



Take an image or drawing into an editing program, such as Microsoft Publisher, and resize it to the dimensions you will actually use.

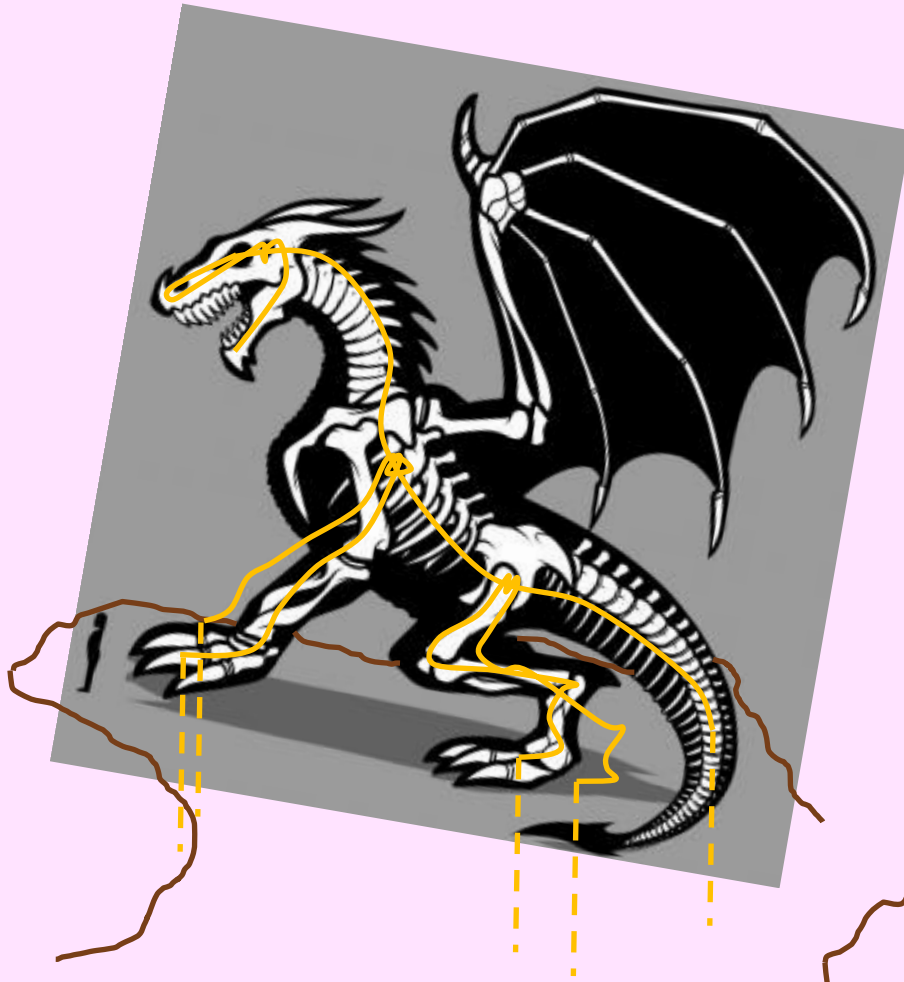
Inspiration Dragon Template borrowed from a tutorial on www.dragoart.com on how to draw dragons. TONS of other tutorials available with helpful wire frames and skeletons!



