

Gobseck (The Face of Avarice)

Origami model designed by Dmitry Lysiuk (DimonC1) (Minsk, Belarus) for CFC Monthly Challenge October 2025 "The Eight-Grid Multy-form".

1. Introduction

When deciding to participate in the challenge, I became curious about what was meant by "teachable model". In terms of technique, origami can range from beginner to advanced, requiring diagrams or sketches of varying complexity for each case. In terms of shaping or artistry, the model can also be anything, depending on the student's level.

I decided to create a model that could develop imaginative thinking and the ability to improvise with paper. The proposed format is very well suited for this task, as the grid allows for folds of varying complexity, including volumetric ones, varying proportions, and so on.



**GOBSECK:
LARGE PRINT**
HONORÉ DE BALZAC

Prototype for the model



Gobseck (the Face of Avarice).

One square sheet of Elefantenhaut paper
110g/m²

27x27 cm, without incisions or gluing.

Used two steel balls for eyes.

Model height 20 cm.

Level: Intermediate

My model is pure improvisation. The chosen image of Gobseck has very distinctive features—a hooked nose, a suspicious gaze—in short, a portrait of avarice. Similar faces are found on Koshchei the Deathless, Baba Yaga, some sorcerer, etc. That is, using the presented model as a base, you can depict a variety of images, changing the eyes, nose, mouth, anything.

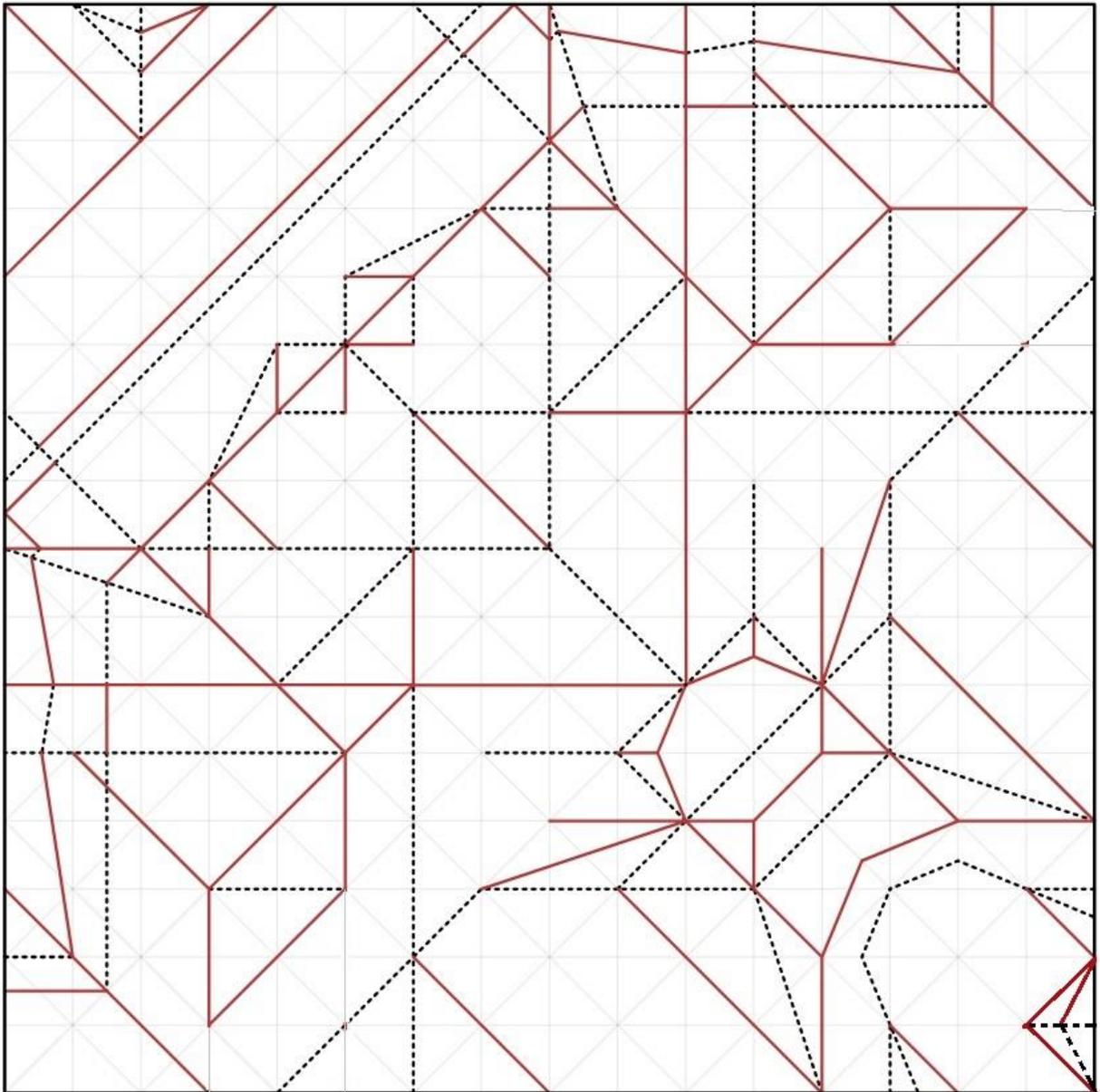
My model is on a grid 16x16 plus diagonals. By fine-tuning the grid—either initially or locally, where needed—you can add desired detailing—eyebrows, pupils, wrinkles, and more.

