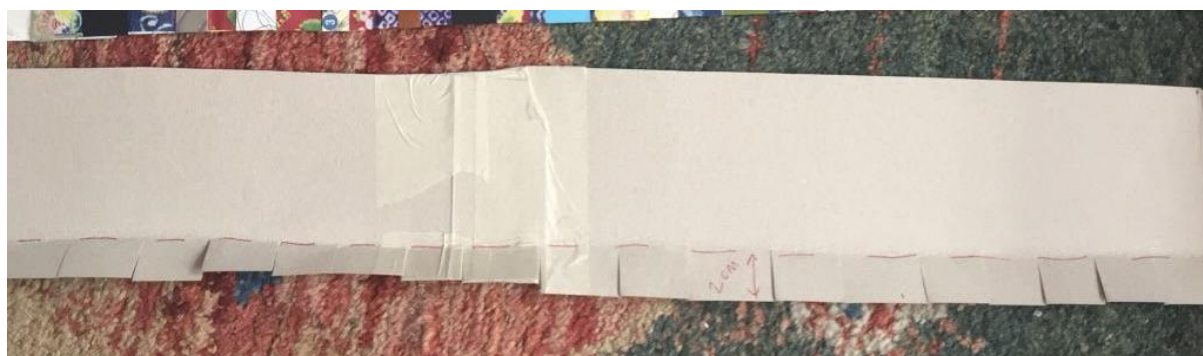
- pencil
- ruler
- scissors
- sticky tape
- empty cereal box or card
- A4 sheet of card paper
- a selection of decorative paper, for example wrapping paper or origami paper cut into 1cm wide strips.
 - Alternatively, you could make your own recycled decorative paper strips using your own drawings, magazines, newspapers, clean food packaging, envelopes, takeaway menus etc.

Instructions – how to make your hat

1. Make a cardboard headband



- Cut the cereal box or card into 10cm wide strips.
- Fold the strips in half longways.
- Cut a fringe along the bottom of the card - this will form the brim of your hat.



- Tape the 2 strips together. Use them to make a band to fit around your head and tape together. Your woven paper will be attached to this.

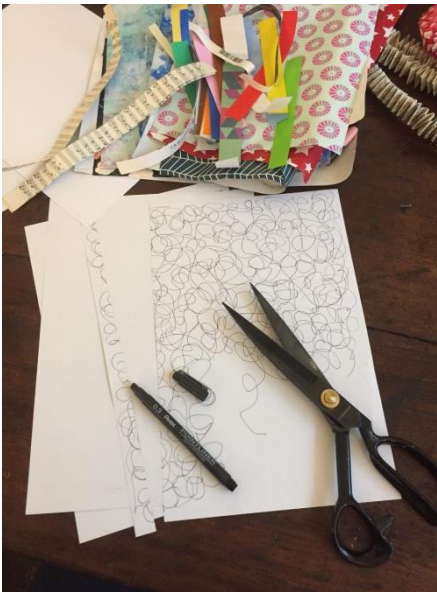
2. Measure out and cut a piece of A4 card to use as your base

- Use a ruler to measure out horizontal strips 2cm apart on a sheet of A4 card or paper. Make sure to leave a gap of 2cm at the top of the paper (this will help keep all the strips together).
- cut along each of the horizontal lines being careful not to cut through the 2cm border at the top.

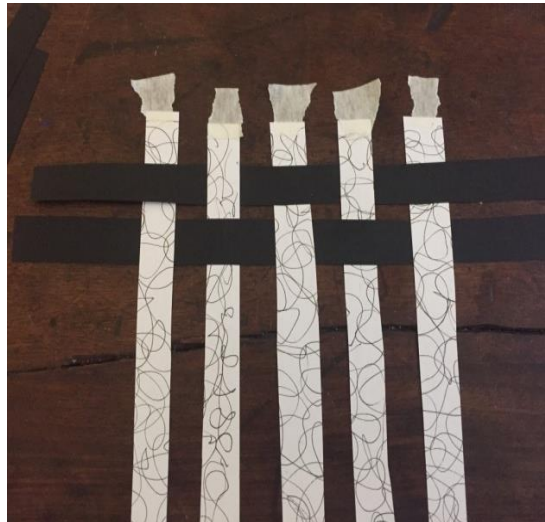


3. Prepare your strips for weaving

- Measure and cut lots of 1cm wide paper strips, the more colourful the better.
- Cut the strips longer than the width of A4 sheet to start with, so that once woven, the ends stick out a bit, on purpose. You can trim to desired length or leave at random heights for a more freestyle effect.