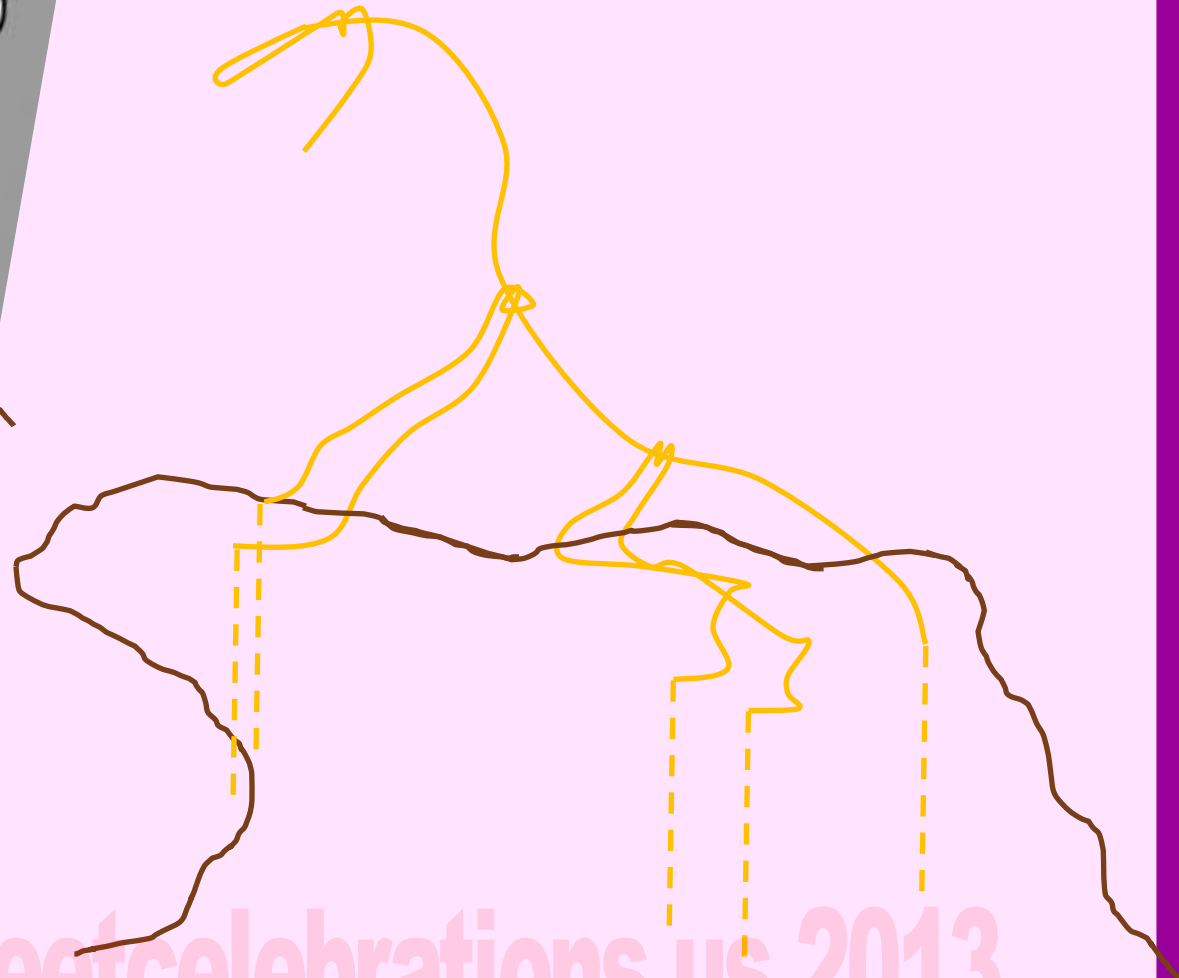


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Draw your copper wire skeleton, allowing for extra wire to poke into cake or krispy treats (highly recommended) - see my "Construction Grade Krispy Treats" recipe. If using cake all posts will need to poke all the way down to the board. To protect from edible servings you can paint the wires with melted chocolate first.



