

Sew Simple Puppets

Patterns and instructions for **20** easy hand puppets.



Sew Simple Puppets: Soft and Sweet

Puppets included

Baby, bear, bird, bunny, cat, chicken, cow, dog, duck, elephant, gingerbread, lion, monkey, mouse, owl, parrot, penguin, pig, sheep, tiger.

Required materials

For each puppet, you need:

- 1/2 yard non-ravelling fabric for the outside
- 1/2 yard non-ravelling fabric for the lining
- 1/2 yard craft batting (optional)
- scraps of felt (or non-ravelling fabric) for eyes, noses, and cheeks
- matching thread

For these puppets, you also need:

- **baby:** 1/4 yard flesh-colored fabric (for face and hands); 1/8 yard contrasting fabric for bonnet, collar, and cuffs; 6" strand of yarn for hair; 1 1/4 yards eyelet (optional)
- **all birds:** 1/8 yard contrasting fabric for beak and feet; **chicken:** scrap of red fabric for comb; **owl:** scrap of white fabric for face; **parrot:** scrap of white fabric for face; 1/8 yard (or one square of felt) of contrasting fabric for "feathers"; **penguin:** 1/4 yard white fabric; 1/8 yard fabric for hat; scraps of contrasting fabric for hat trim
- **bunny, bear, pig, or mouse:** pink embroidery floss and needle, or pink fabric paint; scrap of pink felt
- **cow:** use a cow print for the body (or sew scraps of black felt to white fabric); scrap of yellow felt for horns; scrap of light pink fabric for nose;

scrap of dark pink fabric for nostrils; scrap of black fabric for tail tip

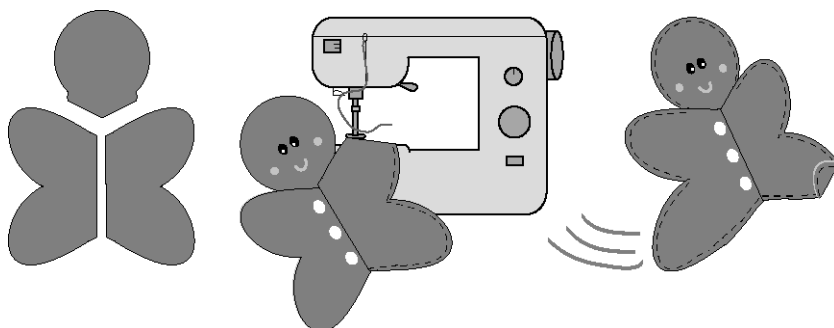
- **dog:** scraps of contrasting fabric for paws
- **gingerbread:** one package (2 1/2 yards) of 1/2"-wide rick rack
- **lion:** embroidery floss and needle, or fabric paint, for mouth; one small skein of yarn; piece of cardboard or stiff paper
- **monkey:** large scrap of contrasting fabric for face and inner ears
- **sheep:** scrap of pink felt for inner ears
- **tiger:** use a tiger print for the body, or use orange fabric and scraps of black felt to make stripes (stripe patterns are included)

Recommended fabrics

Polar fleece, sweatshirt fleece, velour, flannel, fake fur, fuzzy felt, plush "skin," knits, felt.

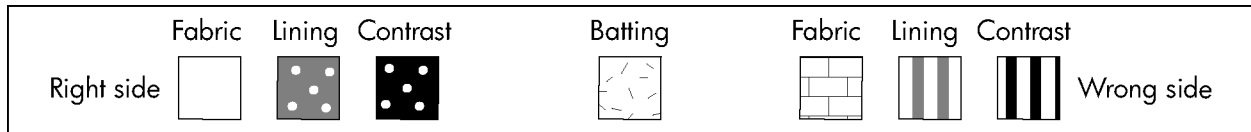
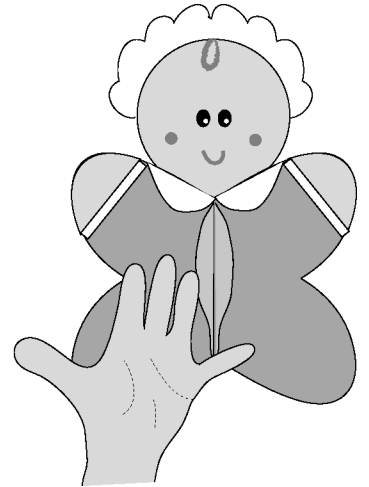
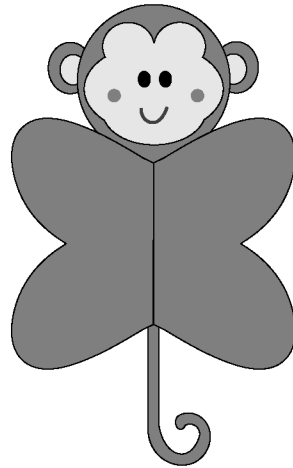
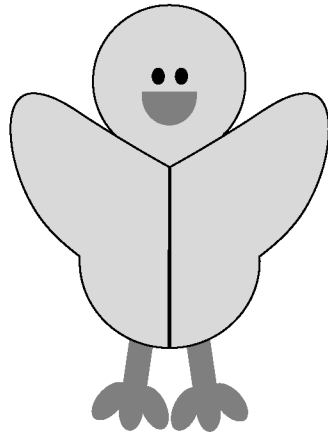
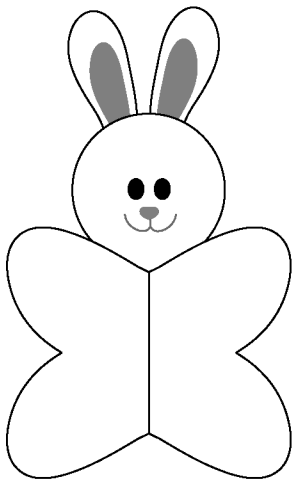
Lining and batting

The lining can be the same as the outside fabric, but it doesn't have to be. If you pick a thin fabric for the outside, use a thick lining to help support the puppet. If the fabric is very thick (like fake fur), use a thin lining to keep the puppet from becoming too bulky. Since the lining will show around the edges, pick a color that complements the outside color, but that's not so bright it shows through. If both fabrics are thin, you may also want to add a layer of craft batting. (A 36" by 45" package is enough for three or four puppets.) Note: If the fabric is 60" or wider, it should give you enough for two puppets.



