
DIY Halloween Masks with Courtney Cerruti

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

(creepy music) - Halloween is my favorite holiday but I don't always have time to make a full costume so I'm gonna show you how to take three store bought masks and transform them from basic black to spooky and fabulous. (upbeat music)

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- To make your Halloween masks, you're going to use a few things you might already have lying around the house, but you'll definitely need a couple of store-bought masks. I picked out three masks that you can sort of find at any Halloween store. This kind of cat-eye style, which is a pretty typical masquerade-style mask, we're gonna make that a sexy mask. This guy, which is sort of a half-face mask, I think makes a good base for any kind of animal and we're gonna make that into an owl. And then this is sort your standard basic black mask. This one's fairly flexible. Sometimes they're made out of plastic. We're gonna stitch into this, so the flexible kind is what we're gonna use. You'll need a hot glue gun and scissors for almost all of these projects. For our owl we're gonna use just regular crafting felt and assorted sort of autumnal colors, and a few feathers. I'll show you how to cut feathers out of felt as well but if you want to add some real feathers you can, and these are just from the craft store. For a stitch mask, you'll need a large needle, something that has a large eye, and some embroidery floss. I'm using a neon and you can also use a metallic if you like. For our masquerade-style mask, we're gonna use some sequins. This is about a half-yard, some of them are a quarter of a yard of sequins you can get at the fabric store just in assorted colors. If you don't have sequins, you can also use that metallic confetti that comes from the party supply store. We're gonna be gluing these on so you don't have to have a hole in the center. Also found these cool sort of metallic feather or leaf shapes, they're also a sequin. If you can't find these at the fabric store, or at the craft store, you could also cut some in your own shape from scrapbook paper or any kind of metallic paper. Also need a couple of toothpicks, I'm using some metallic craft paints and a wooden dowel to create a stick for our masquerade mask. You'll need a paintbrush, a Sharpie for any little boo-boos. I'm gonna show you how to use this to clean up some gluey spots. You can also switch out your masquerade string with an elastic cord in a metallic color if you like. You can get just a little bit of this from the fabric store. And that's all you'll need to get started.

Chapter 3 - Owl Mask

Start mask

- The mask we're going to use is this half sort of Phantom Of The Opera style mask and it's pretty standard at most Halloween stores. I think it makes a good base for a larger mask something like an animal, and we're going to make an owl. So we know what our shape is going to be, I'm just going to set this guy aside. And working with just craft felt in sort of an autumn palette, I'll probably work with this tan, this oatmeal color, and this chocolate brown, and I'll save these other colors as a possible accent color. I definitely want to use the ochre as the beak. These are just half sheets of felt. You can use scraps. Because of the type of mask, the only kind of glue you can really use on this is hot glue. I've tried painting, and I've tried using tacky glue, I've tried using Elmer's glue, and it

just seeps through to the other side without allowing any body to sit on the surface for you to glue your felt with, so we're going to use hot glue. And I like to cut all of my feather shapes first so that when I'm ready to glue, I can do that all at once and the mask will come together really quickly. So I know I want to create some kind of beak shape here. So, using my ochre felt, this is very similar to our feather shape that we're going to create. I'm actually going to tuck that under. I like the beak, I think that's pretty cute. We'll glue that on later. And I know that I want to have a dark eye for the owl, so we'll start with our feathers here being chocolate, and we'll kind of work our color gradation out from there, but the way you need to glue these on is actually the reverse. We're going to work from the outside in. But I want to kind of plan to figure out where my colors are. It's gonna be - and how much I'll need to cut of each. The first shape that you'll make is just this sort of rounded triangle shape for your feathers, and we'll make lots of these and layer them on top of one another. You can cut into these for little details if you want. But I think this basic shape when it's layered on top of each other will give you a lot of texture anyway. And to cute these, instead of doing them individually one by one, it's easier to cut a row. I know I've already cut that, so we'll just cut that away. And then I usually will cut anywhere from two to four at a time depending on how sharp my scissors are. And then we have four little feathers. These are fairly long, I could trim them, make them shorter. Depends on how fluffy and full you want your owl to be. So you want to cut a bunch of these, at least twenty or thirty of them, but that goes pretty quickly and you're not going to use that much felt. So cut those and set them aside. Get rid of your scraps. And then for the oatmeal color, I'm going to cut the same shape. I like to make them longer, in case I need them to be long, and then I can always trim them shorter on this flat edge if I want, but I can't add any felt back, so it's better to start this way. I'm going to cut a bunch of these also and make a little pile. And then for my tan color, I'm going to make like a smaller double pointed feather. Again, fold this so that you have four layers. You're going to almost make a large version of the feather we just cut. But we're going to cut into it, and make a little double pointed feather, slightly curving it if you can. Oops. Didn't get that one. It almost looks like a weird little tooth. And these are going to get layered on top of each other also, to give us sort of a different texture. Go ahead and cut your various feather shapes and colors so that you have some little piles to work from when you're assembling your mask. Actually, I added in some white as well in that double pointed style if you want to add a little highlight. And then I'll show you how to assemble your owl mask.