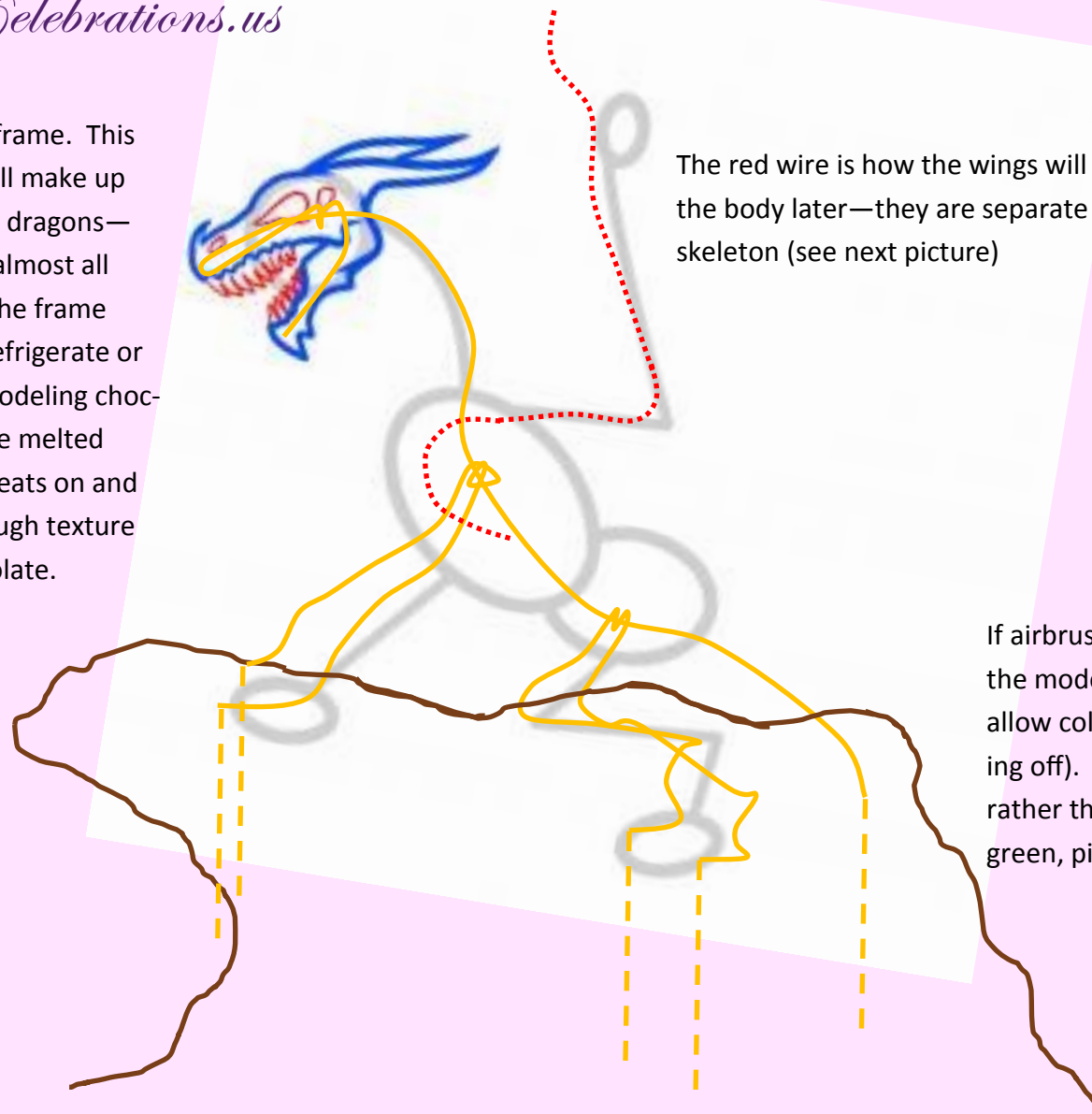
Use heavy copper wire from a hardware store for the main skeleton (modeling chocolate is heavy!). Be sure to allow areas of support for jaws, and minimize wire in all areas which do not need support — the footpads and claws, the lower end of the tail. Use electrical tape to secure the joins to prevent slipping. The wings are created separately then added after sculpting is done.



