

Wing-Making Tutorial

<http://laerry.rpgdarkside.com/wingtutorial.html>



This is a picture documentary of how I made my first pairs of fairy wings. I looked all over for a good tutorial when I was trying to make them, but found none. So I decided that if mine turned out decent I'd make one myself! This is just the way I went about doing my project, and by no means the only (or even the best) way to do it. But if you find it helpful, I'll be happy ^_^

Project Objective: To make two pairs of little fairy wings, and one larger pair of double-wings.

I started out with two pairs of 'angel wings' from a local costume store - you know the type. Pantyhose material stretched over wire frames. I promptly cut off the fabric, but saved the wire. They were both double wings, with a smaller top and a larger bottom. I used the two smaller halves for my little fairy wings, and put the two larger halves together for my double-wings. For the fabric, I got a stretch tulle (I was planning on doing this a different way when I started, which required stretch material).



Step1: Making a pattern

I took the wire frame and traced it in pencil. I wanted a pattern for the fabric that was $\frac{1}{2}$ " larger than the original, so I went around with a ruler, marking points that were $\frac{1}{2}$ " away (perpendicularly) from the wire. Then I connected the dots. Viola - a pattern.



Step 2: Cutting out the fabric and pinning

I pinned down the pattern onto the fabric and cut it out. Then I placed the wire frame in the middle of the fabric, wrapped the excess fabric around the wire, and pinned it in several places. Just enough to keep it from moving around.



Step 3: Sewing

The most time consuming part of the project. I hand sewed right along the wire, just a plain running stitch. Because the fabric was stretchy I had to stretch it a bit as I went around so the final wing would be taut. If you don't use a stretch material you shouldn't have to worry about that too much.



Step 4: Gluing

Just to be sure everything stayed together, I went around the wing, covering my stitching with "Liquid Stitch". Then I propped it up and let it dry.



Step 5: Trimming the edges

Once the glue was dry I took a little pair of scissors and trimmed away the excess fabric. This left it looking very nice and neat.



Step 6: Making the double wings

For my two little pairs, I was done at this point. But one of my sets of wings needed to be double, so at this point I took some thread and sewed them together, just at certain spots. This held them together pretty well.



Step 7: Attatching the wings

Since I didn't want any straps showing, and these wings were pretty small and light, we [pinned them right to the costumes](#) with safety pins. Even the bigger ones. The pins, of course, were on the inside of the costume. You could see them a little bit if you were looking for them, but it wasn't bad at all.



Step 8: Wear and enjoy!

At this point I was glad I had the stretch fabric. My wings kept running into things (you have to be careful with wings) but they bounced right back. They got a beating, but nothing ripped! I consider it a success!

Hope you found this helpful! The wings I made were quite simple, but I think this method would work for more complex wing designs as well (you just won't be able to pick up your wire forms from the store ^_~) Happy wing-making!