Finish mask

- Let's start by gluing on our beak, that way, this guy will instantly look like an owl, or start to look like a bird, in any case. And the beak is the only thing that gets glued underneath the mask, just in that little bridge of the nose. If you haven't worked with hot glue before, or if you're afraid of working with hot glue, it's nice to keep a little plate handy, to lean your glue gun on, and then just be careful of your fingers. You don't have to be afraid of it, this stuff is pretty easy to work with. You just need a little bead. And we'll just place that in the bridge of the nose. You don't have a lot of working time with hot glue, it dries pretty quickly. If you need to come back in and trim this, that's fine. But I think that looks good. You'll know when you test it on someone whether or not it's too long, or too wide, and you can just trim it with your scissors. And then, it might seem counter-intuitive, but the way that you wanna work with your feathers is you wanna start at the outside, and work in, because it's much easier to layer on top with the hot glue than it is if you had started here, and you were trying to get another layer underneath a feather that was already glued down. That's really where you burn your hand potentially. So we'll start at the bottom, and I'm

gonna start with my lightest color, my oatmeal color. And you could glue these individually, or if you kinda know what you're gonna do, you can just run about two inches of hot glue right at the base of your mask. And I'm overlapping these a little. I'm just gonna go right up to the edge where the elastic for the mask is coming out. And you can see, I'm just curving along the shape of the mask. Normally, I would work this first layer on the other side, so I could really start to see how the shape is gonna come together, but I'm gonna show you how to work multiple rows, just on this side, to start. Working from light to dark, I'm gonna move on to my caramel colored feather, and these are gonna lay right on top of this first layer, and you can see that the bottom of the feather is overlapping slightly, so I don't see this straight edge from the first layer. If you found that you've over cut these, like that guy's too tall, I can go back in and trim it off in just a minute. I could also recut them or trim them before I place them onto the mask with the glue. I can go right over that elastic, I'm not gonna hurt it. As long as there's space on the back for it to come over, I can just glue right over the top of it. Let's add another one here. Come back in and just trim this one. I'm not worried about these, I'm gonna cover them up with my next layer. Then working in the brown, which I want closest to the eye. I can see that this is really long, so I do wanna trim these up a little. I'll stack three together. And this is easy, I don't have to trim down all the way, this already has a curve here, I can just come up here and cut into that shape, make these tiny. It's nice to go from large to small, closer to the eye. So we'll just trim these down. And just go close to the eye as you can. Overlapping like we did before. Trim another one. Let's trim a couple more. Add some more glue. So that's one side done. I would do the same thing to this side, going over the bridge of the nose. You wanna work the back in the same way, starting with your lightest color at the very top, and then going in layers, working down to that darkest color that's near the eye. I actually added some cream feathers right in the center of the head as my lightest color, let me show you what that looks like. So this mask is a little further along. Just like we did on the other, we started with our lightest color at the bottom, worked our way in layers, I turn my mask, and this is the cream that I was talking about. It gives you a really nice effect. I added this little strip over the bridge of the nose, and this guy's almost done, but I wanna add a few extra sort of pops of color and touches. Owls tend to have these sort of eyebrow looking feathers that come here, and you can cut those feathers yourself, let me show you how to cut one. And to start a feather is a lot like a leaf shape. And I usually cut these one at a time, so they look individual. And then with the stem facing up, or the spine of the feather, we're gonna cut with little snips into the feather. To give it the feather texture. Flip it over and do it from this side, try not to cut your feather in half. And then, so it looks a little more realistic, I'll come in and snip away in a couple spots, so it's not so perfect. You can tug on this a little too, give it a real feather look. And those can be a nice accent on your owl mask, and create those little eyebrows. I like to usually layer them, so here's an oatmeal colored feather that could go with it. And I would just tuck it in somewhere and glue it down. You can also use real feathers, and the thing that's nice about them is that they'll stand up on their own, away from the mask. You can use a combination of real feathers and cut feathers from felt, and you can find feathers at a craft store. So let's just see what looks best on our little owl, here. I do like the real feather, it's really soft. Adds another texture. We could combine it with my felt feather, to give it a little more weight, which I do like. I think I'm gonna go with that. So I wanna cut another one of those larger feathers, out of my ochre felt. Again, just that leaf shape to start. Come in for the stem or the spine. I always have to recut this, I always cut it way too fat. Flip it so the stem is facing away from you. Just cut into it. This is how I make paper feathers too, I make a lot of paper feathers. Let's give it a little tug, make it look a little bit more irregular. You could glue these together. The nice thing about having the felt with the natural