All patterns and instructions
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Sew Simple Puppets



Welcome

These soft, colorful puppets make perfect story time or play time companions, as well as great nursery decorations or baby gifts. Best of all, these puppets are easy to sew! With basic sewing skills and some readily available materials, you can make a lovable, long-lasting puppet (or two, or three, or twenty...) without spending all day at the sewing machine.

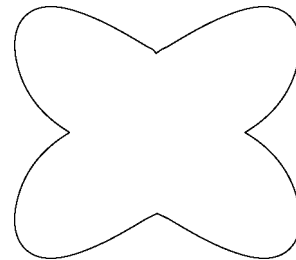
To make these puppets, you'll work with the fabric right side out. This makes the sewing easier and less bulky. It also means that as soon as you cut and lay out the pieces, you can see exactly what your puppet will look like. Since the stitches do show, you may want to use a simple decorative or zig-zag stitch.

Body: pieces

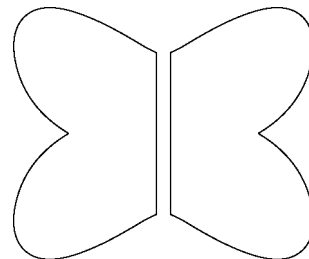
Note: Use the bird body pattern for bird puppets, and the basic body patterns for all other puppets. (Only the basic body is pictured in these instructions.) See the enclosed list of patterns needed for each puppet.

Fold the fabric right sides together. Place the body pattern on the fabric, lining up the straight edge of the pattern with the fold of the fabric. Pin the pattern

in place and cut around it. Remove the pattern and unfold the fabric. This will be the body back.



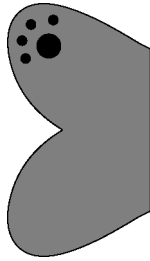
Cut a second body piece the same way. Cut this piece in half along the fold line. These pieces will be the body front.



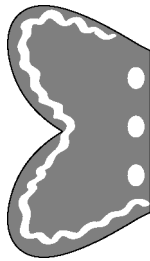
Cut a body back and body front from the lining and batting (optional) the same way.

Note: For the dog, gingerbread, parrot, penguin, or baby, follow the specific instructions below. For all other puppets, skip to the “Body: assembly” section.

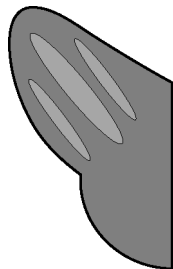
Dog paws: Cut two paws and eight toes from contrasting fabric. Position one paw and four toes on the upper corner of each body front, at least 1/2” away from the edge. Stitch around the edge of each paw and toe.



Gingerbread frosting and buttons: Pin rick rack along the outer (curved) edges of the body fronts. Stitch the rick rack to the fabric using matching thread. Cut three white “buttons” using the small eye pattern. Position them along the straight edge of one of the body fronts, about 1/4” from the edge. Stitch around the edge of each “button.”



Parrot wing feathers: Cut two large center wing feathers and four smaller side wing feathers. Position the feathers on the wing area of each body front. Stitch around the edge of each wing feather.

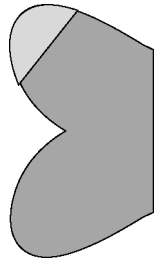


Penguin tummy: Cut two penguin tummies from white fabric. Lay the tummy pieces on the body fronts, lining up the straight edge of each tummy with the straight edge of each body front. Stitch around the curved edge of each tummy only. (The straight edge will get sewn in when you assemble the puppet.)



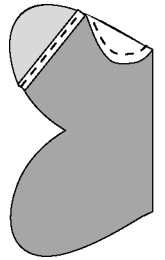
Baby

Hands: Fold the flesh-colored fabric in half right sides together. Pin the hand pattern to the fabric and cut around the pattern. Cut two more hands the same way. Place the hands over the top corners of the fabric body fronts and back, and pin them in place. Cut four strips, each 1/2” wide by 4” long, from contrasting fabric, or four pieces, each 4” long, of eyelet. Place the contrasting fabric or eyelet over the straight edge of each hand. Stitch across the contrasting fabric or eyelet, securing the straight edge of the hand in place. (The rest of the hand will get sewn in when you assemble the puppet.)

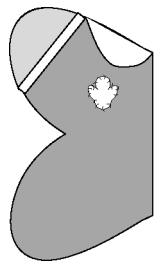


Collar: You can make the collar from fabric or from eyelet.

Fabric: Fold the contrasting fabric in half and cut around the collar pattern. Place the two collar pieces on the body fronts, lining up the top edge of the collar with the top edge of the body. Stitch across the curved edge of each collar piece only. *Eyelet:* Cut two pieces of eyelet, each 2 and 1/2” long. Pin the eyelet on the body fronts so that each piece forms a gentle curve, and stitch the eyelet in place.