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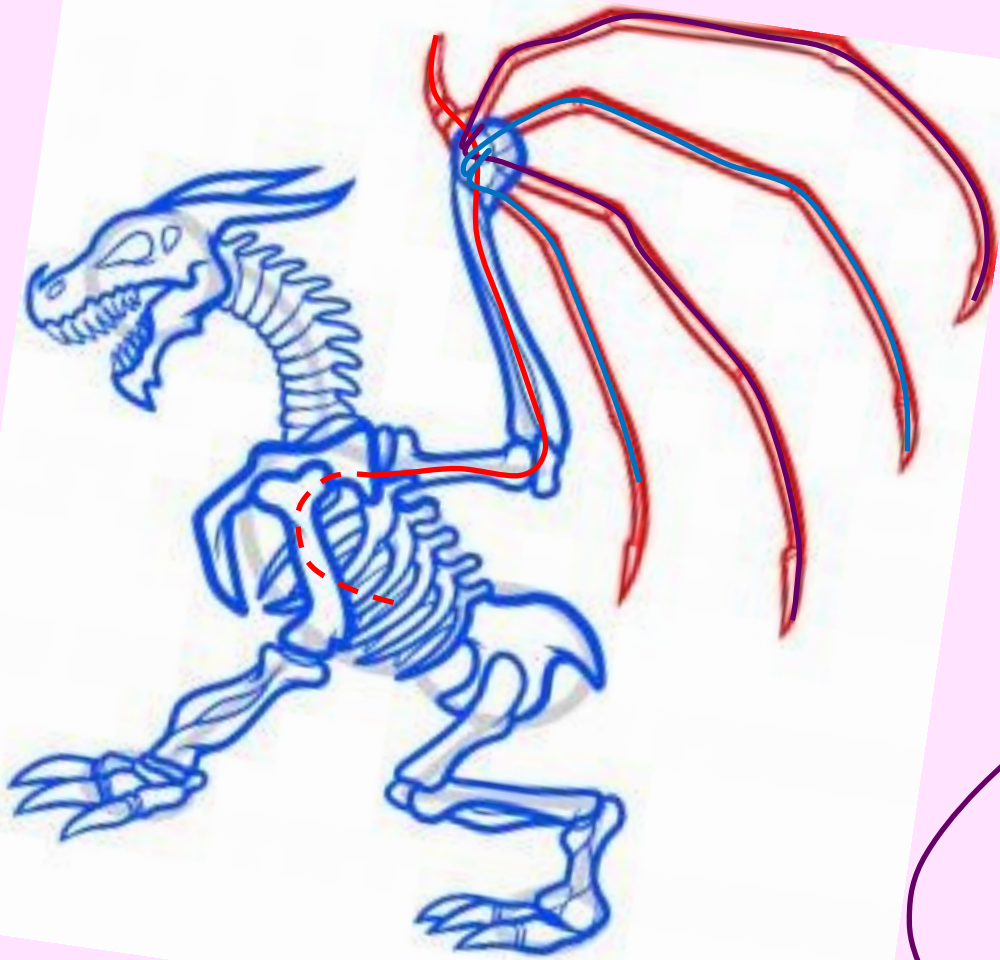


Here is a picture of the wire frame. This shows where krispy treats will make up the bulk of the body (in large dragons—the this one is small so it will be almost all modeling chocolate). Paint the frame with melted chocolate and refrigerate or freeze briefly to set. Apply modeling chocolate or brush on a little more melted chocolate and press krispy treats on and chill again to set. Smooth rough texture with additional melted chocolate.

