

MAKING FIVE FINGER HANDS

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You will need:

Frixion pen for outlining (or mechanical pencil)

Open foot for machining

Brass rod and Tube for turning fingers

Forceps for pulling through

Fray Stop or PVA

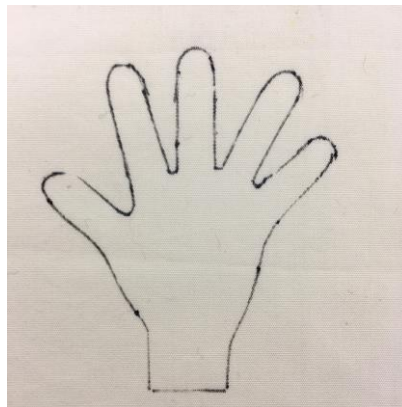
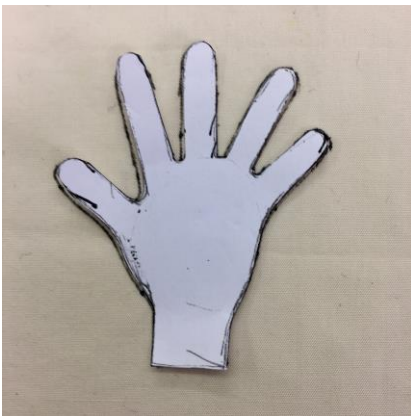
5 Chenille sticks for wiring fingers.

Small sharp scissors.

Long Needle for sculpting

Thread for sculpting

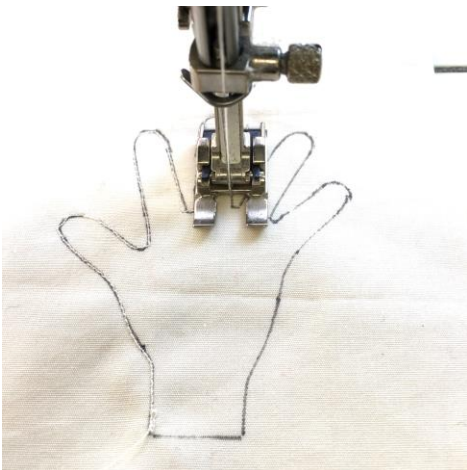
Handful of stuffing.



Cut out the paper template with care.

Draw around with a Frixion pen, mechanical pencil or whatever you like to use.

Frixion pen marks will be removed with heat after stitching.



Using a small stitch and an open foot on your machine, stitch very carefully around the drawn hand. Make sure to put 2 stitches between each finger where the fingers attach to the hand. If you don't put these 2 stitches in you will not be able to turn the fingers successfully. It is a good idea to have 2 stitches across the tip of each finger without making them too square. Cut out the hand with about a 3mm seam allowance. Do not cut between the fingers yet

When you have stitched all around iron to remove the friction pen lines before going further.

Using Fray Stop or another similar put a dab on that 2 stitch seam between each finger. This must soak the stitches just in this place. Its not needed elsewhere. Apply this Fray stop on both sides of the hand and leave to dry. You can iron under baking parchment to speed this process.



Using small sharp scissors, snip between the fingers with same seam allowance at tips of fingers. Snip to the stitch of the seam between the fingers where you have applied the Fray Stop – which is now dry. Don't lack courage to snip right down or you will have creases in the fingers when you turn them.

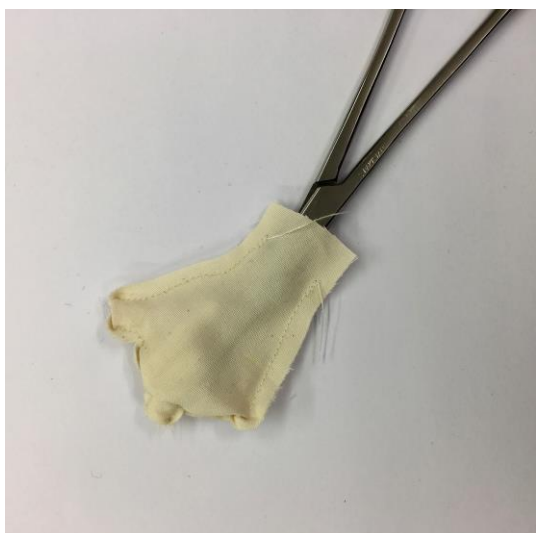


Take a brass rod and tube the appropriate size to fit into the finger.

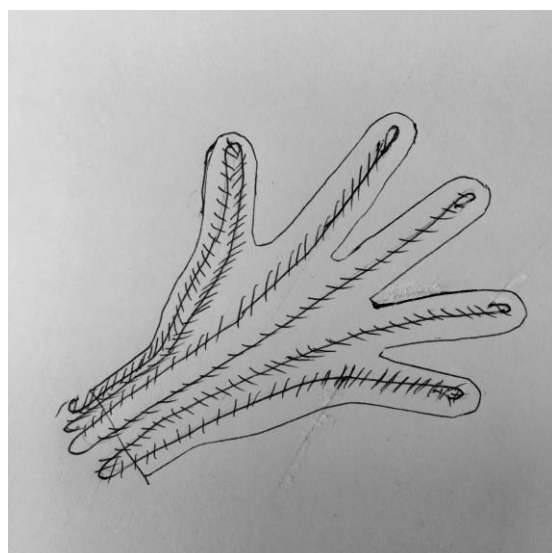
Fit the tube into one finger and hold the rod on the finger tip to keep in place. Now you are gently easing the finger up the rod. You are NOT pushing the rod into the tube. Be gentle here as it is easy to split the finger tip. Work the finger entirely into the hand and repeat with all fingers and thumb.



Using a pair of forceps pull the fingers and the hand to the right side.



Next take 5 x 12" chenille sticks – white and 6mm.



Cut these in half so that you have 6" lengths. Bend down all the sharp ends firmly or they will pierce the fabric.

Bend these in half again. Using this diagram on the right above you can see how they are inserted into the fingers. Use the forceps and gently ease them in. If you try to rush it they tend to get stuck in the wrong position. So first half goes into index finger and next finger. Second half goes into the fourth and little finger. The last piece is bent double and goes into the thumb with the bend at the top.



Push a little stuffing into the palm of the hand and up into the lower part of the fingers. Using a fine needle and some quilting thread add some sculpting stitches to the hand to form the knuckles on the top side and the palm on the lower side of the hand.

You can now add some nails and some shading if you like. Remember to make a left and a right hand when adding the stuffing and the sculpting.



I often wrap a thread around the wrist to help with putting the hand into the arm.