

Octopus

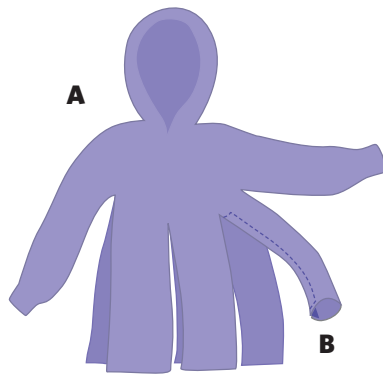
This disarming disguise starts with a cleverly sliced-up hoodie, which gives our octo-kid his requisite eight limbs. The suction cups are made from stick-on mailing seals.

You will need:

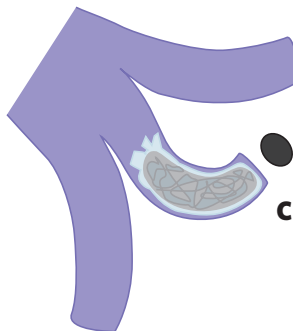
- Solid-color (or inside-out) pullover hooded sweatshirt, at least 2 sizes too big for your child
- Duct tape
- Plastic grocery bags
- Aluminum foil
- Black marker
- White 1-inch diameter mailing seals (\$8 for a pack of 600 at office supply stores)
- 2-inch Styrofoam ball

The Arms

1. Lay the sweatshirt flat on your work surface. Cut the front and back into three flaps as shown, stopping 5 inches from the neckline (**A**). If there's a front pocket, cut its stitches and remove it from the sweatshirt.



2. Form tubular limbs by joining each flap's edges together with a duct-tape strip applied inside the tube (**B**). Stuff each limb with a large foil sheet, rolled and shaped into a wide curve and wrapped inside a plastic bag. With a marker, color six mailing seals completely black, then adhere one to the tip of each limb's stuffing, just inside the cuff (**C**).



3. With the marker, color black spots in the centers of approximately 130 mailing seals. On the underside of each octopus limb, adhere 2 rows of 6 to 9 seals each, spacing the dots about 1 inch apart on either side of the seam.

The Eyes

Halve the Styrofoam ball with a sharp knife (a parent's job). Attach one half to either side of the hood with a loop of duct tape. Color 2 mailing seals black and affix one to each eye.