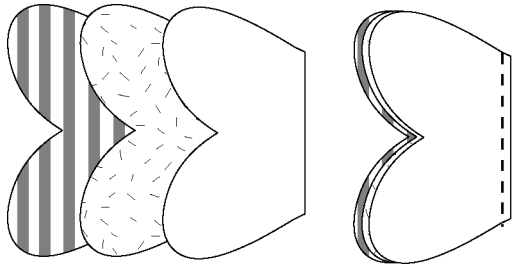


Appliqué: You can buy a ready-made appliqué and attach it according to the package instructions, or you can use the bunny or duck appliqué patterns provided. Cut the appliqué from a scrap of fabric, add eyes using small French knots or dots of fabric paint (optional), place it on one of the body fronts, and whip stitch around the edges of the appliqué.



Body: assembly

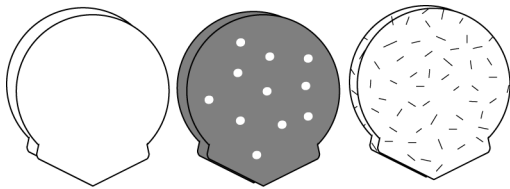
Place the body front fabric and lining wrong sides together. If you are using batting, slide it in between the fabric and lining. Pin the layers together, then stitch along the straight edge of each body front.



Place the body back and lining wrong sides together. If you are using batting, slide it in between the fabric and lining. Pin the layers together and set them aside.

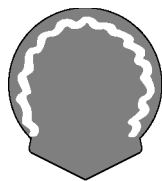
Head and face

Cut two head pieces from fabric. (Note: For the baby, use flesh-colored fabric for the head pieces.) Cut two head pieces from the lining, and two from and batting (optional).



Note: For the gingerbread, monkey, penguin, owl, or parrot, follow the specific instructions below. For all other puppets, skip to the “Eyes and cheeks” section.

Gingerbread frosting: Pin rick rack along the curved edge of the head (leave the lower edge of the head plain). Stitch the rick rack to the fabric using matching thread. Add “Eyes and cheeks” following the general directions.

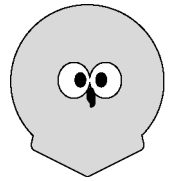


Monkey face: Cut one monkey face from contrasting fabric. Cut two eyes from dark fabric and two cheeks from pink fabric. Position the eyes and cheeks on the right side of the face, then stitch around each piece using matching thread. Cut a strip of pink fabric about 1/8” wide by 2”

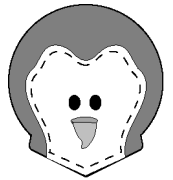


long. Loop the strip into a small u-shape, position it on the face, then stitch it in place. Position the face on the right side of one of the head pieces and stitch around the edge of the face.

Owl face: Cut one owl face from white fabric. Cut two eyes and one beak from contrasting fabric. Place the eyes on top of the face, then stitch them in place. Position the white face on the right side of one of the head pieces and stitch around the edges of the face. Position the top of the beak just below the center of the face and stitch it in place.



Parrot face: Cut one parrot face from white fabric. Cut two small eyes from dark fabric, one parrot beak from yellow or orange fabric, and one parrot cere from contrasting fabric. Position the eyes, beak, and cere on the white face (with the cere just above the beak). Stitch around the edge of each piece. Place the face on the right side of one of the head pieces, lining up the bottom edges. Stitch around the edge of the face.



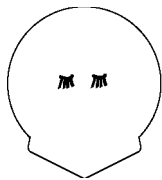
Penguin face: Cut one penguin face from white fabric. Cut two eyes from dark fabric, and cut two beaks from yellow fabric. Position the eyes and one of the beaks on the white face and sew them in place. Place the second beak on top of the first, and stitch it to the face along the top edge only. Place the face on the right side of one of the head pieces, lining up the bottom edges. Stitch around the edge of the face.



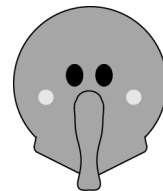
Eyes and cheeks

Cut two eyes (using the large or small eye pattern) from dark fabric. Cut two cheeks (for the baby, gingerbread, pig, or elephant) from pink fabric. Position the eyes and cheeks on the right side of one of the fabric heads, then stitch around each piece using matching thread.

Sleepy sheep eyes: Cut two eyelash blocks from black felt. Cut four slits in the edge opposite the curve, without cutting all the way through. Position the eyelashes on the right side of one of the fabric heads, then stitch across the upper edge only. (As a variation, you can make a reversible puppet by leaving off the tail, and adding an “awake” face to the back of the head.)



Elephant trunk: Cut two elephant trunks from fabric, two from lining, and two from batting (optional). Lay one of the fabric trunks wrong side up, and place the lining and batting trunks on top of it. Place the other fabric trunk right side up on top of the lining and batting. Pin all the layers together, lining up the edges, then stitch them together around the edge. Stitch the trunk to the face across the top edge of the trunk only.

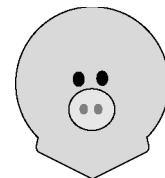


Nose or beak

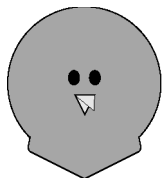
For the bird, chicken, cow, duck, elephant, or pig puppets, see the specific directions below. For all other puppets, cut one nose from pink or contrasting fabric. Place the nose on the face and stitch around it using matching thread. (Note: The baby and gingerbread do not have a nose.)



Pig nose: Cut one pig nose from fabric, and two from lining or batting. Place the fabric nose right side up on top of the lining or batting noses, then pin all the layers together. To make the nostrils, stitch two French knots using pink embroidery floss, or make two dots of pink fabric paint. Place the nose on the face and stitch around it using matching thread.



Beak (bird or chicken): Cut two beaks from contrasting fabric. Position one of the beaks on the right side of one of the head pieces, then stitch around the edge of the beak. Place the second beak on top of the first, then stitch across the top edge of the beak only.



