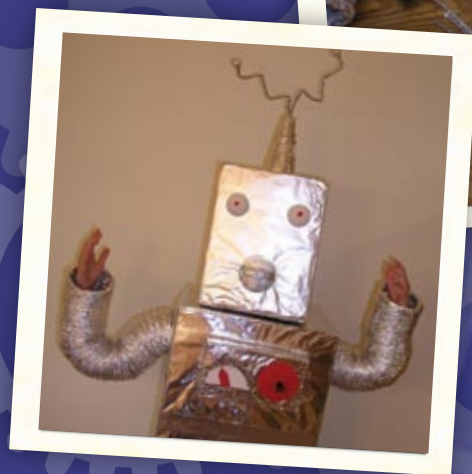


BECOME A ROBOT

You may not have circuits or gears, but with a little creativity you can pretend to be a robot! Follow these steps to turn a few boxes into a space-age robot costume. Or use your imagination and come up with your own unique design.

You will need:

- Large box
- Medium box
- Tissue box
- Aluminum foil
- Chrome-colored duct tape
- Foil dryer vent duct (6-8 feet)
- 4-6 silver chenille wires
- Sink drain cover (available where plumbing supplies are sold)
- Foam cone
- 1" foam ball
- Pair of 2" foam balls
- Plastic knife
- Pair of pushpin thumbtacks
- Scissors
- Marker or pen
- Colored paper
- Wire cutters
- Help from an adult



5. Braid or twist together 2-3 pieces of chenille wire for each antenna, and push them into the top of the foam cone. Wrap the smaller foam balls in foil and add these to the tops of each antenna. Bend the chenille wire several times for a wacky effect. Wrap the cone in foil or metallic tape, and use rolled tape to attach it to the top of the robot head.

BODY

1. Tape shut the large box and turn it on its end. Ask an adult to help you cut out one end so it can be worn over your body.
2. On the other end of the box, draw a circle larger than your head. Ask an adult to help you cut out the circle.
3. Using the dryer vent duct as a guide, trace circles on the sides of the box where your arms will go. Ask an adult to help you cut these out.
4. Cover the box with foil, securing it with tape.
5. Cover the tissue box with foil. Decorate it with colored paper and other available items to make it look like a control box. Use tape to fasten this to the robot body's chest.
6. Ask an adult to help you cut the dryer vent duct into two pieces. You may need to use wire cutters to accomplish this. Ask the adult to help you cover any sharp ends with duct tape.
7. Slide the robot arms into the holes and secure to the inside of the box with tape.

HEAD

1. Tape shut the medium box and turn it on its end. Ask an adult to help you cut out one end so it can be worn like a helmet.
2. Place the box on your head and ask a parent to help you draw two dots on the outside of the box directly over your eyes. Remove the box and draw a circle smaller than the drain cover around the two dots. Ask an adult to help you cut out the circle. This will be your viewing hole and the robot's mouth.
3. Cover the box with aluminum foil, wrapping it like a gift. Leave open the viewing hole. Secure the foil with tape. Place the drain cover over the viewing hole and secure it with tape. (If the drain comes equipped with bendable arms, these will also help secure it.)
4. Use a plastic knife to cut the larger foam ball in half. The two halves will be the robot's eyes. Secure them with rolled pieces of tape. Add the tacks for pupils.

WIN A ROBOT!

Hey kids! Send a painting or drawing of a robot or a photo of you in your best robot costume, and we'll mail you a *Holsom* comic book. We may post your creations, along with your first name and state, on our new *TPE Kids* Web site. And if we hear from you by Jan. 7, you'll also be entered in a drawing for this cool robotic bug kit by Smithsonian. For additional chances to win, ask your parents to help you go online at tpe.ag.org. The drawing will be held Jan. 8, 2009.