feather is that it'll give it some body, and it'll stand away from the mask a little bit. So just add a little bit of glue to my felt feather, and staggering them, so they're not right on top of each other, just give it a little glue. Do the same thing to our other side. And then we wanna figure out where they're gonna go, to make these little eyebrows. So cute! I think I'll tuck them in here. So if I were to tuck this down, I'm gonna actually cut that little fishing cord off, so it can tuck down a little further. And I'll add glue first behind where the feather's gonna go. And just kinda hold him in place, until he feels tacked down. And then we'll glue this other feather on top. Careful not to burn yourself. Instead of using your finger to press down, you can also use something like a chopstick, I know a lot of people are afraid of the glue gun, so. Do the same thing on the other side. And glue directly onto this feather, before placing it down. He's almost done, I really like the way he looks, I like the addition of the natural feathers with the felt feathers, but I wanna go ahead and clean up the eye shape where we glued the edges of all those little brown feathers, to give us a really clean look. And this is another place where you can add a pop of color, because I can create a little eyebrow, or even make some eyelashes. This is just a scrap, I'm just gonna cut it down, and kinda see what it would look like if we added it. Hmm, I like that. Let's trim it down a little more. It's like a cat eye for your owl. This could be in orange, this could be in black, it could be in any color, really. I think that looks good. Before I glue this down, I think I'll cut a second one, just so I have something similar to start with on the other end, on the other eye. Again, just using my scraps. The felt is a little stretchy, so you can kinda make it work. Once you get it in place, if it's not quite long enough, you can stretch it, if it needs to be a little bit more rounded, you can kinda stretch it. So now I have two, plus there's no right or wrong side, so these can mirror each other. And I'm not gonna apply glue on the back of this, I'm gonna apply glue here, because I would most likely burn myself while holding this. So very carefully, just apply a little bead of glue right on the top of the eye. Sort of lay it in place, and then finesse it before it dries all the way. It's covering that edge. Do the same thing on the other side. Just a little bead of glue. Good. And then, let's add something here, just to cover up the bottom. And again, I might do sort of a cat eye, this is just a triangle. You can add at the bottom. If that's too drastic a shape, you can do something more like a little strip. You could leave these flopping, like some crazy eyelashes, that would be okay. But I think something like that might be nice. I'm gonna trim this down. Yeah, that's good. Let's make a second one. Just so it matches. You don't have to do this, I just usually cut one, and glue it down, and then I'm always irritated with myself that I didn't do a second one at the same time. So it at least gives me a general shape. This way. So tapered to fat side. Okay, yeah, that's good. Add our glue. Just press that down. And he's done! You have a cute little owl you can wear, or take out trick or treating.

