Halloween Paper Doll Witches with Courtney Cerruti

Chapter 1 - Introduction
Overview
- I loved making paper dolls when I was a little girl. This is sort of a grown up version. And because Halloween is my favorite holiday, these work really nicely together. They're sort of Victorian and spooky but not too spooky and they're really fun and easy to make. I'll show you how to take found clip art and create a form for the witch. Then we'll use patterned paper to create a costume. We'll add some volume with some textured papers like crepe paper. Finally, we'll do some embellishments with some trims and extra little fun bits. When you're done, you'll be able to hang them up for some instant Halloween decor. (wolf howling) (witch cackling)

Chapter 2 - Materials
Materials
- These paper witches are really fun to make because they can really be made out of almost anything, but let's talk about some of the things that I like to use when I'm making them. First you'll need clip art copied onto card stock paper because you want them to have some body and not be too floppy. I'm gonna use some images from Dover. Dover creates these great royalty-free images and they're usually from Victorian engravings, which means they have a lot of detail, and they're kind of in the aesthetic that we're looking for, this kind of semi-spooky old witch style, but they're also very romantic, so they're nice to use. And then to create the costuming, I like to start with some card stock, also patterned paper. You can find this at the craft store maybe in the scrap booking aisle. You can cut up old cards or wrapping paper if you have something that's in your color palette, and we just have kind of a stack of Halloween colors, black and whites. Crepe paper is really nice for adding volume, so I have inexpensive crepe paper also from the party supply store. It has a little bit of stretch to it which I really like, but you can also use tissue paper. Again, in sort of our Halloween palette here. I've got whites, blacks, purples, and oranges. I also have this really fun trim which has a fringed edge and I'll show you how to make your own later. This is also using crepe paper. You can use streamers as well. Again, inexpensive 90 cent streamer, but it has this nice texture to it which is really fun for creating your costume. I also have some sort of cheeseclothy webbing things which you can really find a lot of during Halloween, but this might be something that you have from an old costume. You can use a bit of nylon or even at the fabric store, you get these great costumey fabrics, so sometimes to add a little bit of shimmer, you can get something like this tulle with glitter dots. Other bits and bobs work. You know I love my Washi tape, so I've got some of that on hand. A little bit of sparkle with a self-adhesive rhinestone can be fun, you can use glitter if you have it. This is a paper ribbon that is good for making little bows. Scissors, you're gonna need that for cutting. These are some fringing scissors, which are really fun to use, and I'll show you how to use them, but just kind of your standard pair of scissors will work fine. You may want something in a medium to smaller size if you're gonna cut little details so that you can get around to cut out the faces. A glue stick is key, as is tacky glue. I prefer this brand, Aleene's brand of tacky glue. It's kind of like a white glue but it's heavier bodied so it holds really nicely, and a craft stick or glue stick is really good. Cupcake liners, these are super fun to add some volume. They're already pleated for us and they're really fun to cut up and add some texture. I have a stamp pad here for adding color to the edges of the crepe paper if I want to. I'll show you how to use that. The hair is one of my favorite parts,

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creating the hair for your witch, and really you can use almost any small amount of yarn and trims. If you're a felter, roving works really well, or if you're a knitter and you have a little bit of yarn that you love the color of and you just have a tiny smidgen left, it makes a great little pop of color for your witch's hair. I also really like alpaca fur. Is that crazy? This has been dyed bright orange and I bought this online. It's inexpensive. It's kind of a weird thing, but if you happen to have some, that works as well. This is more yarn, both thick and thins kind of in this peachy color, and that works great for hair. And then I have some colored pencils in case I wanna add some color to my witch. That's pretty much all you'll need to create your witch. Again, look around your house, see what you have available, pull it in your color palette, and bring it over to your table. You might find that it comes in handy for your witch.

