EUROPEAN KNIGHT’S HELMET
-ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS-

WHAT YOU’LL NEED: Scissors, Tape, Elmer’s glue (or a glue stick), and a length of String or Elastic Cord (about 24 inches should be plenty).

TO BUILD THE HELMET: Print out all 5 parts pages. Cut out the top left piece on page 1 and the top right piece on page 2. Cut out the eye hole in each piece and then turn the two pieces over (face down) and position them together as shown in figure 1a, with the edges touching but not overlapping. Tape the straight area where they meet. Now turn the entire piece around so the four points are facing you. Begin taping together the two middle edges, starting between the eyes and working towards the outside. It’s VERY important to join only half an inch or so at a time, and don’t let the edges overlap. The piece should begin to curve as you work your way outwards, as shown in figure 1b. This seam may prove difficult at first, but it’s easy once you get the hang of it. After the two edges are joined all the way to the corners (don’t join the small flat areas at the top) you may join the two outer seams in this same manner. When finished you should have a curved piece similar to the top of a baseball cap. Made of iron. With rivets. Well, you get the idea…

Next cut out the lower left and right jaw pieces on page 3. The red marks outside the pieces indicate which edges of the two jaw pieces go together, and the green marks indicate which sides will connect to the upper jaw piece later. Place the two lower jaw pieces together as in figure 3a. Turn them face down and tape the middle seam where it’s straight. Next, begin taping the curved edges of the middle seam in the same way you did the top section’s curved edges. The lower jaw piece should curve slightly to form a sort of chin. Tape all the way to the corners of the middle seam (but don’t tape the bottom edges of the piece). Now cut out the upper jaw piece on page 4. The green marks indicate where it will attach to the lower jaw piece. Don’t cut the grey center line, just cut along the outer edges of the piece. Fold down along the grey center line, then unfold. Place the upper and lower jaw sections face down with the center creases touching as shown in figure 3b. Connect first one side and then the other (taping the edges indicated earlier with the green marks), working out from the center, as shown in figure 3c. The jaw piece should curve itself into a form like the one shown in figure 4a. Bend the tabs upward and position the jaw piece over the top section as shown in figure 4B. The tabs on the top edge of the jaw section should rest just below the eye holes, and the rivets on the sides of the lower jaw piece should sit just below the rivets with the black centers on the top section. Tape loosely and be sure the top piece and jaw piece
lie smoothly together with no buckling. Then glue the tabs securely to hold the jaw piece in place. Be sure the rivets with black centers (on the top section) are not covered. Hmmm…starting to look rather brutal, isn’t it?

Next snip out the two horns on page 5. Don’t divide the four sections of each horn, just cut along the outer edges. For each piece, fold the tabs upward. Then fold down along all three inside lines. To tape the horn together, place it face down and fold the two outside panels over as shown in figure 5a. Tape the outside panels together and then unflatten the horn so it resembles figure 5b, with the tabs outward. After both horns are taped, decide where you want to place them on the top section, and glue the tabs down securely. Horns are actually optional on the knight’s helmet, but they do add a certain…something.

And now it’s time to attach this thing to our face! Begin by cutting out the nose rest on page 5. This nose rest will help keep the mask from slipping down over our eyes. Don’t separate the two halves, but DO cut the small red mark to separate the two blank grey tabs. Fold the tabs up and then fold the entire piece down along the center line. You should now have a piece shaped like the one shown in figure 6a. Keep it folded out into a triangle and place it inside the mask between the eyes and slightly below them (about where you’d put the nose on a jack-o-lantern). Tape it lightly in place and put the mask on your head. The nose rest should sit comfortably over your nose and hold the eye holes in the right place, as shown in figure 6b. If your eyes are not in the center of the eye holes, reposition the nose rest until the eye holes are where they should be. Then tape the nose rest firmly in place.

Now find the two rivets in the upper section that have black centers. Punch a hole in each rivet using a pen or pencil. Be very careful not to tear the paper (or stab yourself). Place small pieces of tape over the holes, both on the inside of the mask and on the outside, to strengthen the paper around the holes. Then puncture the holes (carefully) again, and use the holes to connect about a foot of string (or elastic cord) to each side of the mask. Tie the string securely to the mask and place the mask on your head. Now tie the two pieces of string so the mask fits snugly. It shouldn’t be tight enough to tear the paper, or loose enough to slip over your eyes. If the mask now fits comfortably, you’re nearly finished. Cut out the two side discs on page 5 and glue them over the ends of the string, as shown in figure 7b. They’ll hide the string a little, and will also help keep the paper from tearing where the string’s attached.

Now cut out the two blade pieces on page 4, and bend the tabs upward. Glue the two pieces back to back, but don’t glue the tabs together. Trim the edges neatly once the two halves are glued together, and then bend the tabs out so the blade piece looks like figure 7a. Position the blade piece on the top of the helmet, as shown in figure 7b, and glue the tabs down securely.

To make the mask EXTRA creepy… tape a piece of THIN black nylon material, such as pantyhose material, behind the eyes. If you do this, be sure the material is thin enough to see through easily and be extra careful when wearing the mask.

And the final step… take a look in the mirror. Is there a scratched and tarnished knight staring back at you? Groovy! Your Medieval Knight’s Helmet is complete.