Chapter 4 - Masquerade Mask

Start mask

- The cat eye is a classic Halloween look, but if you're not gonna be Catwoman for Halloween, I'm gonna show you how to transform this into a masquerade ball type of mask instead. So you've got your classic shape straight from the party supply store, and I'm gonna use sequins to make this into a fabulous nighttime look. I really love sequins, they're really inexpensive. They're a nice way to add some shimmer and shine and they come in a lot of really cool colors. We're only gonna work with them in a strip for part of the mask, and the rest of the time, they need to be individual. So, you'll need to cut away a strip and remove the sequins. Dropping them into a little jar here so I can corral them. You're not gonna need a lot, so this may seem a little tedious, but it goes quickly for this amount. And some sequins, you'll notice, are actually one color on one side and then another color

on the backside, so this is sort of a copper color, and the front is this neon coral color. I'm gonna use both sides, and then I have an iridescent baby pink color that I'm gonna mix in. So they're all going into the jar. I'm gonna sprinkle them on. So I want them to be mixed. If you can't get it off, it's time to trim. Let's start again. Once you have a nice mix, then you're ready to start on your mask. I tend to like an asymmetrical design. We're gonna use our feather or leaf-shape sequins on the left side, work our multicolor sequins here on this eye, and then we'll trail over onto the right eye to complete our mask. If you can't find these sequins, you could also cut something out of a metallic paper, a glitter paper, some kind of cardstock or craft paper you can find at the craft store. And just like with our owl, we need to start from the outside and work in. So we'll place these sequins one on top of another, creating a fan shape on the left side of our mask. Working with the hot glue, just kinda spread about an inch or so. And you're overlapping them slightly. Make sure some part of the sequin is landing into the hot glue. I'll add a little more glue on top so I can add a few more. Trying to stagger the tops a little as well. You can add more. Yeah, let's add two more. Just continue layering them until you get a look that you like. It could be denser or lighter. I'll add one more on top here. I'm not using a ton of glue, just a little. And that creates our fan shape. Get rid of those glue stings as you go 'cause they tend to stick to everything. I'm gonna cut this away now. I'm gonna show you how to add this to a stick. I'd rather it not be in my way. You could also change this to a ribbon if you wanted. I'm gonna use the sequins that I combined in my little jar here on this left eye. And we're gonna work in the same method, but this is where our toothpick is gonna come in handy. So place a layer of glue. Go right up to the edge. And I tried placing sequins individually to start, and I would up with a lot of burnt fingers, even when I was using my toothpick. I like to use this sort of sprinkling method instead, and then use my toothpick to move the sequins around in the glue. Okay, I'll put this back in here. You're gonna keep going until you get the whole left eye covered in sequins. Keep gluing. And I added glue. Sort of there's this natural curve to the nose here, so I just added my glue there to give it a nice finishing point. Do my little sprinkle action, and then we'll place those guys with the toothpick. I'll add just a little tiny spot of glue. Got those two popping off. I could come in and trim them from behind. That's fine, you could also peel those off. I think that looks pretty good. We're gonna add the sequins on the string around the outer and inner eye, just to tidy up that edge, so we can do that now. Just run a bead of glue on the outer edge just to finish this edge. Do the same here. And we'll finish it up here. Let's rotate that around again. I might need to add a few more in this area. Go right up to where you started. I'm gonna trim this a little. So that's overlapping, I can trim this, can trim this, pull that last sequin off that's down in the glue. I'm gonna add a few more sequins right here, and then we'll trim up this edge. So a few right in here. Can add those individually with my toothpick. And then let's trim out this. I've got a thinner sequin. You can see that this is a smaller sequin, so it gives a thinner strip, and we're gonna come in for the inner eye in the same way that we did the outer eye. So make sure to have a clean edge here. Put in a little strip of glue. You can use your toothpick to get this in place. It's gonna clean up these edges a little. I like to rotate it, just gives me better access to this little tight corner where the eye shape is. Looks like we lost a sequin there, just get rid of it. Trim this guy. Use your toothpick to get this lying in place. Hmm, perfect! That finishes the left side of our mask, and we're gonna go ahead and attack that other side to finish it off.

