



PATTERN & INSTRUCTIONS FOR A SMALL TOUCAN PLUSH

This toucan pattern is from a vintage British *Woman's Realm* pattern. It includes patterns for five birds and about eight other animals. It's probably very hard to find, so I'm breaking it into a series of pattern tutorials for intermediate seamstresses who'd like to make some small plush animals as decorations or for their children. This one is for the toucan.

The body of the toucan is about 7 inches long when completed. I've made one, and while doing so, have ironed out any problems with the instructions, for example, some matching points were incorrect, and the beak was too small for a toucan's beak. Here, I give indications of how much extra I added to the size of the beak. Also, it wasn't stated whether or not to add a seam allowance, so I decided to add 1/8" for seams. The advantage for you is that this very cute hard to find pattern is available for free!

Fabric & Supplies:

- Scraps of sturdy black fabric such as closely woven linen or cotton for the body. 12" square piece is recommended. I used linen.
- Small pieces of white, yellow for breast and beak. I used a white paisley cotton for the breast and a nice sturdy scrap of upholstery fabric for the beak.
- Also some small scraps of felt or other fabrics like silk or cotton, in blue, orange and black for the eye patches.
- small pieces of orange felt for the feet.*
- 2 pipe cleaners for the feet.*
- 1 pair small goo goo eyes.**
- Polyfil stuffing

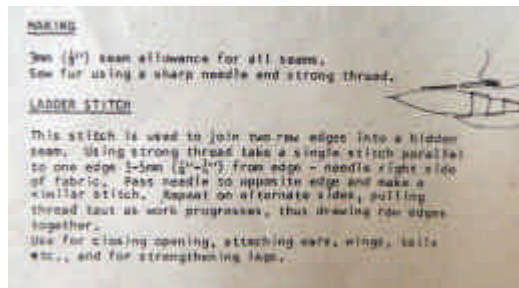
* I didn't make feet for my bird, but I include the instructions for them.

** I used fabric and felt scraps for the eyes. If you like plastic eyes, use them. Otherwise, get creative! Use fabric, buttons, beads, etc.

Seams:

Add 1/8" seam allowance around all pattern piece edges. Add 1/4" all around **beak** pattern pieces.

Ladder Stitch:



You may already know this stitch, but I didn't, and I learned something new! It is used to join two raw edges into a hidden seam. Using strong thread, take a single stitch parallel to one edge 1/8"-1/4" from edge, needle right side of fabric. Pass needle to opposite edge and make a similar stitch. Repeat on alternate sides, pulling thread taut as work progresses, thus drawing edges together. Use for closing openings, attaching ears, wings, tails, etc.

Cutting:

Cut...

- black fabric: 1 head gusset, 1 base gusset, 1 beak patch, 2 tail pieces, 2 upper wings, 2 under wings, 2 bodies
- white or yellow fabric (a pretty print if you like): 1 front gusset
- yellow sturdy fabric: 2 beaks
- orange or blue scraps: 2 eye patches
- orange felt: 4 feet

Sewing Instructions:



1. With right sides together, stitch gusset pieces together, matching points A,B,C and D.

2. Stitch gusset to body pieces, matching points G and H and stitching from G over head and along front to H.
3. Stitch body pieces together from G along back to H, leaving a small opening for stuffing near the bottom of the back.



4. Turn right side out and stuff firmly with polyfil and handstitch body closed.



5. For the beak, don't forget to add 1/4" around outside edges of pattern piece before cutting. Right sides meeting, stitch beak pieces together from J to L to K. Turn right side out and stuff firmly. Ladder stitch to head. Catch stitch beak patch to center top of head.



As you can see in this photo, the original pattern makes a beak too narrow for a toucan's big beak!



6. Catch stitch eye patches in place and glue on eyes, or sew on tiny pieces of fabric or shank buttons for the eyes.



7. Match upper wing to lower wing at points E and F and stitch the wings to the body between these two points, matching points E and F on body.



8. For the tail, since the instructions were unclear, I put the two tail pieces together, machine-stitched them together along the deep V at the top, and hand-stitched them to the body.
9. For the feet, put two feet pieces together and stab stitch (up and down through fabric layers) around the three front claws. Stuff the two side claws with polyfil. Cut a piece of pipe cleaner to fit the entire length of the foot and insert. Continue stitching around the remainder of the foot. Catch stitch firmly in place on base gusset.