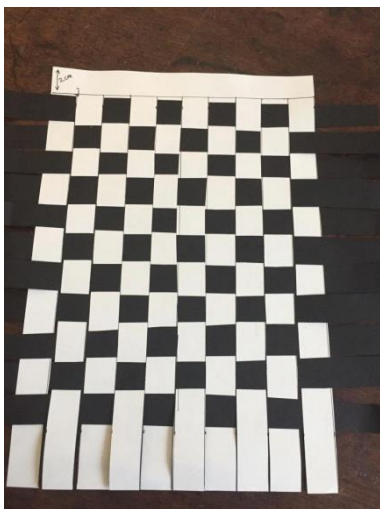


4. Now, using the decorative paper strips and base, begin weaving the crown of your hat!



- Put the base down vertically in front of you (uncut border at the top) and have your collection of prepared paper scraps close by.
- Start your weaving! Pull the paper over and under alternate slots of the base to create a woven texture.

- Leave 3-4 cms of the colourful paper strip sticking out of each side to ensure it doesn't slip out while weaving. (NB: You can fold and tape the strips neatly to one side of the base once you have finished your panel of weaving. Be sure to leave one side untucked, free-style!)
- Once finished with your first strip, gently push the woven strip to the top and start with the next one. Weave the second strip in an opposite pattern as the first. If your first strip went over and under the slits, the second strip should go under and over the slits.
- Keep going, making sure you weave each new strip in an alternating pattern until you get to the bottom of the slits and your rectangle is full.



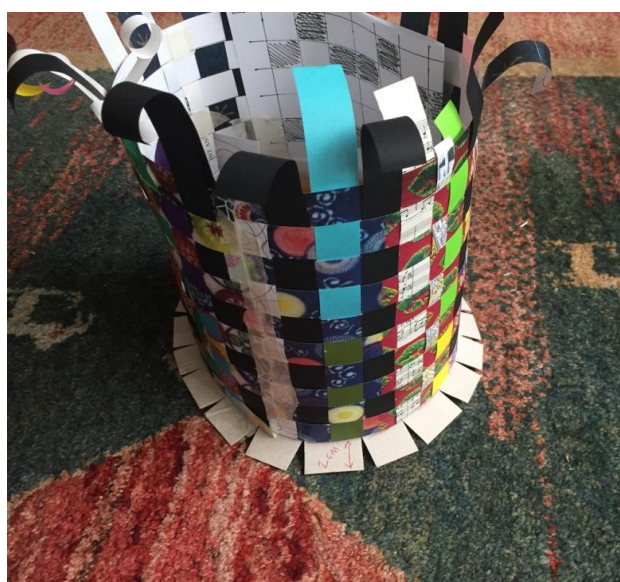
I used lots of different colours and patterns. The piece below is made from two A4 woven panels I stuck together with sticky tape.



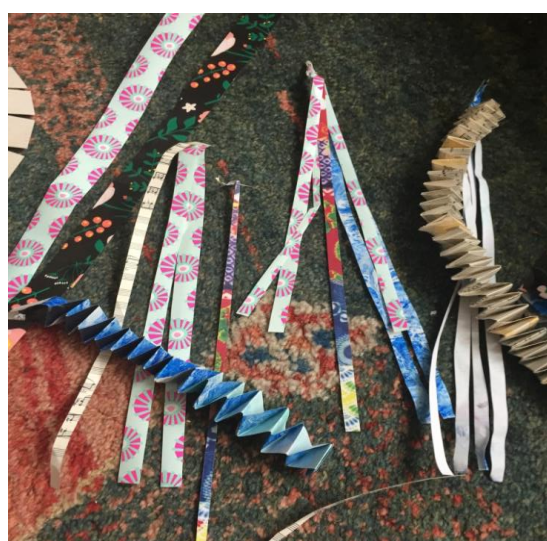
5. Attach the woven panel onto the headband using sticky tape.