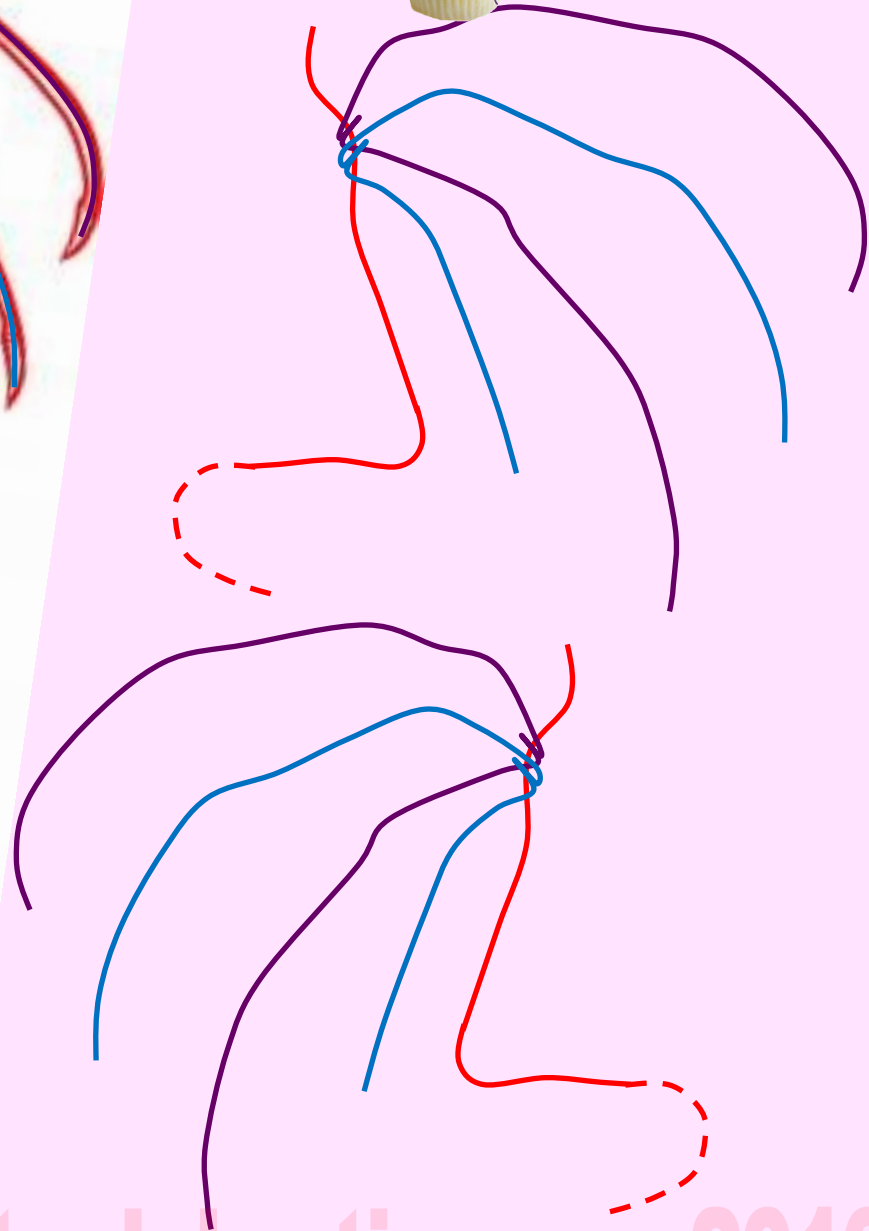


The red wire is how the wings will poke into the body later—they are separate from the skeleton (see next picture)

If airbrushing mix 25% fondant into the modeling chocolate mixture to allow color to set (rather than beading off). Start with a light base color rather than white (yellow, light green, pink, blue)

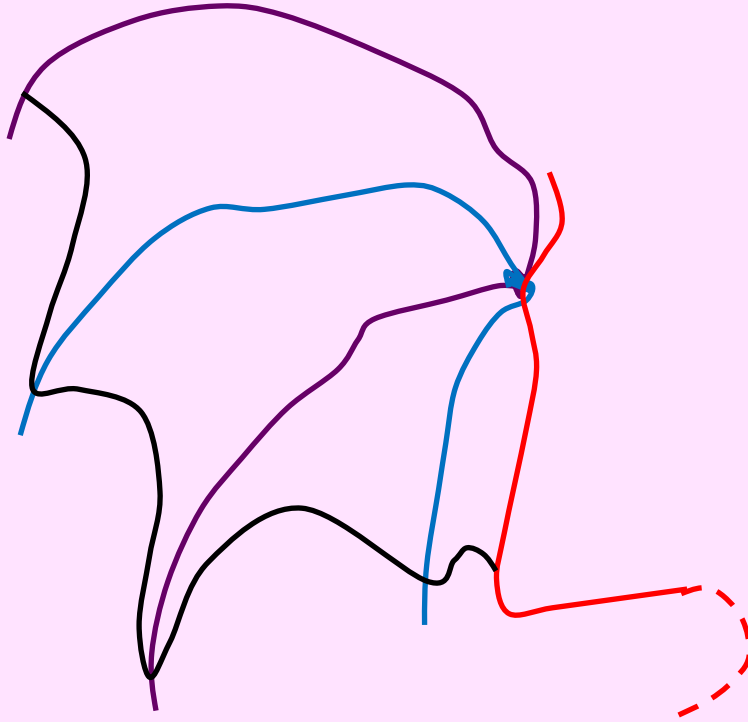


Wings are wired together the same as the skeleton with a main "stem" that will poke into the body when they are complete.