Chapter 3 - Creating A Witch

Types of Images and making the witch form

- When I'm flipping through my Dover book looking for the kind of image I want to create my witch, there are a couple of things that I consider. Sometimes it's the size, but that's easily remedied by your copy machine. You can make photocopies larger or smaller, but it's also the position of the face. So I've got some images here for you to look at. I like this witch, she would be great. Even though she's just a face and sort of the torso, I can still create a body out of her. That's not limiting me to create a witch, so she would be a good one. This image here, this sort of like Victorian bride, I like her expression. She's got some arms that I could keep if I wanted to make a witch out of her, and she has the beginning of a dress, so she would be good to cut out and create a witch from. I actually really love this image of this woman in profile. Again, it's almost just a head, a little bit of a shoulder, but I could add card stock if I wanted to create a really large witch, or I could shrink her down on the copy machine, cut her out, and add a body. This guy's pretty nice as she is. She has a very kind of forlorn look, which is good for a witch. I think she would make a great witch as well, and she has her hands here. I can show you with just a marker, if I wanted to cut her out, I could use this card stock that's already here and kind of cut her out and add a skirt. So just because your image may only be a head or a hand, it doesn't mean you can't use her as a witch. She'd still be a great witch. If you wanna add a little bit of color or you're doing this with kids, you can also just take a catalog or a magazine and cut out figures. I like to photocopy them onto a card stock but you could glue them with a glue stick onto card stock, and magazines are great to get these kind of modern women and create sort of a Victorian witch out of them, which I think is really fun, and you've got some kind of sassy expressions here, so this would make a great witch. But let's figure out which one we wanna use. I'm tempted to use her but she's a little bit big for what I wanna make today, so how about her? She has this great kind of forlorn expression, which I really love. Just set these guys aside. And to start, I'm just gonna cut her out. We're gonna lay paper over her skirt, so it doesn't have to be precise and exact, and I'm gonna create new hair for her, so I'm just gonna cut out these long tresses. So you can see this isn't perfect. I'm definitely cutting her hair off, but we're gonna add that back, and I'm just gonna snip right across. She's cut out.

Costuming foundation

- The first thing I wanna do to my paper witch is maybe add a little color. This is a black and white copy, remember. So just a tad of color on her cheeks would be nice, which is where my colored pencils come in handy. And I'll do this now just because when I place the hair later I may not have a lot of room to do this. And I'm just really lightly adding some color. I want her to look pale and

