



# CLAYFAG ANON'S PONY SCULPTING TUTORIAL: ARMATURE FRAME

## What is this?

In this little tutorial, I'd like to share my **armature frame template** I use for my **pony sculptures** that can be easily picked up by beginner craftsfags so they can start sculpting right away.

**This guide helps (You) to create a simple, customizable and poseable armature frame with near show-accurate proportions** which could serve as a base for additive sculpting techniques. No glue or soldering required, so this method is perfect for oven-baked modeling clays.



As you can see, this frame gives you a quite sizable miniature which stands about 15cm (6") tall without mane. It might seem a bit too large at first glance, but I found this scale to be a comfortable size to work on.

This template is tailored for "free-standing" models, which means the frame is not fixed onto a base. With some tweaking though, the wire frame can be modified to fit your needs.

## How to use this template?

The template is adjusted for regular printing paper (A4), so I **suggest you to print out the attached template and use that as a 1:1 reference** when you're working with the wire.

You can of course, measure out the individual parts and do the work by the book, it's up to you.

## Contents of this tutorial:

- The stuff you'll need
- Template breakdown
- Step by step guide
- Printable template



## *The stuff you'll need*

- **Aluminum wire ( $\varnothing$  ~2mm):**

As for the aluminum wire, look for “armature frame” or “jewelry craft wire” in your local hobby store, a 5m roll should cost about 3-4 bucks each.

I use aluminum because it is cheap AF and easy to work with, even without tools.

I found the 1.5 and 2 mm thickness (gauge 15 and 12) is best for this scale as it bends well but it is still firm enough to keep it's shape.

You can go even more THICC, but keep in mind that it will be much difficult to make sharp bends on a thicker wire, especially if you don't have pliers at hand.

- **Tinfoil:**

Just regular household tinfoil for padding.

- **Side cutter**

- **Long-nose pliers:** optional, but good to have.

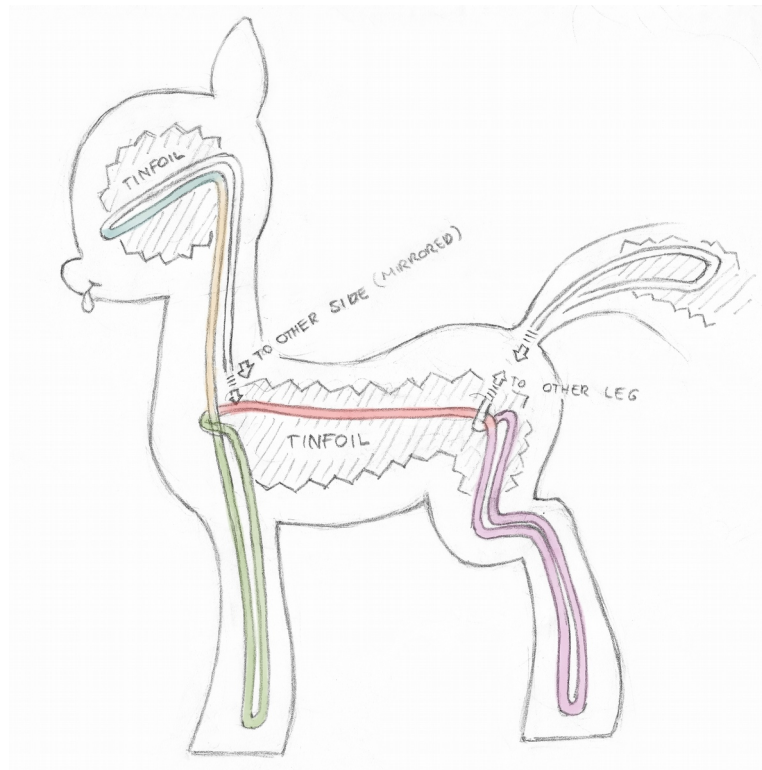
- **Measuring tool:** ruler, measuring-tape or a printed version of the attached “blueprint”.