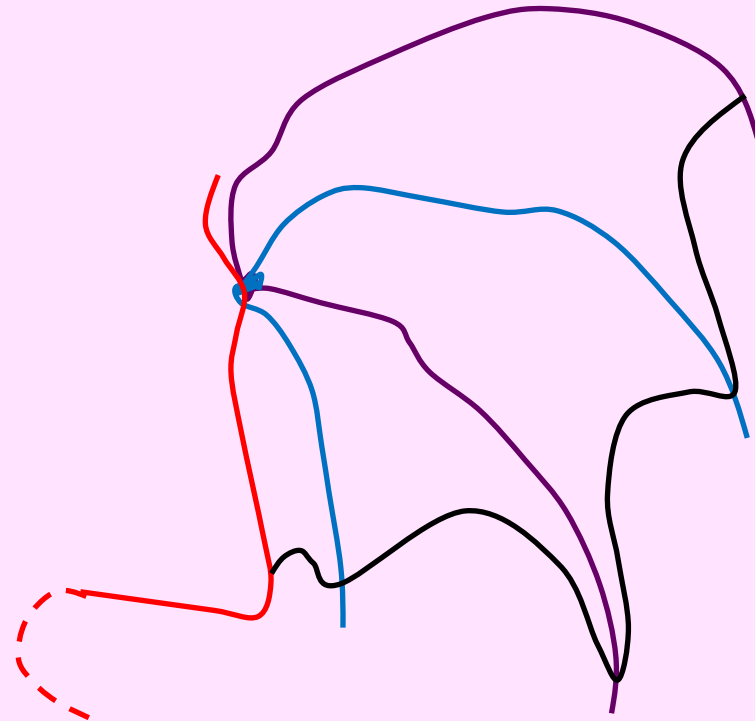


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The wire frame is taped securely and flattened completely before being “painted” with Jelly Satin. It is fine for it to be larger than the wing—it can be trimmed with scissors later.

The wire is spread out before wings are “painted” with Jelly Satin—this will allow you to bend and flex them into realistic, three-dimensional positions. Jelly Satin is like soft, silky latex at first, then firms a little in about an hour. Over time it will become tighter—in this case it can be airbrushed lightly with water to restore some pliability. After a few days it does bubble up a little, making a rougher skin texture, but it will still be pliable.



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“Jelly Satin”

created by Laurie Clark, www.sweetcelebrations.us, in collaboration with Bob Newton, Creature FX Inc. 2013

Jelly Satin was created in collaboration with Bob Newton of Creature FX Inc. during a brainstorming session during our competition on Food Network’s Sugar Dome (Episode 1: “A Dragon’s Tale). Bob is an animatronics expert with lots of experience in the film industry. Originally I had toyed with the idea of using dried gelatin sheets (see tutorials for edible gelatin bows online) - which I found became flexible when sprayed with water or airbrushed. After they were molded they dried crunchy again—and were able to be spritzed again for more flexibility. The drawback is that this method needs dried sheets which take 7 to 24 hours to dry completely. I was talking with Bob about how to create even greater flexibility and we came to the conclusion that glycerin added to the mixture would help. But the real breakthrough came from his knowledge of special FX makeup—he had seen gelatin used for quick facial appliances. I had actually seen this long, long ago on a Halloween episode of Martha Stewart Living—and had used it for a Grim Reaper costume. His genius idea was to pop the gelatin mix in the freezer for just a few minutes — and voila! Instant, flexible, edible material. Conceived just in time — our theme ended up being Dragons and this was perfect for the wings. I was very fortunate to be paired with such a talented and versatile teammate. Now I’m inspired to learn rudimentary animatronics so I can use this for future projects...

- Jelly Satin is ready in just a few minutes and is made with stuff that’s easily available.
- It tastes pretty good—a little like tart taffy. The texture is soft for a few hours to overnight, then toughens as it dries. After prolonged refrigeration or after about 3 days at room temp it’s still flexible but gets chewy and rubbery.
- It can be used as silky fabric or as skin
- It does not need to be applied to a frame—you can just make a sheet of it
- You can use finely textured plastic sheets to create patterned “fabric” or bumpy skin
- It can be cut with scissors
- If the edges need thinning you can use boiling water and a spoon to “smoosh” the edges
- You can poke holes in the wings by dampening the area and pinching fingers together to dissolve a hole
- Airbrushing will not harm it—unless you apply too much at one time
- It can be piped, for glue and veins—to re-warm to a good consistency place in a sealed baggie and float in warm water.
- The leftover scraps can be heated and re-used a couple of times and makes a very strong glue, especially when used with itself.



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