

EASTER CHICKEN

This little chicken is fun to make, but you will probably need a bit of adult help.

Requirements

Rectangle of fleece 13" x 4½" (33cm x 12cm)

Felt for beak 1¼" square (cut diagonally makes two)

Felt for comb 1" x 1¾"

Beads for eyes

Strong thread

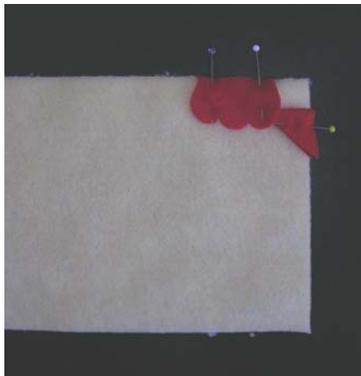
Button for tail (optional)

Polyester stuffing

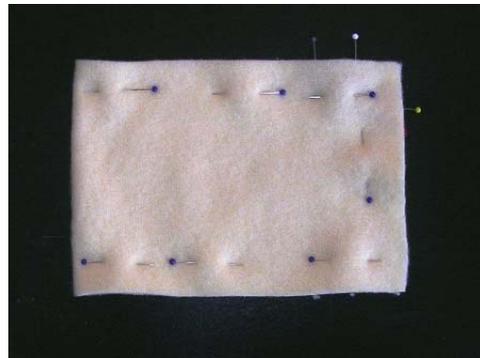


Instructions

- 1 Cut the square of felt for the beak in half diagonally – you will only need one of these triangles. Fold the beak triangle in half. Cut out the comb shape along one of the long sides of the comb felt (see photo). Pin beak and comb, as indicated, on the right side of the fleece. They are both 1cm from the corner and will overlap. (The comb is on the long edge).



(1)



(2)

- 2 Fold fleece in half and pin in place. Don't put the pins where you will be stitching.
- 3 Stitch ½ cm from the edge and leave a gap at the bottom like me. I have used black thread so that you can see it. You should use a thread that won't show. Now it is important that your stitches are quite small and there aren't any gaps for the stuffing to fall out of. Think of a grain of rice and try and keep your stitches that small. Either use back stitch which won't leave gaps, or if you find it easier, use running stitch and then go back along your row of stitches and fill in the gaps with more running stitches.



(3)



(4)

- 4 Turn your chicken right sides out and you should find the beak and comb hiding inside. Use the wrong end of a pencil to gently push out all the corners.
- 5 Stuff your chicken with polyester wadding until she is 2/3 full leaving the tail end empty.

TIP - if you take one large lump of wadding and stuff it into your chicken, your chicken will look like a lump! Pull the stuffing into smallish pieces and push them right into the head using the pencil again, and right into the corner underneath the head and so on. Your chicken will get a much better shape this way.



(5)



(6)

- 6 When the chicken is 2/3 full, stitch the hole closed (don't forget small stitches).

- 7 Your chicken should now look like photo 7 with a fat tummy and flat tail end.



(7)

8 To form the tail is a bit tricky to explain in words so I have supplied lots of photos to help you. Start to push the tail inwards as in photos 8a and 8b.



(8a)



(8b)

Two triangles will start to appear. Press them together as in 8c and 8d.



(8c)



(8d)

Bring the tail upwards to make a more chicken like shape as in photos 8e and 8f.



(8e)



(8f)

- 9 The tail can either be stitched in place with thread, or with a button like I have or stuck with a glue gun.



- 10 To finish your chicken, give her some eyes. I used beads but you could use buttons, wobbly eyes or a marker pen. WELL DONE!!