

## How to Create Feather Wings

Feather wings are uber cool and can add that extra touch to your costume. But lets face it they are gorgeous and they can be super expensive! So how about making your own. That's where this tutorial might be able to help you out. There are several methods out there; this is just the way we made ours. ^\_^

The wings for this tutorial are based off of wings drawn by Arina Tanemura in her work Fullmoon wo Sagashite. Here are some examples of what we worked from.



Well now you might want to see what the finished product looks like. In the measurements for each wing are roughly 17 in. long and 10 in. high. The total wingspan for the Izumi Rio wings (bottom picture) measures roughly 40 in.



## Here's is what you'll need



Here's the guts of the wings:

Chicken wire

Copper tubing - 1/4 in

Fabritac - Large Bottle (trust me you'll use it all)

Duct tape

Craft batting (not stuffing)

Work Gloves

Wire cutters

Large and small pliers

Trim/Ribbon/Bias Tape (not shown) to cover your harness



Now for the feathers:

Wing Rounds -1/4 pound Left, 1/4 pound Right

1/3 pound Flats

1 Marabou Trim

The rounds and flat were purchased from [Rainbow Feather Co.](#) who we would highly recommend. They will also custom dye your feathers.

## Shaping your Feathers & Basic Construction of the guts

So now that you have all of your materials there are a few steps before the actual construction phase

### Step 1 - Shape your feathers!

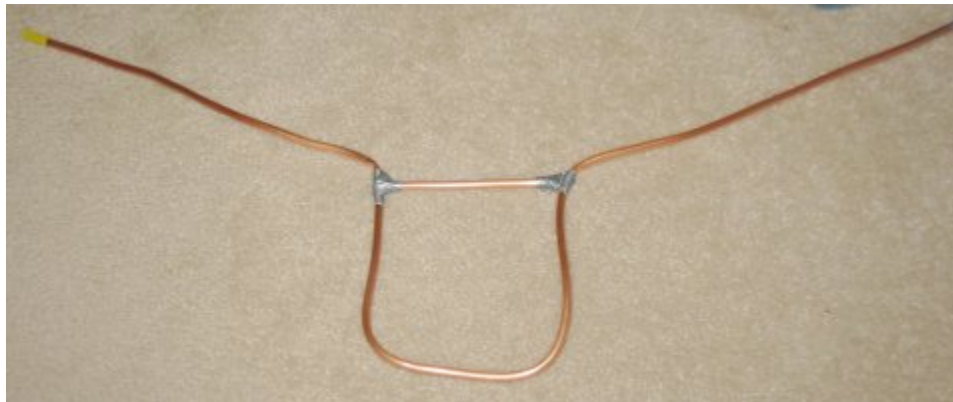
- As you can tell when you first get your feathers they aren't as pretty as you would imagine them to be. There is a simple solution to this problem by shaping your Rounds (don't worry about the flats). Which just means that your going to cut them into your desired shape. Here's an example:



Much better! Tanemura-sensei would be proud. ^\_^

### Step 2 - Constructing the flying -v- base

- Take your copper tubing and duct tape to construct a flying -v- shape. Like this:



- So, you are making a giant U shape, and then bend down each side making sure that you make at least 2 inches shorter than you would like your wing to be. Then in the middle where you have bent for each wing cut a short piece and attach with duct tape. This will act as another support and as a place to attach straps for wear.

- If you would like your wings to come out at an angle (instead of straight out like ours) this would be the best point to do so. Since they are made of copper tubing you can change the angle when they are finished, but it's best to do it now so your feathers will lay appropriately later.

### **Step 3 - Adding the Chicken Wire**

- The chicken wire is where the feathers will be attached to. The shape of this part of the base isn't really important. You just need to make sure that you make it shorter than you want your wings to be. Like this here:



- As you can see it's just a simple rectangle attached with duct tape. Make sure to cover all the edges of the chicken wire or you could scratch your self pretty bad. Blood is no good on your white feathers. XD

### **Step 4 - Cover the harness**

- It does seem a bit early to cover the tubing that is exposed, but it's much harder to get it completely covered when the feathers are attached. We used bias tape to cover the tubing because I had it laying around. But there are many other things you could use, ribbon, trim, fabric, just use your imagination. But make sure to attach it with Fabrictac.