While there are plenty of materials available for learning folding techniques, many may not yet be ready to study serious books on origami model design. Thus, the model is intended to demonstrate the fundamental possibility of teaching authorship through play. This is especially applicable to children's flexible imagination and thinking.

2. Folding instructions.

This is a complete crease pattern of Gobseck.

Red lines is mountains, black dotted - valley folds.



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"Gobseck (The Face of Avarice)"

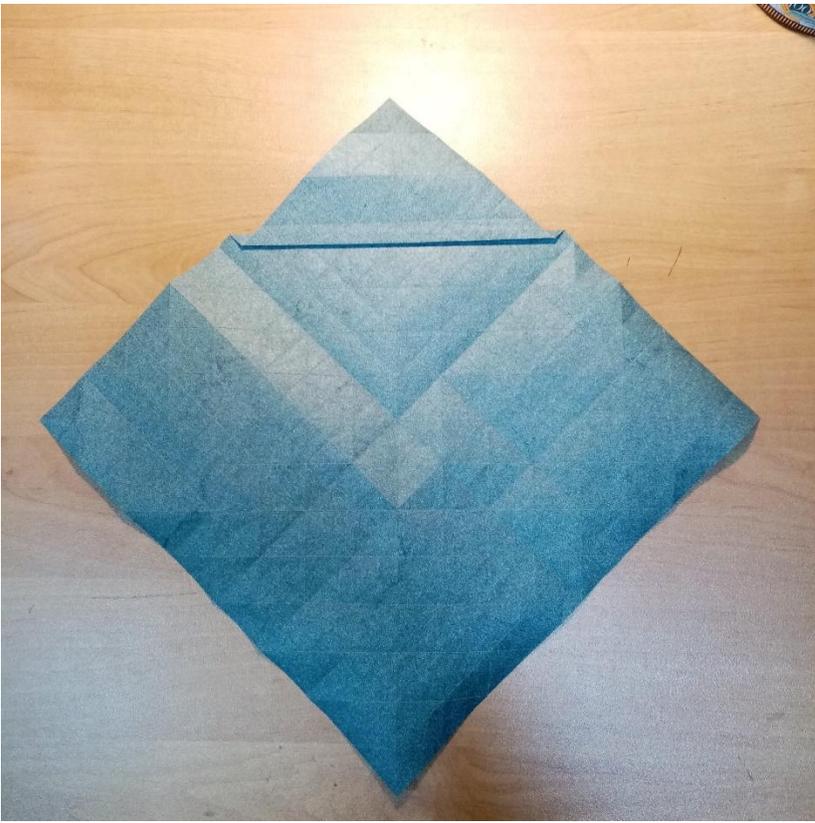
Folding is not flat. For beginners, I recommend drawing fold lines on the grid with a pencil. This will make folding much easier. You will also need clothespins for temporary fixation.