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distraught. And this can be pretty fun. You can give her purple eyeshadow. I'm gonna add some pattern paper onto the sort of dress area and I wanna clean up this edge a little bit, just because I might wanna use her arms, and so I want like a really nice clear definition here. And that little spot there. So I grab my pattern paper. And sometimes you can let the pattern dictate sort of the shape that you're gonna create. Anything that's really large doesn't work as well, so smaller patterns works nicely. I could do something like this white, you can see I've cut into this piece a lot, I really like this kind of eye pattern. Little dots are nice. I think maybe something like this could be nice. And the reason I create sort of this first layer of pattern with the skirt, I don't know what I'm gonna do, I don't know how I'm gonna add volume, so I might as well cover it now, so if it peeks out it's really cute. And I sort of just kind of eyeball this, so I'll flip it over and cut around her shape. This part doesn't have to be perfect. Don't cut off her arm, that would be tragic. 'Cause I can clean it up a little bit later. And now if I wanna add a really full skirt, as in wide, not volume, I can do that just by cutting this out at an angle. This is the part where if you had a witch who was just a head for example, so I'll bring this back over. We talked about this witch a little bit earlier, she was just head and arms. This is the part where if I needed to create more of a body by adding a fuller skirt or a longer skirt with my pattern card stock that's when I'd do it now. And I'd just use a glue stick. And I have an example that I'll show you a little bit later on how I did that. She's cut out. And you can see there are these little dips here, I'm gonna trim those off. Those are like her little elbows. I could've also, this has a straight edge, this might peek through depending on what kind of skirt. I can give this a little scallop or decorative edge. I could follow along with the pattern, I'm not doing that here, I'm just kind of giving it a little bit of detail. Craft stick, flip this over. Again, so easy, you could totally do this with kids. You might wanna clear up your workspace. It's very forgiving. So I'll add this on top. And before I glue this part down I wanna trim away where her arms are. Scoot that over. And I'm just kind of peeking to see where that's gonna fall. And here as well. So that kind of mimics this sort of bodice shape here. Do another little trim underneath, so that's not showing. That just takes a second to dry, which is fine. So that's kind of the under skirt. It's flat, I like to create a little bit of dimension, so let's use some crepe paper to do that. Remember, you can also use tissue paper. And you can see if I wanted to use white, can you see how the pattern will show through? So it's nice to have that pattern paper there. If I had just left the photo copy underneath, especially if it had a line across it or something you'd see that. So the pattern's like kind of a nice little element and layer. Let's just trim off some of this. Scraps are great. Let's kind of play with this a little. So to give it some volume I normally pinch it and gather it at the top and let it stand away from the body. I'm gonna trim this off. If you wanna create an extra bit of edge you can layer your crepe paper. So I could do white over orange or white over black. I can also create an edge. Remember I talked about using a stamp pad early? And this could be in any color, I just happen to have an orange one here. I am gonna use a piece of scrap paper. And I'm just brushing this off the edge. You can see why I need to scrap paper, otherwise this would be going onto my table. I'm just kind of lightly adding some color. And this can be as heavy or as light as you like. You could use metallics, you could do purple. This kind of looks like flames, which I think is cool. All right, move that away. Gather the top of your skirt, I'm gonna test it one more time to see how I like it. I like that. Now this part we need to gather together, I might just hit it with the glue stick real quick, so it kind of stays, and then once it's sort of gathered we'll glue it down with Tacky Glue onto the witch body. She's gonna need a name soon, I can't just keep calling her the witch. All right, so those are kind of tacked together. Sometimes I have a tea towel handy if my fingers start to get sticky. And then I've got my Tacky Glue. Just attach your skirt on with the Tacky Glue. And I like to keep this on the table or in a little

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container. This glue is thick, so it needs to come to the tip, and that can be frustrating while you're waiting, so if you keep it inverted that's a little handy tip. Press it, my fingers are a bit sticky, so the skirt is trying to stick to me instead of to the witch. All right, that'll set up. Where I've tacked that down it's not perfect looking, but I'm gonna cover it with like a band or a belt or something, so you don't have to worry about that. I like to create layers. We can do sort of a torn, these are great to tear, sort of a torn skirt over top, this could be sort of asymmetrical, and that could be kind of fun. We could also take some of this netting, which has a really open weave, and drape that, which looks really cool, kind of spider webby, I like that. Let me show you how to use the cake, cupcake liners as well. These are great, because they're already pleated and they come in a ton of different colors. You could use the stamp to change the color, remember, the stamp ink, you can add an edging to this as well. And I'll usually cut them in half. And you kind of flatten them out just a tad. This could be kind of fun staggered and layered on to create sort of this volume and I could do that for the entire skirt if you wanted. You could add different colors. And I would just glue that down with Tacky Glue, starting from the bottom and working up. If you're doing kind of layers or scales like that you wanna start at the bottom and then work your way up. And you could just dab a bit of Tacky Glue here and press it down in the center, so that you don't ruin all of the volume. I don't think that's what I'm gonna do for this witch today. I was really liking that black. I can just sort of cut this irregularly, it's gonna behave of its own accord anyway, 'cause it's very loose and open. It's kind of spider webby. So I think that's what I'll use. It's nice to have a little bit of this sort of rolled edge where it's gathered here, so I have something to glue to. These are just basically threads. So that's nice to have that. So instead of applying the glue directly to this open weaving, I'm gonna apply it directly to the witch body right at that little belt area, and press it down. Again, this may not look perfect and we can cover it up, but this is giving a little bit of a finishing to this edge, which is nice. I also wanna tack it down sort of on the sides, because this is so loose and kind of open I don't want it to fly away entirely, so I'll just add a little bit of glue to the side of my skirt here, tack that down. And a little more. This is, when I talked about earlier how your materials can kind of dictate your design, this is exactly what's happening here. This has kind of fallen in this asymmetrical motion and I really like that, so I'm just gonna go with it.