*Pic 1: Military-grade brain scan protection tinfoil, wire, tools and a brick of clay for some reason*

## Template breakdown

Basically, the frame consists of two mirrored sides that joins at the head. For simplicity, only one of the sides are shown on the template, which is colored on the blueprint below. Each colorless wire on the drawing belongs to the tail or the other side of the frame.



Pic 2: Colored wireframe blueprint. Blep!

Here's a color-coded size chart about the wire lengths for each body part:

Head	3 cm	~ 1.2"
Neck	5 cm	~ 2"
Front leg (x2)	7 cm	~ 2.8"
Body	6 cm	~ 2.4"
Rear leg (x2)	8 cm	~ 3.2"
One side	44 cm	~ 17.3"
Full:	88 cm	~ 34.6"
+Remaining goes to tail (which translates to 1 meter wire for a pony)		

The parts marked with a multiplier (x2) means the wire is looped back, so the length of these body parts are counted twice.

**NOTE:** The print version of the template is on the [last page!](#)

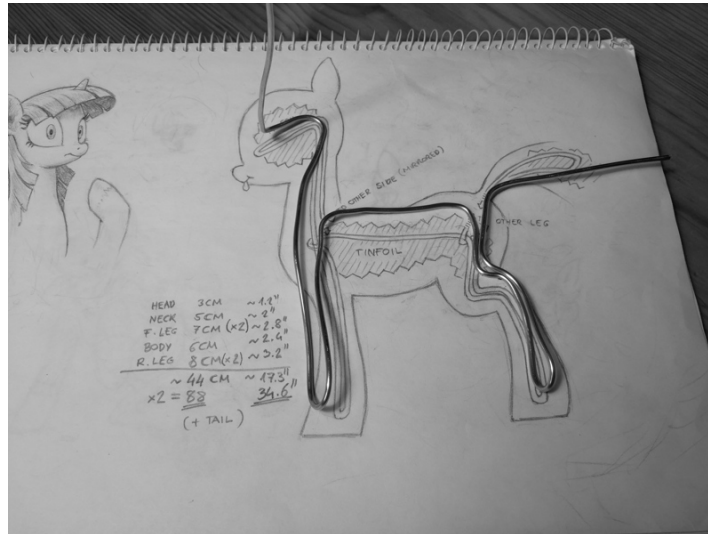
## Step-by-step guide

### Step 1: Cut

Cut the wire to the required size (see “Template breakdown” for detailed values). For this guide, **you'll need about 1 meter**.

### Step 2: Fold

**Fold the wire into two equal halves.** The middle point marks the snouts where the two sides of the frame connect.



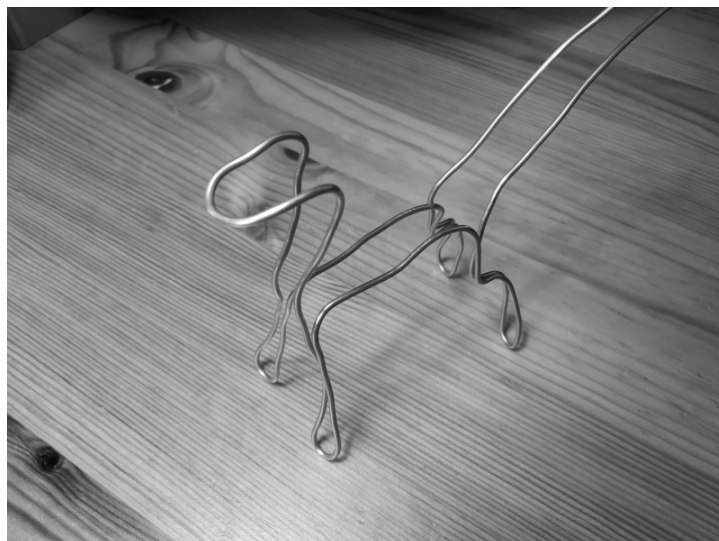
Pic 3: Easy-mode: bend the wire using the template

### Step 3: Bend

**Bend the wire according to the template,** start with the head.

A printed version could save a lot of brainpower if you're measuring against the blueprint.