1. Start with the grid 8x8 plus diagonals.



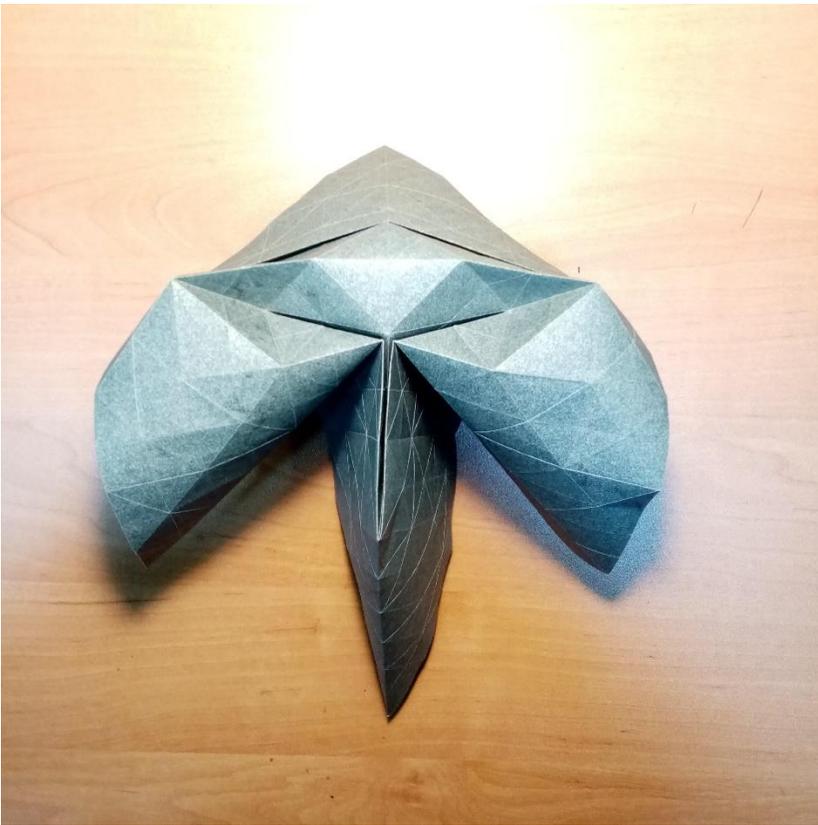
2. Make a grid 16x16. The folds must be strong, it is best to use strong, durable paper, Elefantenhaut is the best.



3. Looking at the crease pattern, make folds.



4. Begin of general collapse.



5. Collapse paper in this pretty form.



6. View from the back side.



7. Continue folding as in the photo, also on the other side.



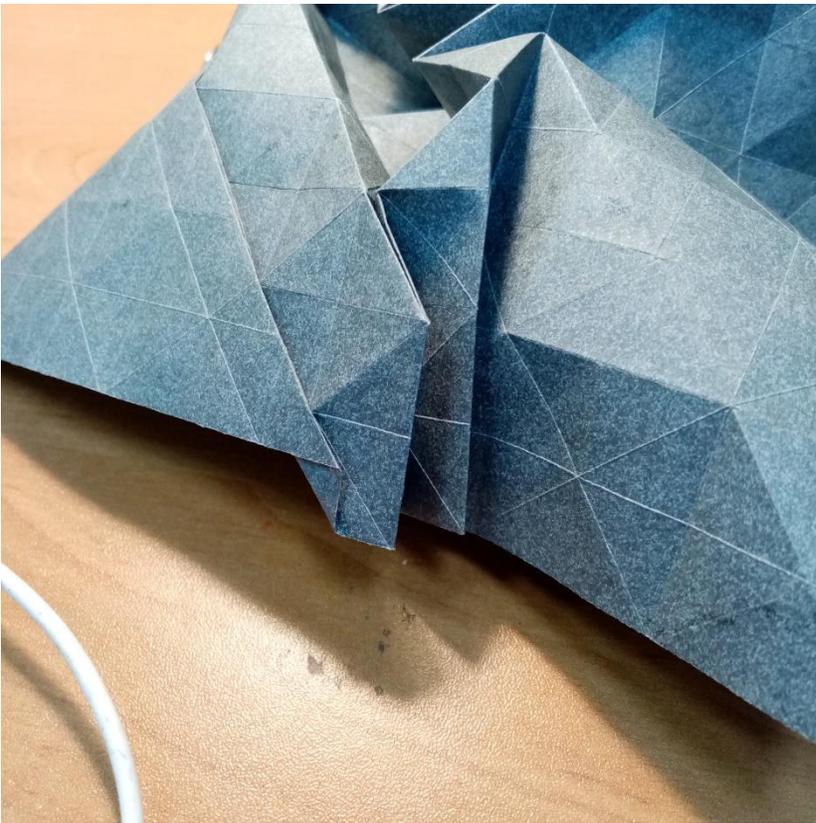
8. Fix the folded edges and push central part inside.