Mouth

To make a smile (for the gingerbread, tiger, or baby), cut a strip of pink fabric about 1/8” wide by 2” long. Loop the strip into a small u-shape, position it on the face, then stitch it in place.



For the bear, bunny, and lion, make two u-shapes beneath the nose using embroidery floss or fabric paint.

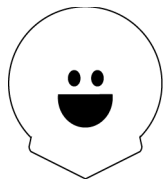


Cow nose: Cut one cow nose from light pink fabric. Cut two more cow noses from lining or batting. Place the pink nose right side up on top of the lining or batting noses, then pin them together. Cut two cow nostrils from dark pink fabric and position them on the nose, then stitch them in place. Place the nose on the face and stitch around it using matching thread.



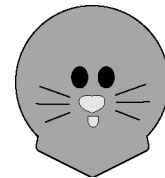
For the dog, cat, pig, mouse or elephant, cut one tongue from pink fabric, position it on the face, and stitch around the edges.

Duck bill: Cut one duck bill from orange fabric, and two from lining or batting. Place the orange bill right side up on top of the lining or batting, then pin the layers together. Place the bill on the face and stitch around it using matching thread.



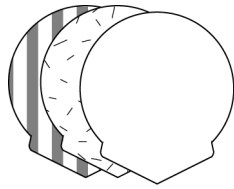
Whiskers

For the cat, mouse, or tiger, you may want to add whiskers using scraps of fabric, embroidery floss, or fabric paint.

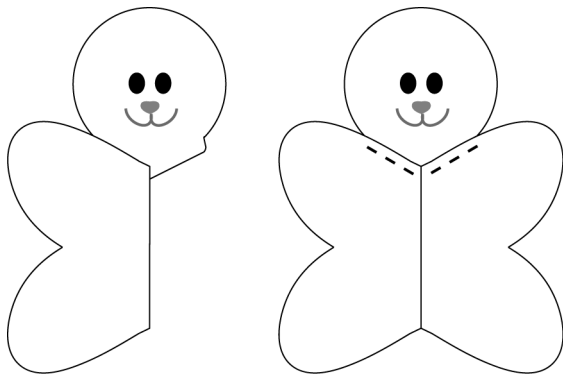


Head and body assembly

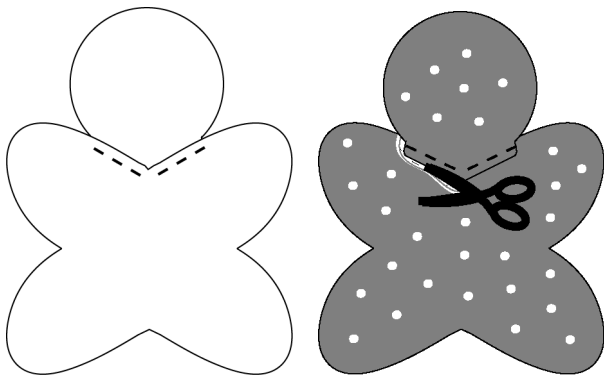
Place each head and lining piece wrong sides together. If you are using batting, slide it in between the fabric and lining. Pin the layers together.



Lay the head front face side up. Position the body fronts, fabric side up, on top of the neck area, so that the top edge of the body overlaps the lower edge of the head. Pin them in place, then stitch across the area where the body fronts overlap the head.



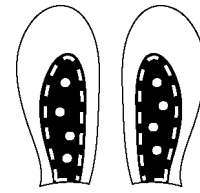
Stitch the body back to the head back the same way. Flip the pieces over, and trim off any excess fabric along the head seams.



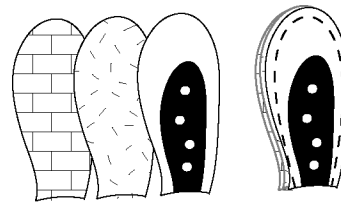
Ears

Fold the fabric and lining in half. Cut four ears from fabric and four from lining. Cut one piece of batting (optional) for each small ear, and two pieces of batting for each large ear that needs extra support. For puppets that include an inner ear pattern, fold the contrasting fabric in half right sides together, then cut two inner ears.

Position the inner ears on two of the fabric ears, making sure that one is a right ear and one is a left ear. Stitch around the edge of each inner ear.



Lay one of the fabric ears wrong side up. Lay the lining and batting (optional) pieces on top of it. Place the other fabric ear right side up on top of the lining and batting, then pin the layers together. Stitch around the outside edge, then trim off any excess fabric or batting.

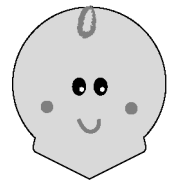


Cow horns: Cut two cow horns from felt.

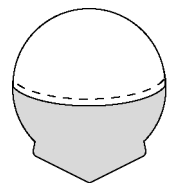
Chicken comb: Cut two combs from red or pink fabric. If the fabric is thin, cut two combs from the lining or batting as well. Sew the combs together following the ear instructions above.

Baby hair and bonnet back

Fold the strand of yarn in half, forming a single loop. Line up the cut ends of the loop with the center top of the head front, then stitch the ends of the yarn to the head.

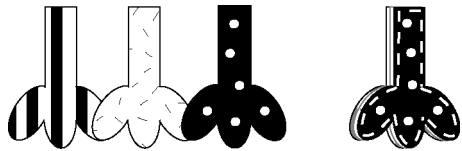


Cut one baby bonnet from contrasting fabric. Place the bonnet on the head back with both pieces facing right side up. Line up the top edge of the bonnet with the top edge of the head, and pin them together. If you wish, add eyelet trim to the lower edge of the bonnet. Stitch along the lower edge of the bonnet only.



