PEPAKO: Movable paper dolls

Summary

PEPAKO puppets are enchanting, moveable paper dolls. Controlled by hands using wires attached at the back of the dolls, the puppets can wave, blink, move their mouths (and much more) in smooth, lifelike motions comparable to animation. The book provides step-by-step instructions on how to craft these fascinating dolls, as well as tips on mastering the art of PEPAKO puppetry.

- Illustrations that appeal to a young audience with an interest in Japanese Otaku culture and cartoons
- Only three materials needed to make the puppets: paper, wire, and tape
- 12 templates + 1 special cut out cardstock template
- PEPAKO has already gained an international following; the author's YouTube videos and Twitter posts have received an overwhelming number of positive comments in English

Target audience

- People interested in Japanese manga and anime
- Fans of American cartoons (the author was influenced by The Powerpuff Girls)
- Followers and fans of Wasu on social media

Keywords

Puppets, paper puppets, paper dolls, arts, crafts, anime, manga, PEPAKO

About the author

Wasu was born in 1995 in Ibaraki, Japan. He is a movable paper doll artist and illustrator, and is the creator of PEPAKO, a series of lively puppets that bring two-dimensional characters to the real world. After gaining popularity on social media in 2018, Wasu became a full-time freelancer in 2019. He also works in character design and PR.

YouTube:
893,000 channel subscribers
150 million total views
9.89 million views (6,242 comments) on most-viewed video

Instagram: 57,000 followers
Twitter: 395,000 followers

Sales in Japan

Number of copies printed: 8000 copies
Number of digital edition downloads: Digital format not available

Rights sold

Korean: 1,500 copies; RRP: 13,000 KRW
Simplified Chinese: 2,500 copies; RRP: 70 CNY
**Fox girl**

This is the most basic PEPAKO. It's the easiest one to make!

**Actions**
- Hair-swaying
- Tilting head & body

**Things you need**
- Aluminum wire:
  - A) 2 x 20mm
  - B) 2 x 80mm
  - C) 1 x 110mm
- Toothpick, felt-tip pen, utility knife, cutting mat, scissors, tape, wire cutter, nose-needle pliers, ruler

**Template: Fox girl**

**Difficulty of making:** Very easy
**Difficulty of handling:** Very easy

Fox girl with long hair. You can tilt her head and body, and sway her hair.

**Scan the QR code to see it in action**

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**Template: Fox girl**

**Cut out the parts and make the holes**

1. Cut out the template (You don't need to be precise with the grayscale parts).
2. Find the red dots on the hair, legs, and grayscale parts, and cut a cross over the dots with a utility knife.
3. Pierce a toothpick into the cross to make a hole.
4. Draw an outline around the parts using a felt-tip pen (all parts except the grayscale parts).

**Mark the parts**

1. Neatly place the head part on top of the grayscale part.
2. Flip it over, and mark the head part through the holes in the grayscale template.
3. Place the body part over the grayscale body part. Use the same method in step 2 to mark them.
4. The parts are ready to go!

Make sure you haven't missed any parts!

Color in the white edges!

The grayscale parts are only used for marking.

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What is PEPAKO?

Paper puppet dolls

PEPAKO is short for pe pa pe to no ko, or "paper puppet dolls" in Japanese. PEPAKO puppets are movable paper dolls controlled with your hands and wire attached to the back of the dolls. They can wave their hands, dance, and much more in cute, realistic motions comparable to animation.

Why are they hand-controlled?

By using your hands and directly controlling the puppets, they move realistically as though they have come to life.

How are they made?

PEPAKO needs just three materials to make: paper, wire, and tape. They’re simple yet beautiful, and you’ll enjoy the creative challenge of inventing different moves within the limitations of a paper doll.

Let’s take a look at how to handle these amazing puppets.

What actions can they do?

Realistic movements

PEPAKO puppets are capable of various motions, like waving their hands while blinking, or making their mouths move like they’re talking. From hair-swaying to dancing, and even fighting, you can get creative with PEPAKO and make them move like anime characters. In this book, we’ll show you how to assemble 12 fun puppets that are simple to make.

Who created PEPAKO?

Wasu

Paper doll artist & Illustrator

Based in Tokyo, Wasu was born in 1995 in Ibaraki, Japan. Skilled in caricature style illustrations, he invented PEPAKO, lively paper dolls that bring two-dimensional characters into the real world. His first PEPAKO character was launched in 2015, and in 2018, he created today’s movable PEPAKO puppets. Wasu takes great care to ensure his dolls move naturally with seamless joints, and pays attention to every detail, including the layout of the reverse side of each puppet. Currently, Wasu works in character design and PR, and continues to develop his PEPAKO technique.

You can check out his previous works online.

Where else can I find PEPAKO?

PEPAKO assembly kits are sold from time to time on BOOTH and at exhibitions. Stay tuned on Twitter for updates!

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How to shape the wires

1. Cut the wire pieces.
2. Bend the wire pieces as shown in the picture.
3. Attach the body and head parts to the body part, where the mark is.
4. Bend wire C as shown in the picture, and use tape to attach it to the legs part.

Connect the body and head parts 1

1. Use tape to attach wires A and B where the marks are on the head part.
2. Use tape to attach wire B on to the hair part as shown in the picture.
3. Connect the head, body and leg parts together by pushing the wires through, as shown in the picture.

Connect the body and head parts 2

1. Attach the head part to the hair part.
2. Bend the wires as shown in the picture.
3. Continuing from step 2, bend the wire. The wire should be at a 30 to 60 degree angle when looking from above.
4. Bend the wires of the legs part as shown in the picture, and fix the wires to the floor with tape.

How to handle

1. Assembly is complete.
2. Here are the roles of each wire handle.
3. Move the head handle side to side to move the body. Try moving the hair at the same time.

Look at the picture carefully!
Sword-wielding girl
刀をふるおんなのこ
Puppet
007