

## How to Make a Gas Mask With a Balloon

The traditional [gas mask](#) style with two small circular eye windows originated when the only suitable material for these eye windows was glass or perspex; as glass is notoriously brittle, glass eye windows had to be kept small and thick. Later, discovery of polycarbonate allowed gas masks with a big full-face window. Some have one or two filters attached to the face piece. Some have a large filter connected to the face piece by a hose.

A gas mask helps to protect a person from smoke or deadly gas entering the lungs. You can make your own pretend "gas mask" from a few craft supplies and a mylar party balloon for "filtering" the air to be breathed. Your pretend gas mask won't actually work in an emergency, but it will give you an idea of how a real one is used. It will also look as scary as the ones that are worn in horror movies.

### Instructions

1. Put the newspaper down on a table. Put the white paper down on the newspaper. Draw a circle on the white paper with the black pen. Draw two eyes on the white paper. Draw a dot on the white paper where the nose would be on a face under the eyes.
2. Draw a big circle where the mouth for a face would be under the nose. Draw a dot at each side of the circle for the ears at about the same level as the eyes.
3. Draw a big circle where the mouth for a face would be and include the dot for the nose inside of the circle. Draw a dot at each side of the circle for the ears at about the same level as the eyes.
4. Tape the white paper to the black construction paper. Use the utility knife to cut out the eyes. Use the utility knife to make a small hole in each of the dots representing the ears. Use the utility knife to cut out the mouth.
5. Remove the tape from the white paper. Discard the white paper. Put the black construction paper down on the newspaper.
6. Pull off a piece of cellophane wrap from the roll. Put the cellophane wrap down on the newspaper. Use the utility knife to cut out two circles from the cellophane wrap that are a bit bigger than the eye holes cut in the black construction paper.
7. Put one of the two cut circles of cellophane wrap over an eye hole. Tape the cellophane to the eye hole with cellophane tape. Repeat this with the other cut circle of cellophane tape and the other eye hole.
8. Put the mylar party balloon down on the newspaper. Cut out a shiny piece of the mylar party balloon with the utility knife that is a bit larger than the mouth hole on the black construction paper. Discard the rest of the party balloon.
9. Put the cut shiny piece of the mylar party balloon onto the mouth hole on the black construction paper. Use cellophane tape to secure the cut shiny piece over the mouth hole. Turn the black construction paper over and put it down on the newspaper.
10. Put one end of the elastic cord through one of the ear holes in the front of the [gas mask](#). Put the other end of the elastic cord through the other ear hole. Place the gas mask against your face. Tie the two ends of the elastic cord behind your head to hold the gas mask you have made onto your face.