9. Begin forming the eyes. Look at the crease pattern.



10. The resulting creature should look like this. Folding it's funny, isn't that right?



11. Turn the top part of the model slightly using an additional fold (see the pattern)

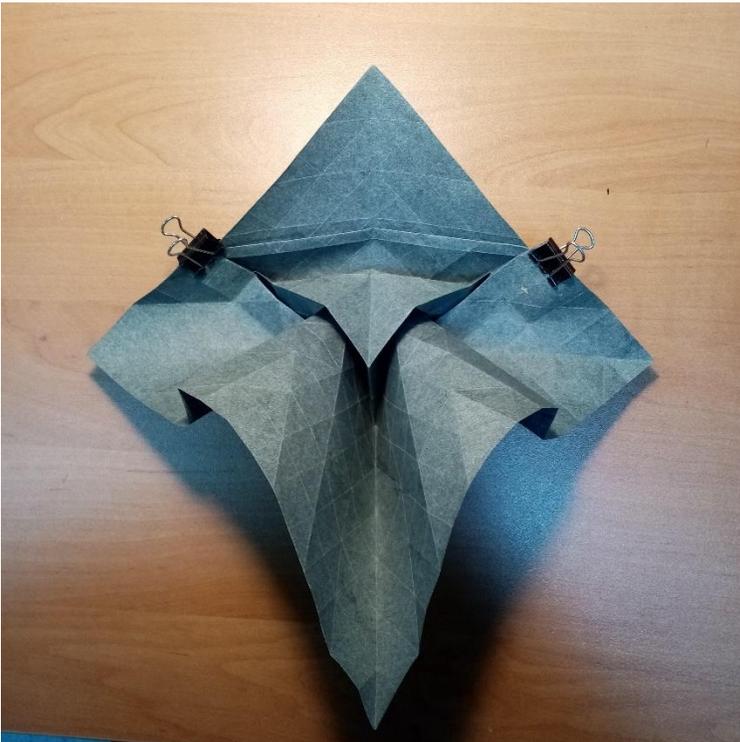


12. Like this. Repeat on the other side.



13. Round the model a little, fix the edges.
He's already looking at us, waiting. It's even a little creepy.

If to say seriously, at this moment you can make the eyes kinder or meaner, as you wish in your own project.



