



#### Puppet mouth in the open position

The top of the mouth palette is fixed to the foam. The bottom is hinged with duct tape, closed with elastic from the top, and opened via a string attached to the bottom and run down the puppet through a small plastic tube (visible in the previous photo above). The fabric is then glued to the edges of the mouth palette.  
The Eyes

#### A finished eye

This is a close-up of a Cactus eye. Two different styles of eyes were made, one for the boys and one for the girls (the "boy eye" is shown here).

#### Back of puppet eye

The eyes were made from half of an EVA foam ball (these are usually sold as practice golf balls and can be found in the sports section of stores like Wal-Mart). The ball was yellow, so it's colored by first applying a little spray adhesive and then white spray paint. The eyes are attached to the puppet using Velcro so they are interchangeable (one set of "boy eyes" and another set of "girl eyes" was made)

#### Cactus eyes mounted on the lid of a storage container

The eyes were mounted for storage on the lid of one of the plastic boxes used for the puppet's costumes. This makes it easy to keep them clean and keep them handy for any quick changes in a show.  
The Costumes

#### Cactus puppet costume materials

The boys wore small straw cowboy hats found at a craft store, bandannas around their necks, and belts made from scrap leather and random buckle/button-type items found in the make-your-own jewelry aisle at Hobby Lobby.

#### Cactus belts and cowboy hat

A closer look at the belts and a cowboy hat. Velcro was used at the back of the belts to make them easy to put on and take off.

#### Cactus belts and cowboy hat

The girl's costumes were made from several kid-sized denim vests found at a second hand store. They were altered to make them really narrow and embellished with western-style decorations and ornaments.  
All Done!

Finished Girl Cactus Finished Boy Cactus

Special thanks to Amy Harder for this great puppet building project! In addition to building puppets, Amy is a really good puppeteer too. Her Puppetry Lab web site is filled with helpful video tutorials and exercises designed to help you learn how to perform puppets.