Finish mask

- Remember I said earlier I prefer an asymmetrical design you could do the exact same thing to this other eye, and it would give you a really fabulous overall look, but I really do like the sort of heavier

design on this side that then trickles off and trails into the the other eye. So we're gonna add some sequins but we're gonna apply them in a slightly different way. The copper sequins we used to frame out the inner eye, we're going to use them singly on the other side, starting heavy and then trailing off for a tapered look. You can apply the glue in large sections like we did with the other part of the sequins, or you can put them on individually, whichever works better for you. We'll probably do a combination of both. We'll start with a heavier application of the sequins. Right where it meets the left eye. (loud clanging) Again, use my sprinkle method. Ooh, try not to have any fuzz in your sequins. And then place them with your toothpick. Looks like my glue is dry there, and now I'm gonna shake off anything that didn't get attached. You'll start to get glue at the end of your toothpick. Sometimes this can be helpful and assist in getting your sequins placed or sometimes it's in the way, and you can just tear it off. We'll add some more glue here, along the bridge of the nose. Use our sprinkle method, and place more sequins. Looks good. So we're starting this new color here. Wanna add some here, and then we'll start to place some individually. There's a little bit of glue there that's dried. I want to add some fresh glue to cover up those spots with sequins. (loud clang) Okay, nice. And now we can add a few extra. I want to add them separately here. I don't want to create a polka dot effect, where they're all evenly spaced. The idea is to have a heavier concentration closer to the nose, and then trail out here. Placing these individual sequins it going to a little tricky You can add a little bit of glue with your glue gun right onto the mask and then place your sequin, but you do tend to get these glue strings that can stay on the mask or leave sort of a shadow on the mask. I'm gonna try this. I'm gonna pick up a sequin and just kiss it to the glue gun, and then place my sequin and remove the string. Hmm, there. I started to place some further out. Go ahead and clean up a little. As you're working, can get this glue string away. Toothpick is a very handy tool. Good. This guy is a little glue-y. I might just take him off and put another one in his place. I think that sequin got embedded in glue. Pick up one. Kiss it. Place it. Better. That's not a sequin. (laughs) It looks like a sequin, though. Let's see. Let's add one there. Let's add one there. Go ahead and clean up those strings as you go. All right, I think maybe we'll place three more sequins and then I'll be happy with the layout of these guys. Up here. Clean up my glue strings. I really like the way this sprinkling effect travels from one end of the mask to the other. If you get a lot of little glue strings that you can't remove, I find that the toothpick kind of rubbing the surface of the mask will pull up any glue strings, but if you get a spot where you made a mistake, you don't want to cover it with a sequin, which is the best way to cover your mistakes, add a sequin. But if you can't do that, you can also use a Sharpie to cover up any little glue-y spot. So I have a little bit of glue on te edge of the nose here, and I can just use my Sharpie to cover up any glue that's turned white, that's not the sequins. Just remove that sequin, it fell off. Here we can cover up that. We'll clean up the mask while we're at it. You can leave the elastic cord onto mask, and this is ready to wear it out, or for a true masquerade look, you can add a little stick, and this is just a dowel from the craft store. This actually comes in packages in the kid's section, but you can get a long one from the hardware store and cut it down. You could cover this with ribbon, you can use your sequin trim, but I want to paint it with this really pretty champagne craft paint. It gives it just a little bit of shimmer. If I were to use something like glitter, it could be uncomfortable to hold, it would be coming off all night. The metallic paint kind of gives you all the sparkly you need. Let's reverse it to get the other side. Once this is painted, you can set aside to dry, and then we'll attach it. Adding a little stick is easy peasy. Just flip this over. And where the holes coming out for where the cord used to be, we're just gonna hot glue that guy into place. Add a generous amount of glue here, cause the stick is fairly thick, and just lay the stick right in there, and hold until it dries. Get rid of those little glue guys. You could add

ribbons to this, and you'd wanna do that before you glued it down. And there's your mask. Get rid of those pesky glue strings. You could add ribbons to this, you could do this fan shape on the other side. This would make a really pretty swan lake costume, or a black swan. Or it could just be for a fun little masquerade ball.

