

Wing Making Tips

The tips contained herein were gathered from cosplay.com I was able to retain the user who left the tips as a form of credit/thanks. Please note that this isn't a direct tutorial, only suggestions made by people who discovered what worked best for them.

Tip #1:

Hi, I've been making wings for 25yrs. why don't you try this method? I use a 16 soft galvanized anchor wire to make a frame. The frame does not go all the way around the wings so you don't have to bend the wire in difficult curves. I use 2 layers of transparent vinyl with a layer of thin, iridescent, film or tissue placed between the vinyl. The vinyl is stiff enough to hold just about any shape and you can make intricate cuts. I sew channels in the vinyl to slide the wire frame into. You may want to spray-paint the wire or cover it with tape(this can make it difficult to slide your wire into)to color the wing veins. This is a very easy method and all of the materials are easily found. The transparent vinyl is about \$3.00 a yard, and the wire about \$3.00. You can mix the colors, my Joann Fabric store sells Pink, green, blue, yellow, and my favorite clear. It comes in different gauges or thickness. Its a really neat look. Good luck and most of all have fun!

newmancat

Tip #2:

First method: bend your wire form to the shape you want and make two pieces (or however many you are using to create all of both wings) and then trace it onto a piece of paper as a pattern. Trace that onto the fabric you are using and then cut it out, allowing for seams. Then you fold the edge over the wire piece and either hand sew or put it through the machine (if you have a sewing machine that goes through anything like mine - I swear, it even went through boning). Then trim close to the edge and embellish the wings.

Second method - You make the pattern and the wire pieces the same as with the first method, but instead of cutting out one piece of fabric with the pattern, you cut out two, allowing for seams. Then you sandwich them together with the wrong sides facing out and sew them together. Then trim, fold inside out, and place the wire through the sock you made. Then you put the wire through and embellish.

I don't understand why it would be any different with cellophane, though. The only difference there would be is that instead of using seams, you would melt the two pieces together with a heat gun or something similar.

Tia

Tip#3

I just use 16 gauge aluminum wire from the hardware store(in the framing section) and it has never been a problem for me.

Duck

Continued...

Tip#4

There's the normal wings, with a wire shape covered in fabric. People often use organza or a pair of nylons or another sheer fabric.

Then there's a more Amy Brown style wing, where you make three stuffed pointed tubes for one wing (each with wire inside, like for a cat tail) and sew fabric on to the tubes to drape from it, so they look sort of ragged.

Then there's cellophane wings. Cellophane+packing tape+wire

There's also a style similar to the "Amy brown" style wing i mentioned before, just substitutes the tubes for regular wire maybe with curls on the end, spray painted a nice color, and make the fabric for the wings have a casing to slide onto it.

Good materials:

- organza
- tulle
- cellophane
- chiffon
- GLITTER (for any reason)
- trash bags (I heard someone made wings out of these somewhere....)
- duct tape
- anything drapey
- anything shiny
- anything transparent
- rhinestones (decoration is key)
- aluminum foil

Hope that helped!

Rainblossom

Tip#5

I make all of my wing frames with a V in the middle so that I can slide that down the back of my corset/dress/shirt.

16 or 14 gauge is good for "normal" wigs. I'd use 12 or 10 gauge when making them in that style with one section of wire holding the weight of the entire wing. Good luck and post pictures

Felicity869

Tip#6

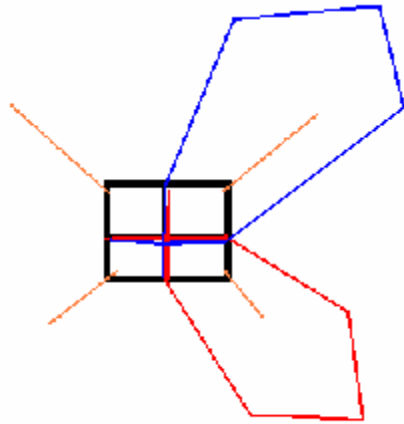
Another thing that helps the wings stay up like that (without flopping around) is that the base is attached to a plate or board or a couple of boards, which can be easily hidden underneath clothing, instead of just attached with two very flimsy elastic strings.

Chana-chan

Tip#7

at home depot they sell galvanized electric fence wire on 1/4 mile spools... I've made dozens and dozens of wings and think I *might* be getting close to halfway through it 4 years later... 4 yrs ago it cost me \$18/spool for 17g (pretty decent strength for most wings...) I've also used it to make wire art and the 22g for experiment in chainmaille..

They are pantyhose over wire. do a rectangular base w/ a plus sign in the middle; attach the pieces like this:



I just use a few rounds of duct tape to hold them. i use 17g galvanized fence wire, but you could use stronger (lower number), just remember that the stronger it is the harder it is to bend.

then put the hose on (use 4Q, not control hose; I like just my size, they are about a dollar a pair). to get the hose to go into really deep crevices, sew the edge around the crease using a fine needle and monofilament (consider a hand needle meant for silk).

I then hot glue the ends down, add a four point ribbon harness (more stable, prevents flopping and gives more variation in attachment potential, like directly to the lacing holes on the back of a corset!). i will also pad the side that rests against my back.

be sure to either spray w/ clear spray or coat w/ fray check any sharp points on the wings, b/c the weave will eventually widen and possibly tear @ that point.

I tend to make any of my wings w/ multiple layers of petals (each 'loop' or part in costume wing terminology) such that they come to a nice crease in the middle of the harness-- precluding the need for an elaborate middle deco that might take away from the wings.

*if the loop frame keeps compressing from the hose, either reconsider the shape, or use a cross brace and the point of worst compression.

synj_munki