When you're done with one side, do the same for the other. You don't need to be super accurate, but **make sure you keep it as symmetric as possible**. Once you're done, you should have something like this:



Pic 4: Both halves completed



#### Step 4: Twist

After the basic shapes were laid down, you need to **join the two halves**.

- On the front, twist the two wires that makes up the neck of the model. Be sure you leave enough space between the shoulders!
- At the butt, twist the upper part of the legs, but leave the lower part of the leg alone for the tinfoil lining. By twisting the wires together, you can basically stick them together without glue or extra wiring.
- On the back, twist the two returning ends that come back from the rear legs, leaving some space between the hips. This is the part where the pliers could come handy.



*Pic 5: Finished frame. Make sure you left enough space between the two sides!*

Usually I use the leftover ends for the tail, but it can be added separately. When I do the latter, I just simply drill holes for the tail, and then I build the tail on a separate wire frame which fits into place.

#### Step 5: Tinfoil

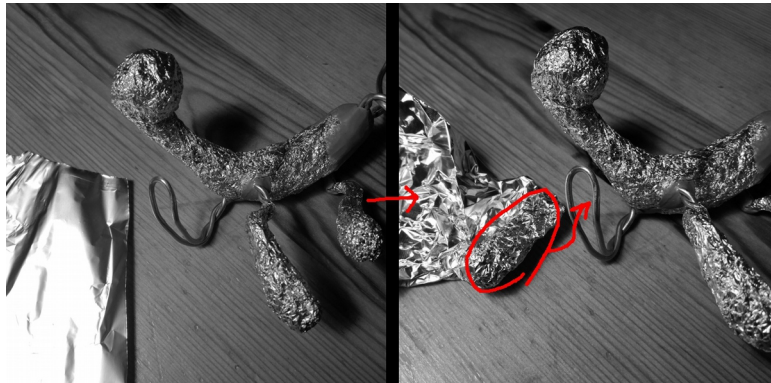
**Add tinfoil padding to the thicker body parts;** e.g.: head, neck, body and hooves.

The padding helps with various ways: it saves crafting material, adds structure to the model and provides a rough surface for the clay to stick onto.

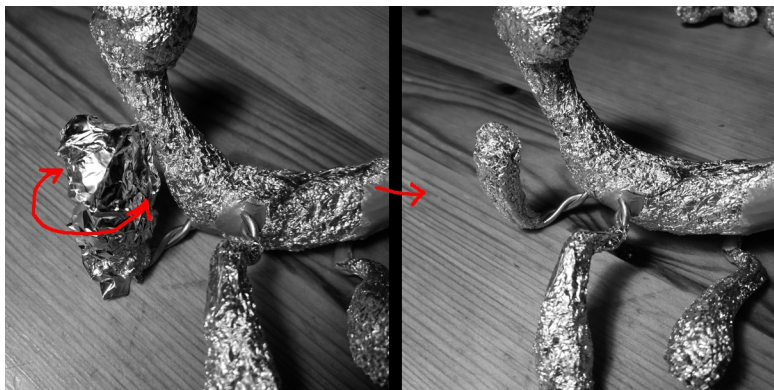


*Pic 6: This model had a separate armature for the tail*

Use the following technique for each body part that needs to be wrapped:  
First, create a lump from the tinfoil and fit into place.



Then wrap the part around with more tinfoil (if you have mad skills, you can use a same piece of tinfoil that you used for the lining). Lastly, shape the wrapped part to your liking:



**Pro-tip:** if the foil won't stay in place, you can use small balls of modeling clay as a makeshift glue.

**Well done!** Now you can add clay to the skeleton to get a basic pony shape, and then gradually build up the details by adding additional layers to it:



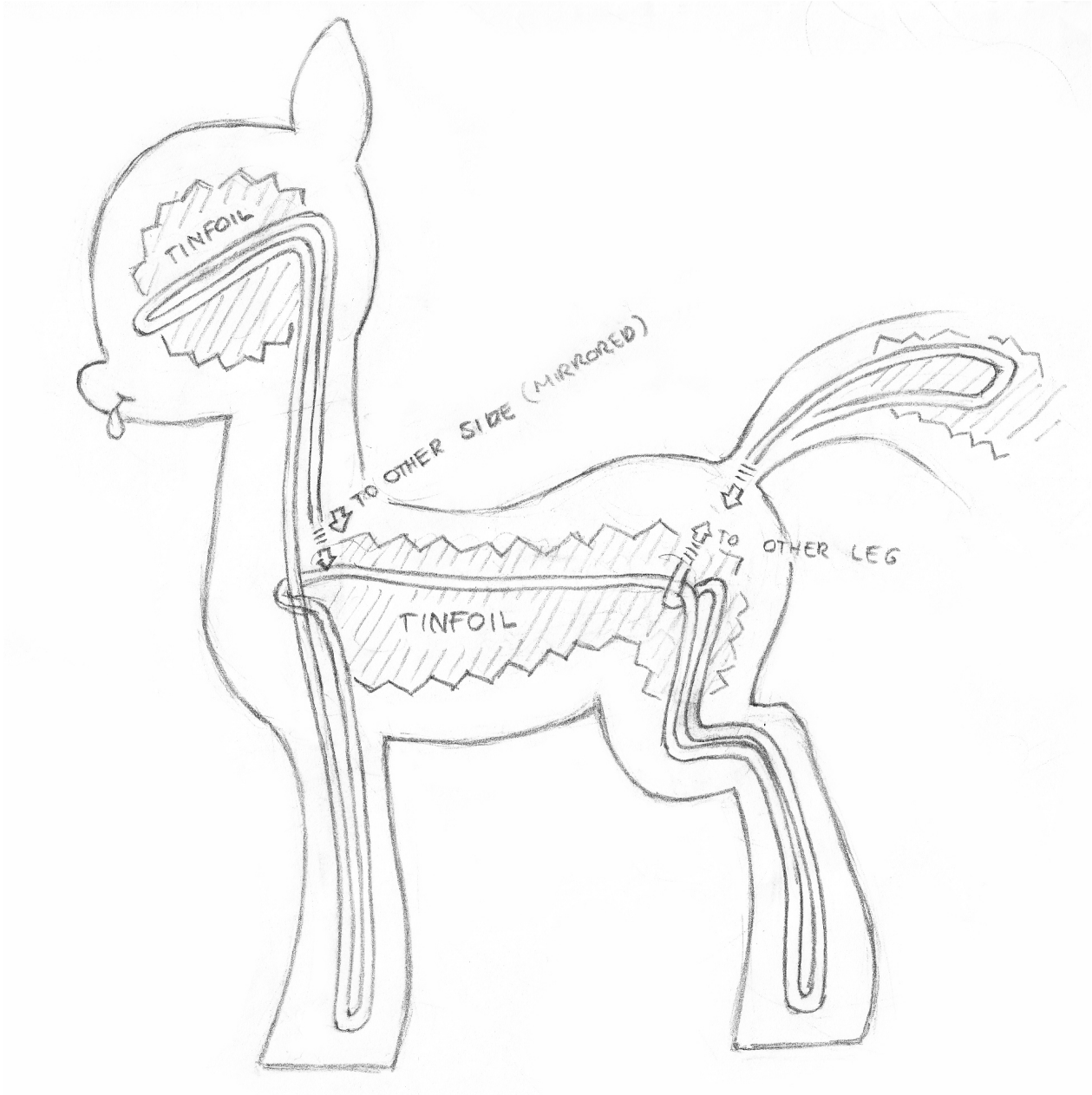
*Pic 8: Look at her go!*



*Pic 7: Frame done, now the fun part*

That concludes my armature tutorial, I hope it helped you!  
And remember: **only happy accidents are allowed!**  
Cheers! /)

Clayfag Anon's Pony Armature Frame Template  
(adjusted for A4 page size)



Head	3 cm	1.2"
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Body	6 cm	2.4"
Rear leg (x2)	8 cm	3.2"

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One side	44 cm	17.3"
Full:	88 cm	34.6"

+Remaining goes to tail (sum: 1 m / ~ 40")