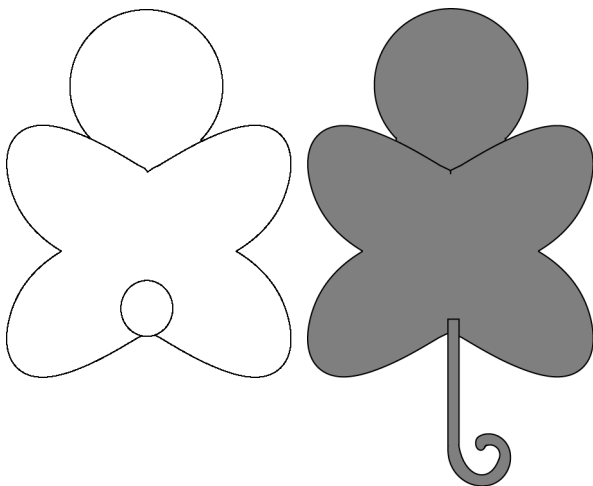
Feet (bird puppets only)

Cut four feet from contrasting fabric. If the fabric is thin, cut four more feet from lining or batting as well. Place two of the feet wrong sides together, with two pieces of lining or batting (optional) between the layers of fabric. Stitch around the outside edge of the foot, then trim off any excess fabric or batting. Assemble and stitch the other foot the same way.



Tail

All these puppets have tails except for the gingerbread and the baby. For a cow, pig, mouse, elephant, lion, owl, or parrot tail, see the instructions below. For all other puppets, cut two tails from fabric and two from lining. Lay one of the fabric tails wrong side up. Lay the lining and batting pieces on top of it. Place the other fabric tail right side up on top of the lining and batting. Pin the layers together, then stitch around the outside edge. Pin the tail to the lower edge of the body back.



Cow tail: Cut two strips of fabric, each 1 and 1/2" wide by 10" long. Place them wrong sides together. Stitch along both long edges of the tail. Cut two tail tips from black fabric, and place them wrong sides together. Insert the end of the tail between the rounded edge of tail tips, then stitch around the edge of the tail tips. Pin the tail to the lower edge of the body back.



Pig tail: Cut a piece of fabric 3" wide by 5" long. Fold the fabric in half widthwise right sides together, then stitch along the edge opposite the fold. Turn the tail right side out using a safety pin or strap turner. Tie the end of the tail in a knot. Pin the tail to the lower edge of the body back.



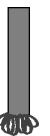
Mouse tail: Cut a strip of fabric 2" wide by 14" long. Fold it in half right sides together, and stitch across long edge. Turn the tail right side out using a safety pin or strap turner. Pin the tail to the lower edge of the body back.



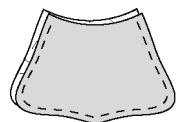
Elephant tail: Cut two strips of fabric, each 6" long by 1" wide. Place the strips wrong sides together and stitch across each long edge, leaving the last inch and a half unstitched. Cut a few small slits in the unstitched area. Pin the tail to the lower edge of the body back.



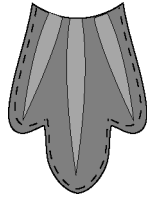
Lion tail: Cut two strips of fabric, each 1 1/2" wide by 10" long. Place them wrong sides together. Make about a dozen loops of yarn, each about 2" long. Place the ends of the yarn loops in between the short ends of the tail fabric. Stitch across the short end, securing the yarn in place, then stitch along both long edges of the tail. Pin the tail to the lower edge of the body back.



Owl tail: Cut two tails from fabric, and one from lining or batting. Lay one of the tail pieces wrong side up, then place the lining or batting on top of it. Place the other tail right side up on top of the lining or batting, then pin the layers of the tail together. Stitch around the side and bottom edges of the tail, leaving the top edge unstitched. Lay the body back right side up. Lay the tail front-side-down on top of it, so the top edge of the tail overlaps the bottom edge of the body by about 1/2". Pin the tail to the lower edge of the body back.



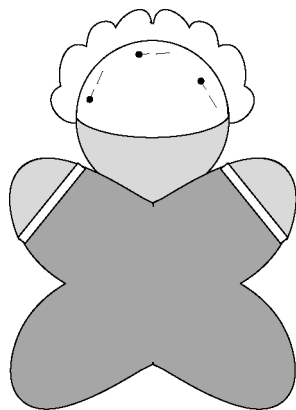
Parrot tail: Cut two tails from fabric, and one from lining or batting. Cut one center tail feather and two side tail feathers from contrasting fabric. Position the feathers on the right side of one of the tail pieces, then stitch around the edge of each feather. Lay one of the tail pieces wrong side up, then place the lining or batting on top of it. Place the other tail right side up on top of the lining or batting, then pin the layers of the tail together. Stitch around the side and bottom edges of the tail, leaving the top edge unstitched. Lay the body back right side up. Lay the tail feather-side-down on top of it, so the top edge of the tail overlaps the bottom edge of the body by about 1/2". Pin the tail to the lower edge of the body back.



Baby bonnet frill

Cut a 10" piece of eyelet. Or, to make a cloth bonnet frill, cut a strip from the contrasting fabric that's 2" wide by 20" long. Gather one of the long edges using two rows of basting, then adjust the gathers until the gathered edge is about 10" long.

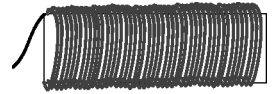
Place the front of the puppet and back of the puppet on top of each other, with the lining sides together. Insert the gathered edge of the bonnet frill (or straight edge of the eyelet) between the front and back linings of the head, so that the short ends of the bonnet frill



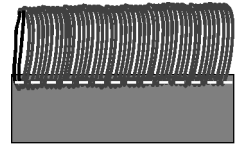
approximately line up with the bottom edge of the bonnet back, and pin the frill in place.

