

# Crafting Goes Outdoors!

Turn old clay pots into a whimsical frog with simple slop & sponge painting techniques.

RECYCLE!



## Add Your Own Touch . . .

- Frog can be made using any size pots. If making frog larger or smaller, make sure all pots are proportional.
- Try using old golf balls or Ping-Pong balls for the eyes instead of purchased wooden balls.

## Patio Frog

by Barbara Matthiessen

Finished Size: 10¼" tall

Skill Level: beginner

Time: 2 hours (plus drying time)

## Quick Tip

To save time, basecoat hind legs and feet with light green and sponge on dark green in the same way as the rest of the frog – he'll look just as cute and you won't have to deal with two colors of paint at one time!

## MATERIALS

- Clay pots:
  - 6" diameter, one;
  - 4" diameter, one;
  - 3¼" diameter, two;
  - 2" diameter, eight;
  - 1½" diameter, two.
- Wooden items:
  - balls: 1½" diameter, two;
  - stars, ½" thick: 4" across, two; 2" across, two;
  - toy wheels: 2" diameter, one; 1¼" diameter, two;
  - spools: ½" diameter, four.
- Acrylic paints\*: True Lime, True Green, Med. Fuchsia, Black, White.
- Ribbon of choice, 1½" wide, 1½ yards. (If frog will be outdoors, choose a weather-resistant ribbon.)
- Paintbrushes: flat shader, liner, stencil.
- Clear sealer\*.
- Craft wire, 18-gauge, 3 yards.
- Fine-point permanent marker.
- Sea sponge.

□ Graphite paper.

\*Aleene's™ Premium-Coat™ Acrylic Paints by Duncan and Krylon® Crystal Clear Sealer were used for this project.

**Supplies:** Scissors, pencil, thick craft glue or glue gun and glue sticks, wire-cutters, needle-nose pliers, drill with 1/8" bit, yardstick, paper plate (for palette), paper towels, bowl with water.

## INSTRUCTIONS

**1 Assemble head and body.** Cut the following from craft wire: two 29" lengths; two 21" lengths. Holding wires together, slide 2" diameter wooden wheel onto center of wires; twist wires together around top of wheel to secure.

For body, work from inside of 6" diameter pot, threading wires up through center hole to outside. Extend one pair of long wires to each side of body for hind legs. Extend both pairs of short wires toward front of body for front legs; separate wires into two pairs so that wires are 2 1/2" apart. Flatten wires to fit contours of body top, bending downward over top edge of body.

For head, glue 4" diameter pot upside down on top of body, pressing head over wires. For eye sockets, glue 1 1/2" diameter pots, side by side with open ends facing forward and rims touching, to top of head so that fronts of eye sockets are approximately 1/4" from front edge of head.

**2 Basecoat the pieces.** (Note: Squeeze small amount of paint onto paper plate. Basecoat all pieces with two coats of paint, letting paints dry between coats and color changes. Use liner to paint small details;

use shader for everything else, unless otherwise indicated. Use photo as painting and assembly guide.)

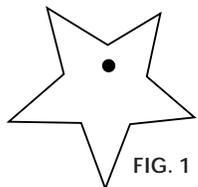


FIG. 1

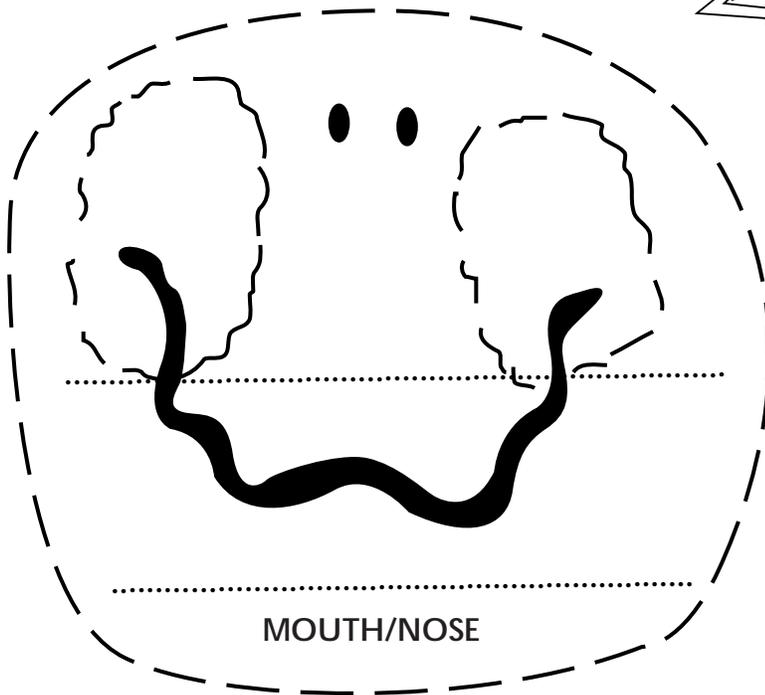
Drill one hole through

each 2" star (Fig. 1).

Basecoat the following with True Lime: body, head, inside and outside of eye sockets and top 2" of leg wires; inside and outside of four 2" pots for front legs; front, back, and edges of both 2" stars for front feet.

Basecoat the following with True Green: inside and outside of two 3 1/4" pots for upper hind legs; inside and outside of four 2" pots for lower hind legs; front, back, and edges of both 4" stars for hind feet.

For eyes, basecoat wooden balls with black.



**3 Highlight the pieces.** (Note: To sponge paint highlights, dip sponge into water. Squeeze out excess water; sponge should be damp, not wet.)

Sponge paint front legs and feet with True Green. For head and body, sponge paint with True Green as follows: eye sockets; tops of leg wires; head and body except for center front strip that is 2" wide at top of head extending to 3" wide at bottom of body.

Sponge paint upper and lower hind legs with True Lime.

Cut mouth/nose pattern from Pattern Section, cutting along dashed line. Aligning

dotted lines on pattern with rim at bottom of head, transfer features to front of head.

With stencil brush, dab Med. Fuchsia onto cheek areas. With marker, draw the following: grin line; broken wavy line around each cheek; nostrils; wavy line down each side of unsponged area on front of body.



FIG. 2

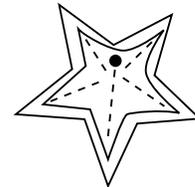


FIG. 3

Glue one eye into each socket. With White, paint highlight at upper right of each eye (Fig. 2).

For accent lines on feet, use marker. For front feet, draw lines (Fig. 3) on front and back of each foot. For hind feet, draw a wavy line around outside edge on front and back of each hind foot.

**4 Assemble the frog.** For each front leg, place one 2" pot inside a second 2" pot. Thread one pair of pots onto each pair of front leg wires. Thread ends of wires through hole in one foot. Twist wire around top of foot, leaving 1" of wire exposed between top of leg and body.

For each hind leg, thread one 3 1/4" pot onto each pair of hind leg wires. Thread two spools onto leg wires inside of pot. In the same way as front legs, place one 2" pot inside a second 2" pot. Thread one pair of pots onto each pair of leg wires. Thread one small wheel onto pair of wires.

Tightly coil wires against wheel to secure so that 1" of leg wire is exposed between top of leg and body. Glue one hind foot onto end of each leg.

With marker, draw a broken wavy line around bottom edge of each front leg.

**5 Finishing.** Follow manufacturer's instructions to apply several light coats of sealer to frog; let dry.

For bow, tie ribbon in a bow around neck; cut ribbon ends into a "V." ♥