14. View from back side at this moment.

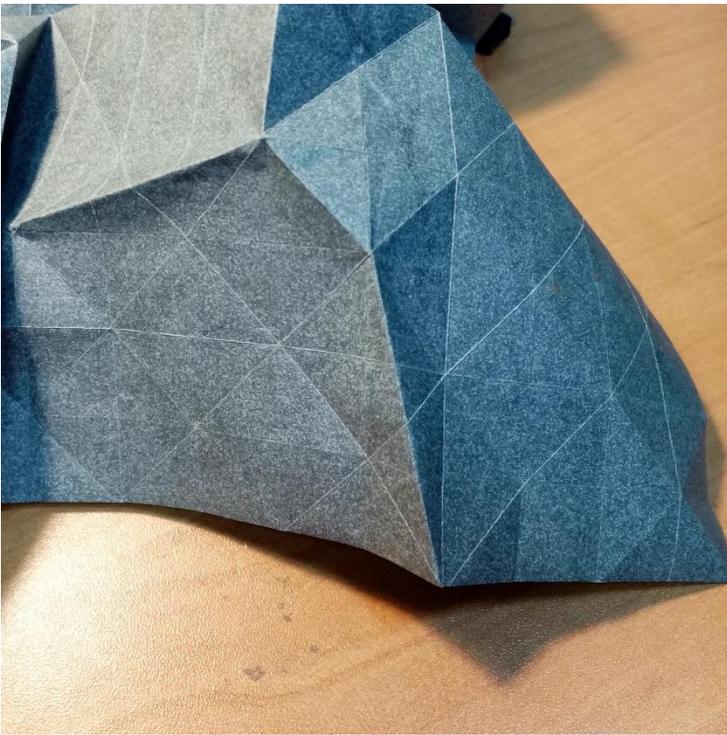


15. Begin to forming bottom side of the face of avarice.

Next time you can give him the features of someone else, but now we will make Gobseck.



16. Make a crease (look at pattern), and on the other side.



17. Another crease, and reverse to the valley (and on the other side).



18. Collapse the nose and chin, and...



19.And the base is ready!

As you can imagine, there are many different ways to proceed from here.

Gnomes, sorcerers, warriors, grandfathers, and many other characters, both kind and not so kind, can be seen and then folded from this base. And you can come up with a lot of such base forms.

If you're teaching children origami, you could dedicate a lesson to this and ask them to fold their teacher, for example. Let them imagine and play, and they can read more serious books on origami design later, when they're more mature.

Let's go further and finish off this nasty Gobseck.

The following photos show the final assembly of the model. It's similar to shaping, but all the folds are shown in the crease pattern.



20. Forming the mouth.



21. Shaping the chin.

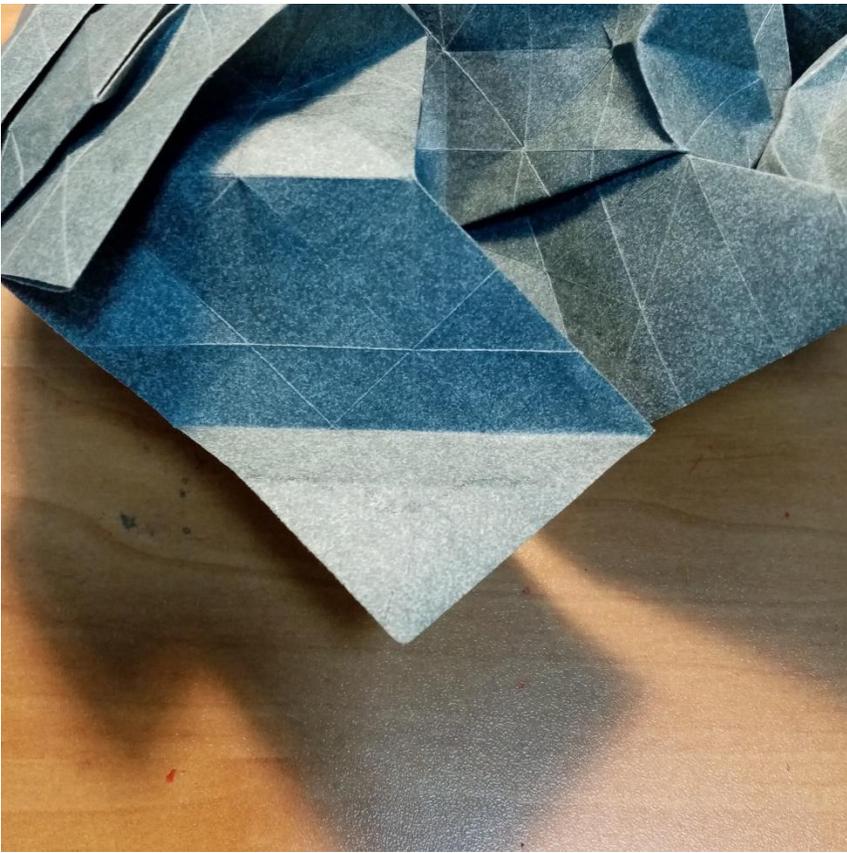


22. Make a hooked nose.



23. The following six photos (23-28) show how to shape cheeks and close folds. Look at the pattern.

It's a little bit tricky. Not everything in life always goes smoothly.