costume layering and texture

- So already you can see how much volume that we've created just using the crepe paper and this netting on top. You may or may not see the pattern paper that we started with but it's a nice little peek-a-book in case you happen to see under her skirt. That's pretty cute. I like, you know those kind of Marie Antoinette-style dresses that have those sort of like billowing, puffy things on the side. I have no idea what those are actually called because I'm not a costume maker and I don't know that much about historical fashion. Whatever those are are really fun to make. So I'll show you, I may or may not wanna add them but we'll kind of mock it up and see what it looks like. So again, just using a bit of crepe paper. You can tear or cut this. Gather these edges to create sort of a little puff like that and just kind of place this on the form. I think these are pretty fun. I'm not crazy about it in the orange because it's a little too black and orange for me. I just like the hint of orange here. If I wanted to go ahead and set this down I would just use my tacky glue on both ends. Let's try a few other things. I've got more netting here in a thinner, finer weave. Just snipping off a bit. Can do something sort of billowy with this finer mesh. I also have purple crepe paper if I wanna add another color. Again gathering it, doing a little puff there. Let me try it in the white too. I'm actually kind of torn. I think I like the white. This is sort of keeping this a bit monochromatic. The purple is nice for a pop of

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color but I think I wanna do the white. So I'm gonna finesse this a little bit more. Again, to keep it together on the edges for that gathered effect, which is gonna give us the most volume. Just run a bit of gluestick here. Do the same on the other side. I tend to be a bit messy, so. If you need to be a little bit cleaner about how you start to attach things, that's fine too. But this is a very forgiving process, so, you can also twist these edges. Again, when I'm gonna glue them down finally I'll use my tacky glue. So let me make one more for the other side so she's not lopsided. Let's tack those down with our tacky glue. This goes kind of at the top, here. And you can still sort of adjust them. We're just gluing down those edges so if you need to puff them out or shrink them down a little you can still sort of do that. You can see that really I'm just sort of responding to the materials and building layers as I go. There is no right or wrong way to create your paper witch. It depends on what you have on the table, how you're feeling, what her face is telling you. She's saying, "I really like this dress "that you're making for me," which is good. You want a happy witch. Alright, puffs are on, that looks good. I wanna still finish up that band a little bit and this is probably where I'll go back to my patterned paper and we also have to do the top. So I don't wanna forget. Again, I'm just sort of trying things with her look and kind of see what will work. Kinda have to press these on. So you can kinda see. That might be cute with just a few diamonds. I usually like to make things odd numbers, so three diamonds instead of four, cute. I don't like this super hard edge here though. It doesn't look natural for kind of a waistband. But if I wanna have that as a design element instead I can trim off these edges and just have it be sort of a finishing technique but also a design choice. And again, there's no wrong or right way to do this. I'm just kind of responding to things as I go. That's kinda cute. Let's look at one other option. Remember the patterned paper we used for her underskirt might be a nice choice also. Let's cut out a thin little band. And I could do something like that as well. I could even layer these if I wanted. Which maybe that's what I'll do. Her skirt is getting kind of fat here at the top. So I'm just kind of pressing this down with my fingers. I might gonna cut this at sort of an angle to mimic the top of the dress shape before I glue it down and then maybe I'll layer that on top which I like. Do another little trim here. Attach that first band with a bit of tacky glue. If you need to trim you can. I think I need to trim this a bit here. These dolls have very dainty waists. And then that second layer I'm also going to attach with the tacky glue just on top. Again just sort of eyeballing it. I'm gonna try not to cover her hands too much. Looks good, that'll take a minute to set up. And then we don't wanna forget about the sort of bodice. She has already this kind of goddess look. So draping the crepe paper there would be a really nice and easy sort of treatment. Let's see what that would look like. Can also tear, remember especially if you want this sort of frilly edge, tearing the crepe paper can be really nice. I actually just wanna cut it down to size. You can kind of see, I would obviously need more of this, but that might be nice for some texture. I think black could be cool too. Yeah, I like the black. I think I like the black for her bodice. So sort of like how I made those little poofs on the skirt I'm gonna make a little miniature one for the sort of shoulder piece here. You can sort of twist the edge to get it to lay flat. You could even leave it coming off as a sort of super dramatic, weird shoulder thing. Which would look cool too. But I think we're just gonna make a little puff there. Trim off my excess, yeah. Apply a little bit of glue here and sort of tack this down. And I'm just kind of manipulating it around in her hand. And I'm actually gonna wrap this around the edge and glue this portion on the back. That'll help create volume. It's also easier to glue down. And while it's drying you can kind of play with the shape a little. She has another sort of little piece of this top peaking out underneath her hand. So I wanna get that as well. I'm not gonna be able to create a lot of volume there so I may just have to glue down a piece of the black crepe paper so at least it doesn't look like one side's totally exposed. And