Lion mane

Cut a strip of cardboard 3" high by 8" wide. Wrap the yarn in a single layer around the cardboard, stretching it as little as possible, until the cardboard is almost full.



Cut a strip of fabric 2" wide by 8" long. Place the edge of the yarn on the center of the fabric, then carefully remove the cardboard. Straight stitch across the ends of the yarn. Trim the fabric close to the stitching.

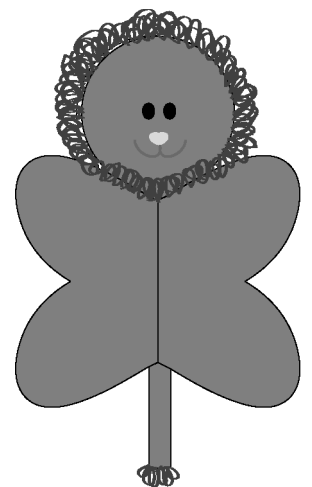


Make a second strip of yarn loops the same way. Place the two strips right sides together. Stitch them together along one of the short edges, then unfold them, forming one long piece. This will be the top of the mane.

Make a 5" strip of yarn loops the same way for under the chin. Place this strip yarn-side-down on the face, lining up the lower edge of the yarn with the bottom of the face. Stitch along the lower edge of the yarn strip, then smooth the yarn down over the stitches.

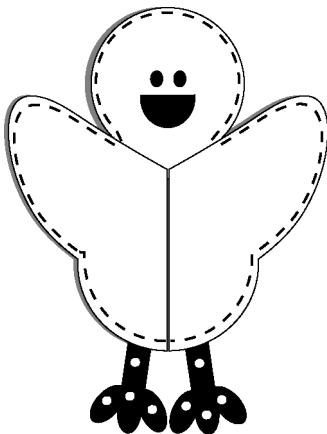
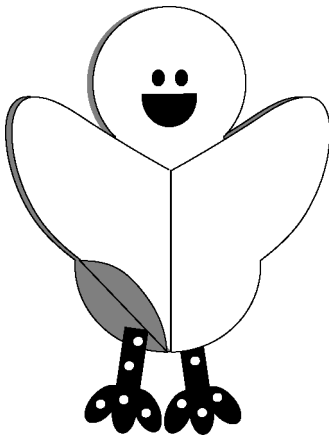
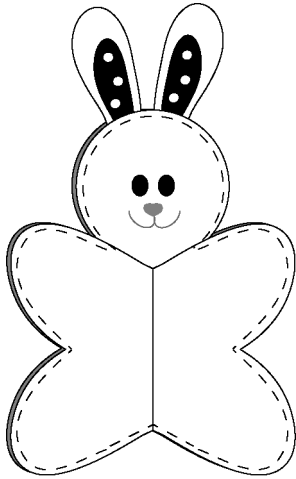


Place the front of the puppet and back of the puppet on top of each other, with the lining sides together. Place the loop strips you made for the top of the mane between the head front and back, and pin them in place. These will get sewn into the puppet when you stitch the front and back together.



Puppet assembly

Place the front of the puppet and back of the puppet on top of each other, with the lining sides together. Insert the bottom edge of the ears (if any) between the front and back of the head. Insert the top of the feet (for birds) in between the body front and back. Pin the puppet together, then stitch along the outside edge of the head and body, making sure to catch the ear and tail pieces (or chicken comb, or baby bonnet frill, or lion mane) in the seam.



Penguin hat: Cut two penguin hats from hat fabric, and cut two hats from lining or batting. Cut two hat poofs and two strips, each 1/4" wide by 5" long, from contrasting fabric. Place each hat right side up on top of the lining or batting pieces. Lay the strips of contrasting fabric across the hats where the cap meets the brim. Stitch across the contrasting fabric to hold it in place. Place the hats lining or batting sides together, and stitch along the top and sides, leaving the bottom open.

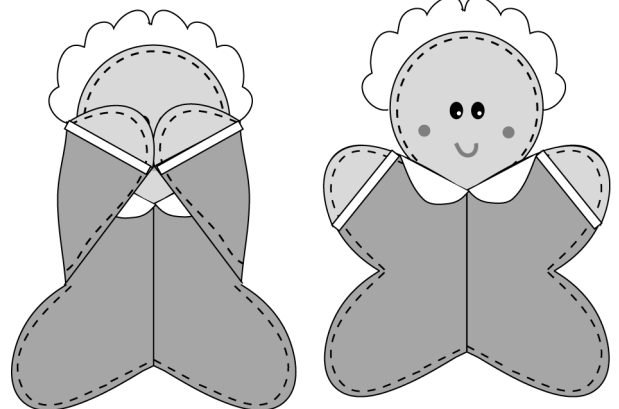


Slip the hat over the penguin's head, so the bottom of the hat is just above the white area of the face. Stitch along the bottom edge of the hat. To attach the poof, place one poof on the top of the front of the hat, and the other on the back. Hand stitch through the center of the poofs several times, catching the top of the hat, until the poofs are secure.

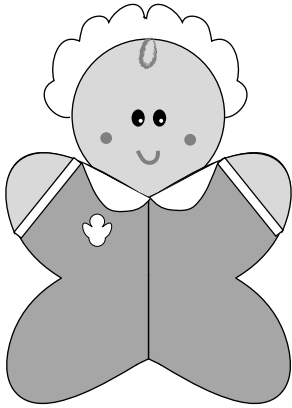


How to play...