24.



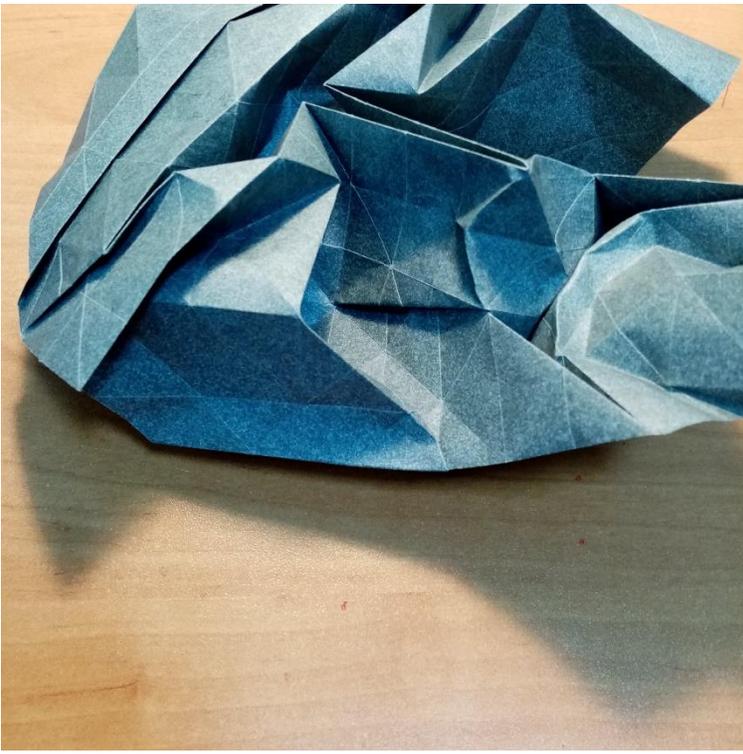
25.



26.



27.



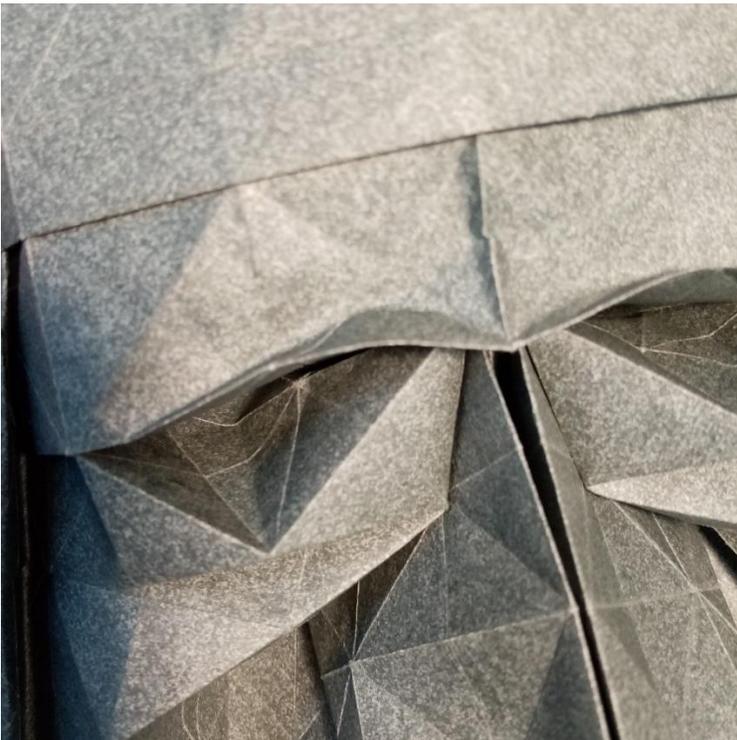
28. Something like that.



29. Now let's depict some thin hairs



30. Like this



31. And lift the eyelids (eyebrows)



32. Gobseck (The Face of Avarice) is ready.

All that's left is to add a greedy sparkle to the eyes (two steel balls) and take a beautiful photo of the result.



Children, don't be like me.

HAVE A FUN!

All the best for all,

DimonC1