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crepe paper gets really scrunchy so you can glue it down and kinda move it around. You could use gluestick here also but because the tacky glue has like a fine point it's easier to apply the glue. Continue adding layers to the costume of your paper witch until you're happy. We've created a lot of depth and dimension by adding these various layers. Don't forget the bodice, and you might wanna add a little belt or something. But just keep working on it until you're happy. But I think she's pretty cute. Her costume's done.

Embellishment & Variations & Wrap up
- Trying on the hair is my favorite part of dressing this paper witch. I'm using just little bits of yarn, roving works fabulous because it's just like a puff of color. I've even got some alpaca fur, which is kind of crazy and weird. So just kind of pull out your-- And really these are scraps, I mean you could use a cotton ball if you wanted. You could even like, dye your cotton ball. That would be kind of fun, you could give her real Maria Antoinette hair. So I'm kind of partial to this peachy fluff yarn. I can pile it up on her head and have it sort of drape down and see what that looks like. That might work. You can use this brown hair to give her a sort of wind blown look. This is alpaca and often it comes with little bits of leaves. She did have half up, half down, and this little trail of curl here. It's like going wig shopping for your doll. The red hair is really fun, it's very curly. I like to sort of do these asymmetrical sort of looks here. You could even try it on this side. I think I'm pretty partial to this bright orange curly. If I was doing something longer I would leave this as a surface to glue on, but because I kind of want to do this asymmetrical hairstyle, I'm gonna come in with my scissors and trim that off. Just right to her cheek. And get a clean edge on that little shoulder. I made her cheek kind of square there, but she's gonna have a little curl covering it so it's fine. Tacky glue is what you're gonna use to attach your hair. And this stuff dries clear so don't be worried if you're like oh my god, this is showing through. Give her like this beehive. It's like sexy Jessica Rabbit here. And you may need to just sort of hold it in place while it's drying. I might add a little bit more glue here. Ah! That's okay. And kind of bring this curl down. This stuff's a little bit harder to work with but it will dry clear, just be patient. Kind of manipulate, tell it where to go. Hold it down if you have to. You're gonna also tack it to her shoulder. You could put it behind her shoulder. I like it kind of flying away but I might want to do a little tack right to the shoulder area. Just kind of tacking it to her shoulder. And moving this out. This cool asymmetrical hair. I like her hair, but no witch is complete without a hat. So we have to remember to give her a hat. I go back to my patterned paper. And I like to do sort of two different styles of hats, sometimes I'll just cut sort of a cone shape. I always overestimate, it's way too fat. And I'll just glue it to the back of her head. And that's pretty cute. The other kind of hat that I like to make has sort of a bit of a brim, it's sort of my interpretation of a witch hat, so I'll cut like a really big triangle. And I might curve this bottom edge slightly. And then I'll just trim up from the corners of my triangle. That's sort of my brim, and then I come in and redefine that cone shape or the point of the hat. And again, I always make them too big, and I have to try them on her and then realize that's way too wide. Needs to come down a bit. Trim this down. And that's pretty cute too, and these can sit on top of the hair or they can go sort of just behind the head and you can have the bangs of your witch peaking out. I think that's kind of cute. With the brim. I also really like that one. I think I'm just gonna go with this cone shape one which I really like. I'm gonna just trim off these ends because I think they're just a bit wide. And because it's going right on the back of her head I actually put glue on the same side that I want to show but at the base because that's going behind her head. And just press that on. These can be as dainty or exaggerated as you like. Aw, she's so cute! I mean, spooky. They can be at a little angle too for a