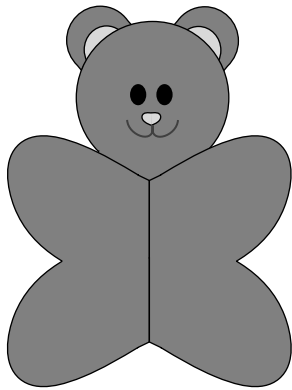
To work the puppets, insert your hand through the opening in the front, with your palm facing the front of the puppet. Place your thumb and little finger in the puppet's arms, and your remaining fingers in the puppet's head. Your puppet can clap, wave, nod, hug, play peek-a-boo, and more. Enjoy!



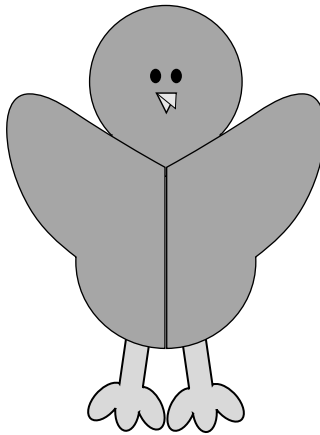
Patterns for each puppet



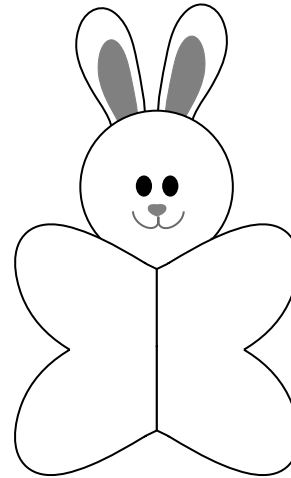
- Baby**
 Head
 Basic body
 Small eye
 Cheek
 Baby hand
 Baby bonnet back
 Baby collar (optional)
 Appliqués (optional)



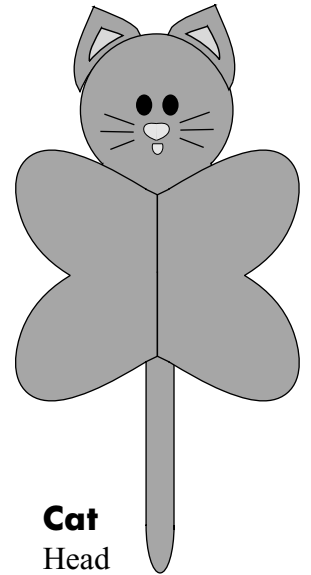
- Bear**
 Head
 Basic body
 Large eye
 Small nose
 Bear/Tiger ear
 Bear inner ear
 Bunny/Bear/Sheep tail



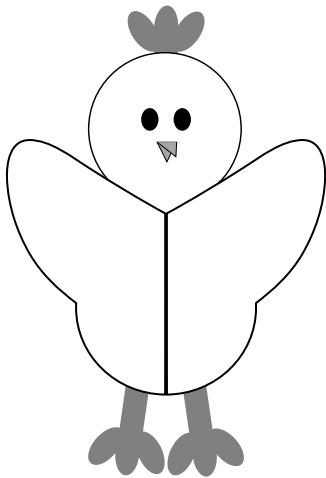
- Bird**
 Head
 Bird body
 Small eye
 Beak
 Long or short foot



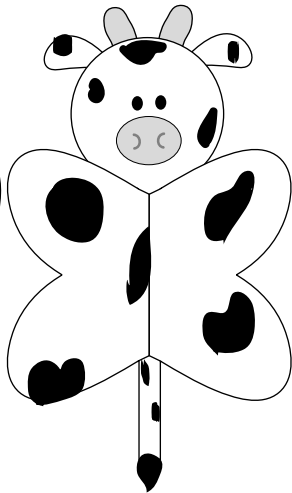
- Bunny**
 Head
 Basic body
 Large eye
 Small nose
 Bunny ear
 Bunny inner ear
 Bunny/Bear/Sheep tail



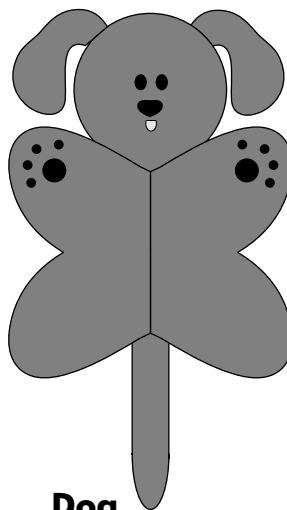
- Cat**
 Head
 Basic body
 Large eye
 Tongue
 Cat/Pig ear
 Cat inner ear
 Dog/Cat/Tiger tail



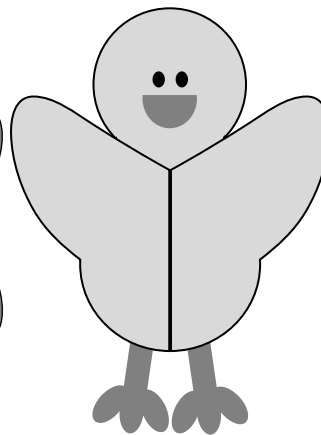
- Chicken**
 Head
 Bird body
 Large eye
 Beak
 Chicken comb
 Long or short foot



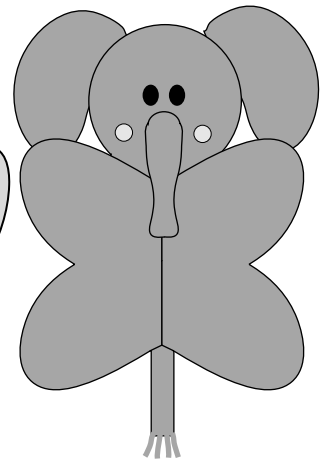
- Cow**
 Head
 Basic body
 Small eye
 Cow nose
 Cow nostril
 Cow/Sheep ear
 Cow horn
 Cow tail tip