Be sure to stick to the upper half only of the headband only, leaving the cut fringe clear, and making sure you have the longer, sticking out, free style paper facing up.

Hold and bend both rectangles next to one another so the edges overlap by a few millimetres and tape together to form a cylinder



6. Make decorations for your hat

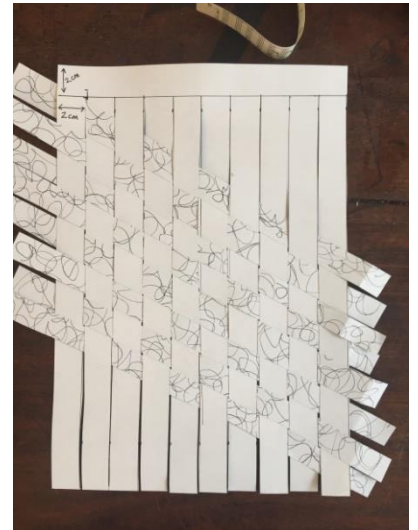
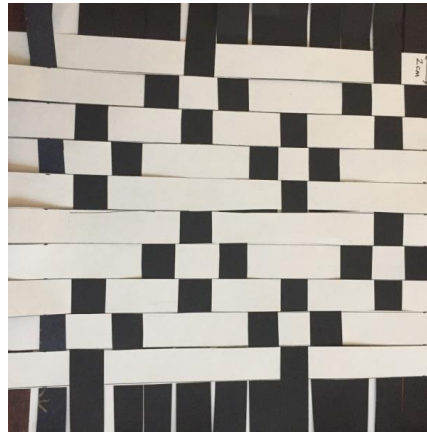


- Use more of your paper strips
- You could add flowers and bells or even ribbons.

Tape them on to your hat.

Send us pictures of your hats!

Now try experimenting with paper weaving!



Weaving patterns can be simple with a one-up-and-one-down sequence. or you can try introducing variations.

Instead of a one-up-and-one-down alternating weaving pattern, try changing to two-up-and-two-down.

Things become even more interesting if you use both patterns simultaneously:

- row 1: two-up-and-one-down
- row 2: two-down-and-one-up

You can even create a diagonal effect by offsetting the pattern in subsequent rows.

- row 1: two-down-and-one-up
- row 2: same as above but offset it by one

See how many different types of patterns you can come up with!



Shelagh McCarthy

Whether you use expensive tools and materials, or the means at hand, my aim is to provide the skills you need to make something fun, functional and beautiful, by hand.

I trained first as a bookbinder, and later studied fine art at Byam Shaw School of Art, (now part of Central St Martins, University of the Arts London).

As a freelance creative practitioner, I've taught in a variety of places from and with a wide range of people all over Britain. I now teach accessible online bookbinding.

I love the English Folk Dance and Song Society! I've planned and delivered their May in a Day! family festival workshop activities for several years and was looking forward to this year's event - then Covid 19 hit and we all had to rethink the way we do things. I am so happy to contribute this activity for online use. I hope you enjoy making the hat!

<https://www.shelaghmccarthy.com/workshop-info>

Resource Bank

Inspire learning with folk

Explore free online materials for using English traditional folk song, music, dance, drama and other arts in your teaching and leading.



Discover more learning resources

www.efdss.org/resourcebank

You can find out about morris dancing and the rich history and costumes associated with this and other folk-dance traditions in the following resources, both of which can be found on the EFDSS Resource Bank:

- [Beginners' Guide to English Folk Costume](#)
- [Beginners' Guide to English Folk Dance](#)



At the English Folk Dance and Song Society, we champion the folk arts at the heart of England's rich and diverse cultural landscape.

Our award-winning Resource Bank contains over 100 resources – incorporating hundreds of audio files, videos and supporting documents, all free to download. They offer endless practical ways to use folk song, music, dance, drama and more in all sorts of community settings, as well as in formal education.

efdss.org/resourcebank

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