



So, you want to make a bust of Alfred E. Neuman? You're not alone. (Lonely? Oh, God yes — but not alone.) Barry Fries, longtime MAD fan and collector (and first-time sculptor), took matters into his own hands! The end result? A 27-inch-tall, 52-pound Alfred bust that we reluctantly celebrate on this page!

THE FAN-MADE ALFRED E. NEUMAN BUST

STUFF YOU'LL NEED:

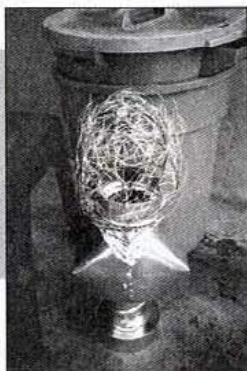
- Heating duct (if you're using your own, this may be a good summer project)
- Polymer clay ("Poly-" means "many," and "-mer" means "clay-related fatalities")
- Chicken wire (haven't those chickens earned a little freedom, anyway?)
- Wire hangers (if your mother is Joan Crawford, keep this on the down-low)

SCULPTING TOOLS YOU MAY NEED:

- Flathead screwdriver (if things aren't going well, try a vodka screwdriver)
- Small paintbrush handles (available at all small paint stores)
- Dinner fork (if you're in prison, a "spork" will suffice)
- Your fingers (toes may be substituted in a pinch)



1 Barry started off with pieces of heating duct to make Alfred's body. To keep the bust from tipping over, he later filled the base with concrete. (Remember, using a heating duct may make for a keen statue — but it also makes for a rough winter!)



2 Next, using a coal hanger and chicken wire, Barry made the form of Alfred's head. If only he had just thrown it into that nearby garbage can, we all could have been saved a lot of trouble.



3 Unable to finish the whole bust, Barry had the waiter wrap up his leftovers. Since it was already covered in tin foil, he decided to use it as a base for the clay.



4 Next, using various Alfred action figures and a portrait by Norman Mingo as references, Barry sculpted Alfred's head — free-hand! It's just that simple!



5 Barry touched up the face and hair, and then sculpted the body in the same cavalier fashion. Like all true artists, he showcased his project next to a 1983 Saab 900S.



6 Barry then sculpted the pedestal for the bust. If you're following along at home, remember to display your work directly between a garden hose and basement window.



7 Barry sculpted the head and body in two separate pieces, each small enough to be baked in a conventional oven. (As a result, his cakes now all taste like clay and sheet metal!) Prior to the baking, Barry used a fork to add pinstripes to Alfred's jacket.



8 After sanding and priming it, Barry poses with his masterpiece, still furious over the countless man-hours wasted on this project. (Actually, he *did* count, and the project took about 100 hours — meaning Barry's well on his way to wasting his *entire* life on MAD!)