- As you can see in this picture the chicken wire is cut in a different shape, and the harness is covered with bias tape. ^\_^

### **Step 5- Batting!**

- Now take your batting and cover both sides of the wings. Just use more Fabrictac to attach.



- One layer of batting should be fine, but you can always add more to help the duct tape underneath less visible when you hold the wings up to light.

So, now that your feather are shaped and the harness is complete it's time to work with feathers!

### **Step 1 - Layout your feathers**

- Before you start attaching the feathers it a good idea (not necessary, but still a good idea) to lay them out first. That way you can see if you want to change your design or see if you need to shape more.



-In fact if you have some extra poster board laying around draw out the shape you want and use it as a template. We did this on the second pair of wings and helped a lot, sorry there's no picture. >\_<

## Step 2 - Attaching the Rounds

- Now here comes the fun, sometimes sticky and sometimes smelly part. Grab your handy dandy bottle of Fabrictac and glue the feathers to the layer of batting that you attached to the base.

- One good thing to keep in mind, keep your feathers curved in the same direction and make sure you glue the left feathers on the left wing and the right on the right wing. Otherwise you might be flying in circles. >\_<



- The above is a picture of the front side (faces back) of the right wing.

- After you finish gluing the rounds, trim the top of the feathers, so that you have a nice "smooth" curve. Don't worry about the exposed edge it will get covered later.

- Glue rounds on both sides of your wings. ^\_^

\*note\* When you get the back side it helps to make a small base to work on so that your feathers don't get crushed when you work on the back side. Something like this might work.



Yay for Clamp Campus boxed set and Harry Potter Books!

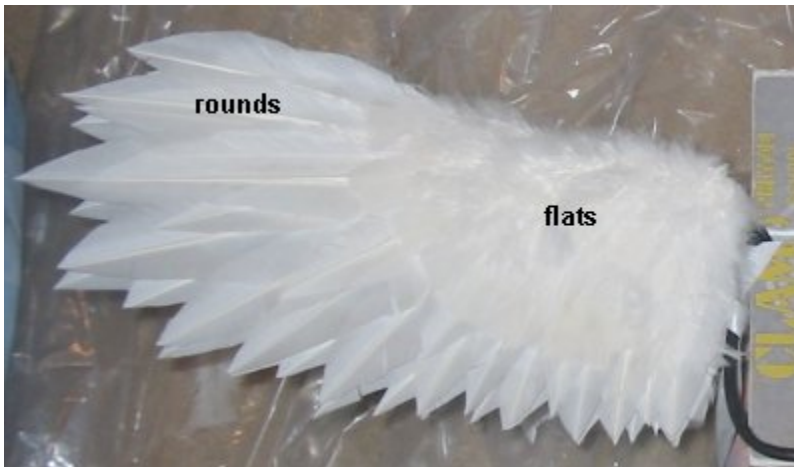
### Step 3 - Attaching the Flats

- Now that you have all of your rounds glued, it time to disguise some of your edges with a little more batting and flats. The batting will help cover any extra ends of the feathers and give your flats more dimension.

- Take a small rectangle of batting and glue it over the top of your wings focusing on the area towards the top and center. Like so :



- Next step start gluing on your flats, it's a bit harder to tell which side is up and down on these feather but the end product will look better if they do face all the same direction.



- Here's what it looks like after you finish adding in the flats. Yay for fluffy feathers!

- Don't forget to cover all for sides. ^\_^

#### Step 4 - Attaching the Marabou

- Look at your fabulous wings! You've come a long way baby but you still have a bit further to go. Yosh! This final step helps to cover the top edge of you wings, and if you like, add the extra little swirl that Manga-ka like to add in their work.
- So take your marabou trim and glue it along the top exposed edge of your wings. ^\_^

Here's the finished



product:

- Now what's this swirl business? Maybe this picture will help. ^\_^



Yatta! You did it! You're all finished with your wings. ^\_^