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jaunty witch. She'd be more your '20s look instead of your Victorian look. Sometimes I'll add like a little bit of glitter or something I've got these rhinestones here that have a sticky back already, and I might want to put that on to the hat, that's an orange one, maybe a black one would be nice. There's also the clear rhinestone which kind of mimics the white in here which I like, it reminds me a little bit of the moon too, which is kind of cool. Slightly off center which I like, she's got asymmetrical hair so that's in keeping with her look. And that's your paper witch! We do want to add something to the back so that we can hang her, so without crushing her I'll just flip her over and trim off a little bit of yarn. This could be a ribbon, this could be string, you could even use a piece of dental floss in a pinch, just something small. I'll tie this in a knot to create a loop. And we'll just grab our washy tape and tape it on. I don't want to glue it because that takes too long and I'm impatient and she's ready to go and I want to hang her now so, just do my washy tape in place. If you're using a really heavy ribbon or something you may need to use glue but for this weight the washy tape will suffice. There she is! Your little paper witch. I want to share with you some variations that I've made so you can kind of get an idea of how far or in which direction you can kind of make these guys. This one's a little bit different, I wanted a really flat sort of body with this patterned paper, and then I wanted to add dimension with these little fringe details and these bows, and I'll show you the fringe quickly. Just using my crepe paper, and it can be any size. I'll actually fold it over so I can do kind of multiples at once. And with regular scissors you can come and cut along to create fringe. Or I'll show you those fringing scissors I mentioned earlier that have, I don't know, six, eight, 10 blades on them? And you can cut with these guys. They tend to sort of twist your fringe around as well, but it just depends on kind of the look. Because I folded this, I can do a couple of things. I can trim off this edge, or I can actually use the fringe if I unfold it, it's kind of like this weird ribbing which could look really cool on a cuff or the bodice of one of the witches. You can create your own fringe just using regular scissors with lots of little snips, or you can try using these crazy fringing scissors, maybe they're already something you have lying around the house and you didn't know what to do with them. So fringe can be a fun way to add texture, you can also kind of roll it up and make these kind of crazy pompoms that could go on a cuff or at the neck. Making a bow is really easy as well. I just take a little piece of crepe paper. And twist it in the middle. Three times or so. And that creates your bow shape, and I like to layer them which is what I did on this. Just attach with tacky glue as well. The other thing that you can do which I talked about a little bit in the beginning is if you want a more modern witch or you have, you know, a great image in a catalog or a magazine lying around that you want to put to good use, you can make a magazine based paper witch instead of using the Victorian clip art. And I photocopied just my form from the catalog onto card stock because it makes it easier to work with. But you could also, if you don't have access to a copy machine and you want to do it right away, it's you know, midnight at home and you're sitting in front of the fire, you could glue stick your magazine page onto a piece of card stock and cut it out. So she has a color face, that's the main difference. And you can see her hands, I left her hands from the original image in there as well. Again, a paper skirt, kind of this waistband and these little miniature cupcake liners for sort of this ascot sort of ruffly neckline and these little cuffs. These paper witches can be as sassy or as spooky as you like.

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