

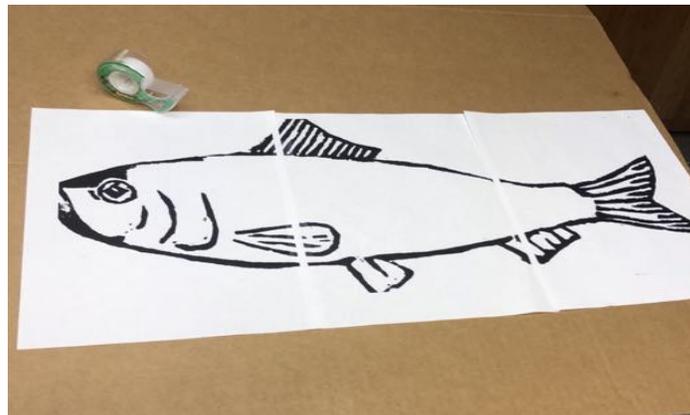
Directions for Making a Ghost Fish

Materials that you'll need:

1. Cardboard- The template is for a 24" fish. A shipping box. The box for an extra large pizza works. Plan ahead so you can rummage recycling.
2. Wooden Stick- 36"-48" . A tomato stake, strapping, something comfortable for you to hold.
3. Paint- You'll need white paint for the cardboard. Old house paint works well. Black or a dark color for drawing the lines.
4. Paintbrush. A 1/2" utility brush works well. So does an acid brush.
5. Utility knife-You will be cutting a bunch cardboard, and no, scissors will not work. Do yourself a favor and put in a sharp new blade.
6. Stapler. It's easier to staple the fish together. In a pinch tape or glued paper tabs work too.
7. Printer, or access to one. The template for the fish outline takes 3 sheets of 8.5"x11" paper
8. Scotch tape You'll need this to put the template together.
9. Antiquated sewer system run by an austerity driven utility to kill the fish. (snark)

What to do:

First thing you'll do is printout the GhostFish-template.pdf. You'll have 3 printed sheets when this is done. Lay them out and tape them together:



The next thing you will do is cut your Ghost Fish from the template and lay it on the cardboard:

After that you'll need to make an outline of the GhostFish on cardboard. You'll do this with the side of a piece of crayon or chalk. There's a wonderful French name for this art technique: "Frottage."



Now for the tricky part. You have to flip over your paper template and make the other side of the Ghost Fish:



When you're done this is what you'll have:



This is a good time to cut out the pectoral fin. I didn't put this on the Ghost Fish template. All you're doing is cutting a piece of leftover scrap to make a fin to insert later. Draw a shape like this and cut it out:



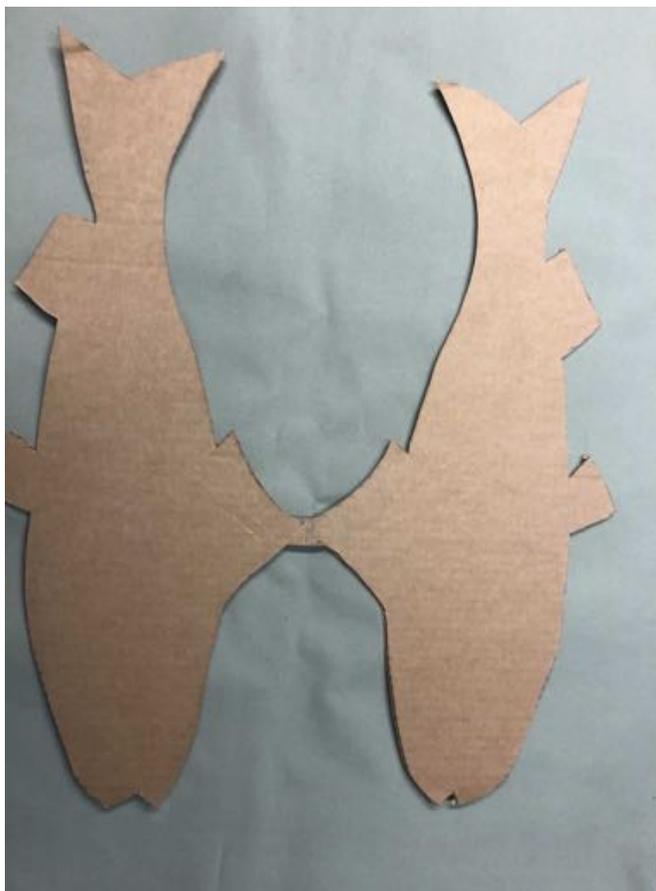
Now the fun part: Playing with knives. Not really. The knife you'll use is a utility knife with a sharp blade like this- a tool, not a toy:



Now cut out your Ghost Fish. It's a bit counter intuitive but you cut on the inside edge of the line. Where the paper template lay. You'll get a more accurate cut:



This is what you'll get:



Now paint the Ghost Fish white:



When it's dry, paint the edges black. After that paint the details:



You're almost done! Let this all dry, usually overnight, then put the Ghost Fish together. Get your stick. Grab your pectoral fin and use it to figure out how wide the slot you're going to cut will be. Cut the slot.



Put in the Pectoral Fin.



Now staple the Ghost Fish together. I say staple it because that's usually the fastest way to put it together. Other ways work too, but they take more time.



That's it. You've made a Ghost Fish.



Now your Ghost Fish can swim with her friends.



Notes:

A little planning ahead goes a long way to reduce the costs here. Use recycled cardboard. Use old paint. If you end up buying paint, 1 qt of the cheapest white primer you can find-Kilz2 for instance, will make many fish. Borrow tools. This is especially true of the big stapler. An Arrow Tacker with 5/16 T-50 staples makes short work of fastening the Ghost Fish to the stick. Borrow one if you can. You may be tempted to just glue the paper template to the cardboard. Don't. It takes forever to fit it and it always peels off. Paint the cardboard. It's more fun.

If you are going to make a lot of fish it is much easier to use spray paint for the outline. Take your time lining up the template. When you flip it to make the opposite side, imagine the centerline of the fish. You want the 2 centerlines to be parallel. The Pectoral Fin is just scrap. Don't obsess over it. Cut something out. Paint it and forget it.

The knife: Sorry mom, but a sharp blade is safer than a dull one. Cut away from the direction of your body. Mind your fingers. You cannot do this project with any other tool. If you try and cut cardboard with scissors you will hurt yourself.

Before you paint think about where you'll put the fish to dry. Paint fast. Don't think. If your fish is not up to snuff-in your eyes- MAKE ANOTHER ONE. There's no perfect Ghost Fish.

A really elegant way to put the Ghost Fish together is with glued cardboard tabs. Glue one side and weight it down, then flip it over and repeat. Of course this takes forever.

If you really can't find a stick you can make a cardboard one. Score 5 parallel lines spaced about 1" apart and maybe 36" long. You can fold this into a rectangular tube and tape it together, after you trim off the excess.

Remember: the native habitat of a Ghost Fish is a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO)outfall. There are several near here. When you're done, that's where your Ghost Fish belongs.