- Dog**
 Head
 Basic body
 Small eye
 Dog ear
 Dog/Cat/Tiger tail
 Large nose
 Tongue
 Dog paw and toe



- Duck**
 Head
 Bird body
 Small eye
 Duck bill
 Long or short foot



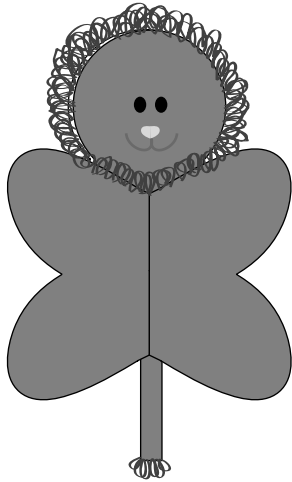
- Elephant**
 Head
 Basic body
 Large eye
 Cheek
 Elephant ear
 Elephant trunk
 Elephant tongue

Patterns for each puppet



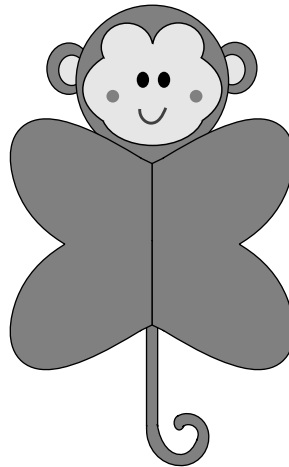
Gingerbread

Head
Basic body
Small eye
Cheek



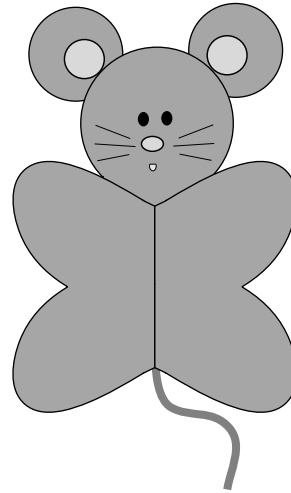
Lion

Head
Basic body
Small eye
Small nose



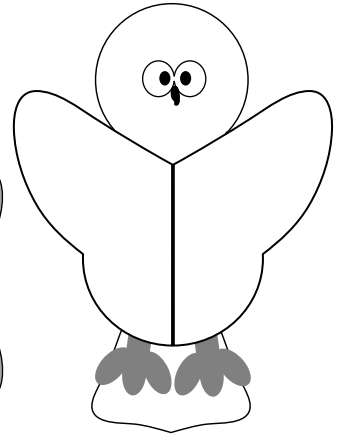
Monkey

Head
Basic body
Small eye
Cheek
Monkey face
Monkey ear
Monkey inner ear
Monkey tail



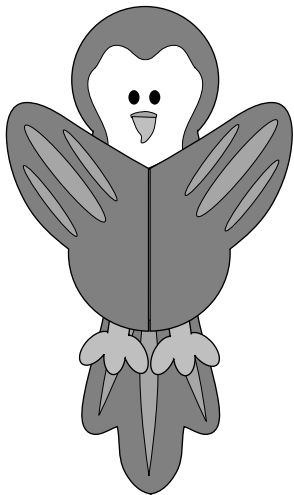
Mouse

Head
Basic body
Small eye
Mouse nose
Mouse ear
Mouse inner ear



Owl

Head
Bird body
Small eye
Owl face
Owl beak
Owl tail
Short foot



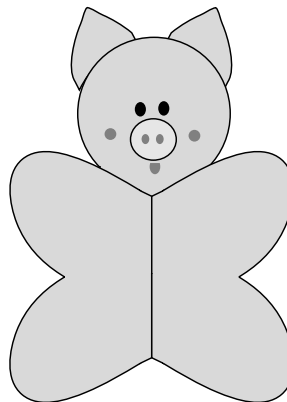
Parrot

Head
Bird body
Penguin/Parrot face
Small eye
Parrot beak
Parrot cfsere
Wing & tail feathers
Parrot tail
Short foot



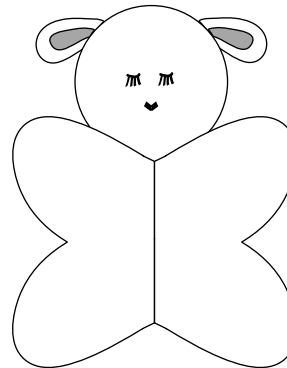
Penguin

Head
Bird body
Small eye
Beak
Penguin/Parrot face
Penguin tummy
Penguin hat
Penguin hat poof
Short foot



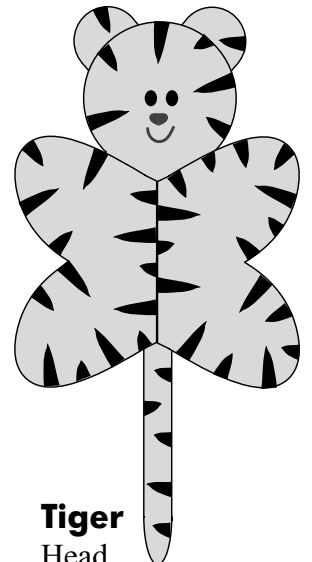
Pig

Head
Basic body
Small eye
Cheek
Tongue
Cat/Pig ear
Pig nose



Sleepy sheep

Head
Basic body
Sheep eyelashes
Sheep nose
Cow/Sheep ear
Sheep inner ear
Bunny/Bear/Sheep tail



Tiger

Head
Basic body
Small eye
Small nose
Bear/Tiger ear
Dog/Cat/Tiger tail
Tiger stripes
(optional)