Chapter 5 - Constellation Mask

Constellation mask

- Our last mask is the one that we're going to stitch. And this is a pretty standard shape of mask that you can find at the party supply store, and this one happens to be flexible which will allow us to stitch through it really easily. If you don't have one that's flexible and that you can run a needle and thread through, you can try this technique with a puff paint and you could try a glow in the dark puff paint or a neon puff paint. But regular paint, pens, or sharpie or regular craft paint with a brush doesn't stick to this type of mask. So that's why we're gonna use the thread. Before I begin my design, I want to cut away this nose shape, if I were to try this on this would be covering my nose right into the tip which looks sort of odd when you're wearing it so we're gonna cut away just with scissors a nose shape. And the satin fabric is fused to the back so it doesn't really fray. And you can try this on to make sure this is high enough, I think I want to do it a little higher. But it's important to do this first before you start to stitch into the mask because you don't want to place your stitches where you need to cut away later. Because then they'll unravel. We'll go ahead and curve out this edge. I can fold it in half to see, yeah it's pretty even. That looks good. Now I can plan my composition. Stitching gives you an opportunity to make a really graphic statement or pattern on your mask. We're gonna do something like a constellation. And I'm gonna run, my neon embroidery floss here. Before I actually start stitching, I'm gonna kind of plan this out. I'm gonna try to do some kind of shape here or maybe this way. I obviously don't want to put a stitch that's gonna go across the eye hole. All right. I could also do triangles, I could make a spider web with my stitching, but I want to do my constellation. So let's start with this. If you haven't worked with this neon floss before, it tends to separate as does the metallic. But just be patient, if you need to re thread your needle a couple of times go ahead. You can also do this with just the cotton yellow floss and it'll still pop, it just won't be neon. So let's start with this diagonal shape here running across the bridge of the nose. Thread our needle. And just leave a tail. And I'll cut off a little bit here. And just tie a double knot. Let's trim off this excess. We're gonna go here and I want to start at the bottom because my next move is gonna be to go across the top of the mask. Because this is flexible and your thread is flexible, this is actually very comfortable to wear. Wiggle that guy through, it's gonna be thick. And we're just gonna go right across to here. I don't need to do multiple stitches, this will curve and take up any slack when you place it on your face. I do want to make sure it's taught, though. Before I move on to the next part of my constellation or star pattern, I'm gonna add a little sparkle star here. And I can just do that by coming up over here. I like the look of an irregular star so we're gonna come out to this spot here. Pull it taught. And then I want to add one more cross to give this a star shape. Going right over the center, place it here. Wiggle. That's our first star. I want another line to come across here. So I need to come up, this may take you a second to find the spot. Wiggle it through. We're gonna come, we could come straight across and run parallel to the eye, we could come up at an angle, we could come down, I think I'm gonna run straight across. And we're gonna come out to this edge. This will wind up being the end of part of my star. Wiggle that through, don't be afraid to force it. It's not delicate. Gonna create our star shape. Remember to keep it taught as you go. So don't be afraid to pull. Pull it nice and taught. Let's come up over here to get

our star shape. Pull that taught. Let's finish up our star shape. Try to find the spot in the center of your star. If you have to kind of roll threads away that's fine. Came right up in the center. Wiggle. Get that through. Getting to the end of my thread here, let's see if I can just make one more. And let's go down here. Double knot off and come back and make a star. We'll come through here and then we'll knot off since we're at the end. And since I have six strands here, I'll actually just pull my needle off. Separate my threads, which they want to separate anyway and we'll just tie a double knot here. And then trim these. And I want to add a star shape here and maybe close off this shape. So we'll re thread. Double tie off this end. Snip! Let's place a star here around, the line we just made. This will be maybe a smaller star. Little baby star! Super cute. And let's, actually just finish this shape. So come back up from the middle. Or close to the middle, I actually don't want to go through those threads if I can help it. Close off the shape. I'll go ahead and extend past that line because that'll make part of my star shape. Come back up and finish off my star. Careful, you might get some knots back here. This thread can be really tricky to work with. So just pull those taught. Let's come down. And I want to finish off this star shape, remember this is where we started, I'm just gonna continue that line. As best I can. And then we'll just close up that star by sticking our needle close to our beginning point. It gives us our finished design, I want to knot off in the back. Because these are so slippery, you definitely want to make sure you're tying a double knot. One knot, two knots, you don't want to do too much more than that because this part's gonna be resting against your face. Good. And there's your constellation mask. You could pair this with an all black outfit for a complete costume, you could add a second constellation in the metallic thread to compliment it, and all the masks that we've made you can use from a store bought blank and customize it, adding your own personal touch for your very own Halloween costume.