



Henrietta the Hen and her Chicks

Here is a mother hen you could make for Easter. She could carry an Easter egg on her back.

This pattern for a hen and her chicks comes from the CWA of Victoria publication 20 + 1 Patterns for Toy Animals, by Margaret Hyde and Heather Scott.

The main stitch used to join the parts of the toy is ***glove stitch***.

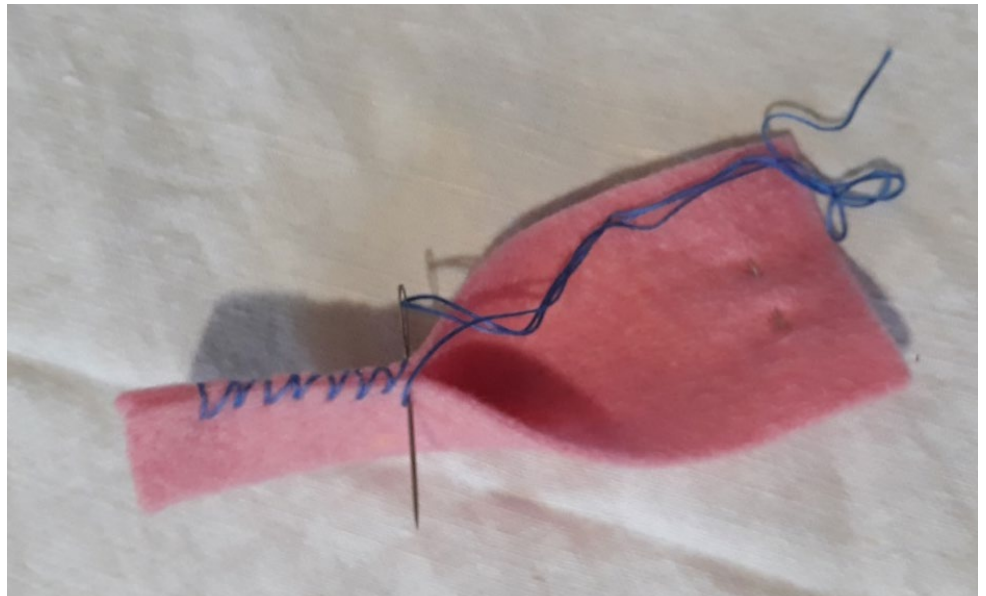
When using felt, glove stitch is often the most satisfactory method, leaving a fur-like edge. It is an overcast stitch. Stitches are worked twice into the same hole before moving on to the next stitch, carrying the thread over and behind the edges of material as shown.

All raw edges of single layers of felt should be glove stitched.

In the photo right, contrasting thread has been used to make it easier for you to see the stitch.

If you wish to make the hen and chicks a different size, use a photocopier to enlarge or reduce the pattern. Make sure all pattern pieces are enlarged or reduced by the same amount.

Another use for the hen is as a doorstep - stuff with rice or filler beans to add weight.



Henrietta the Hen and her Chicks ★★

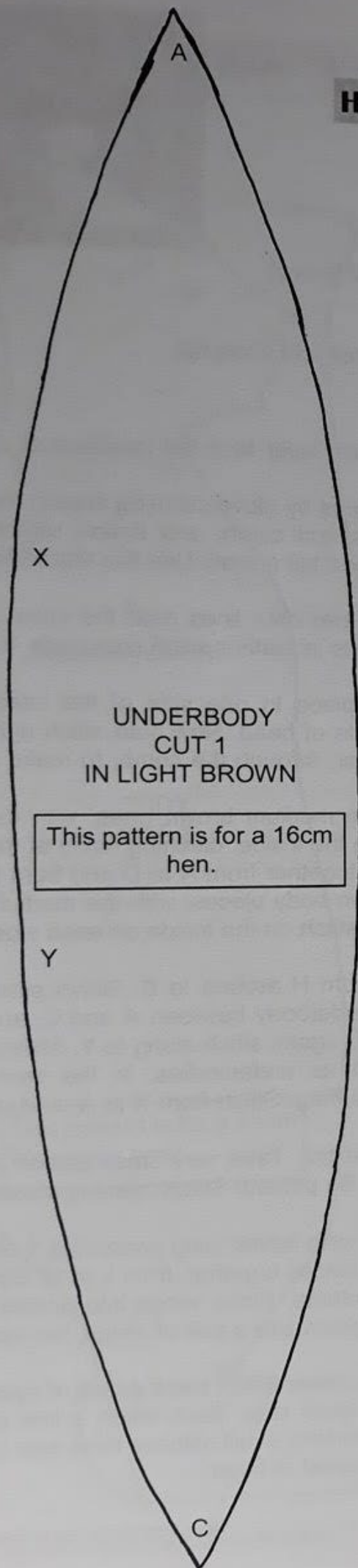
Materials for a 16cm hen:

- 30x40cm light brown felt
- 8x8cm medium brown felt
- 20x14cm dark brown felt
- 8x5cm red felt
- embroidery thread
- thread (see 2 below)
- toy filling
- scraps of black and white felt

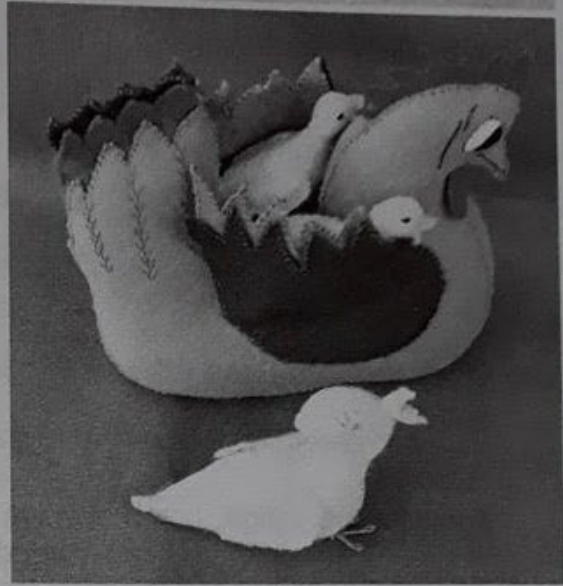


Use glove stitch unless otherwise stated.

1. Cut out carefully. Before removing the pattern, tailor tack the positions of all features.
2. Prepare the wings, comb, wattles and tail pieces by glove stitching around the edges. Use matching red thread for wattles and comb, and thread slightly darker than the light brown felt for the wings and tail pieces. Use this thread for all other parts of the hen.
3. Embroider features on the body pieces: the two dark lines near the eyes in dark brown stem stitch, and the tail feather lines in feather stitch (see page 10) in medium brown.
4. The comb is a little tricky. Slip stitch it in place to one side of the head, between B and K, then slip stitch to other side of head. Now stab stitch right through from one side of the head to the other, through the comb, to make a thoroughly firm join.
5. Place the darkest tail piece between the two medium brown ones, with the dark one protruding about 1 cm. Slip stitch on the inside, catching firmly at the indents. Glove stitch the two sides of the tail together from A to D and from E to F. Place these three layers between the two body pieces, with the medium brown tail pieces protruding about 1 cm. Slip stitch on the inside on each side, catching firmly at the indents.
6. Glove stitch the two body pieces together from H around to B. Glove stitch from K around beak and down to C. Insert underbody between A and C, and stitch along one side from C to A. Starting at C again, stitch along to Y. Always stitch both sides of inserted gussets, such as underbodies, in the same direction. Leave open between X and Y for stuffing. Stitch from X to A, and up from A to J.
7. Stuff hen, starting with beak, head, neck and tail. Take very small pieces of filling and get it right to the end (see page 9). Be patient! Stitch opening closed from Y to X.
8. Place dark brown wing over light brown wing, with lighter wing protruding 1 cm above darker wing. Glove stitch the two wing pieces together, from L to M. Slip stitch on the inside, catching firmly at the indents. Place wings into position and stitch onto body from P to Q. Make sure you make a pair of wings, not two for the same side of the hen.
9. Stitch wattles in place. Stitch white of eyes in place. Stitch black pupils of eyes in place. Stem stitch a line along beak on each side. Back stitch a line at beginning of beak, using a long needle and working small stitches from side to side so a complete line of dark colour adds interest to head.



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Two small chickens can be made to sit inside the wings.

Materials for two 8 cm long chickens:

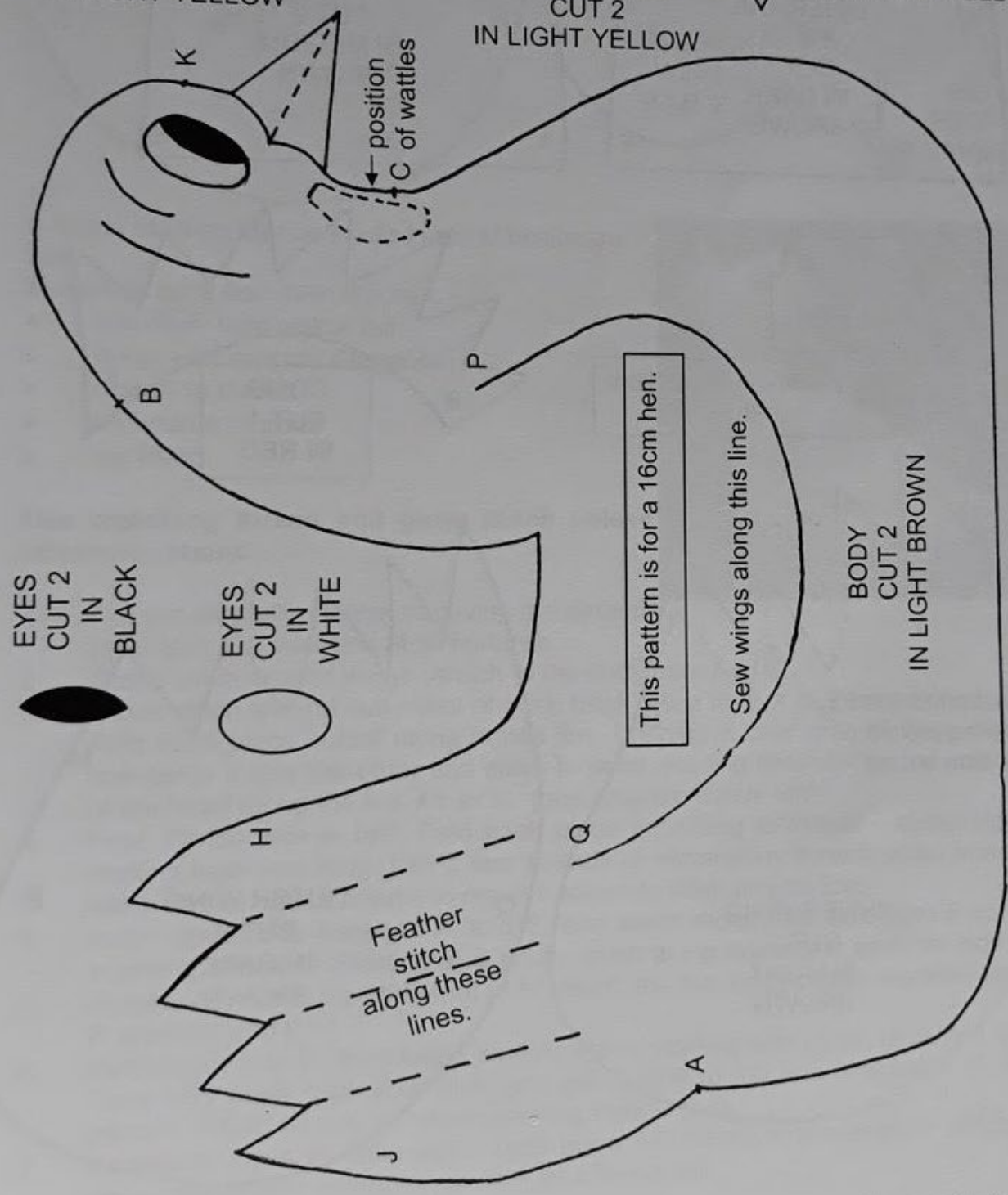
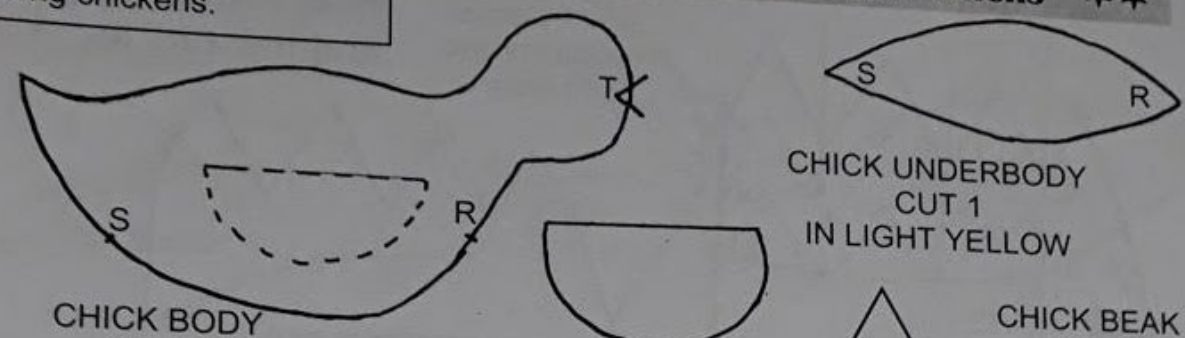
- 10x11cm pale yellow felt
- scrap of bright yellow felt
- matching thread
- embroidery thread
- toy filling

Use matching thread and glove stitch unless otherwise stated.

1. Place the two body pieces together and glove stitch from R around head to S. Insert underbody between R and S, and stitch along one side from S to R. Begin stuffing chick, starting with head, neck and tail. Take very small pieces of filling and get it right to the end (see page 9). Be patient! Starting at S again, stitch along towards R on other side of underbody, filling as you go. Close opening.
2. Glove stitch around wings. Stitch into position.
3. Embroider eyes in dark brown. Fold beak along dotted line and stitch to head at T. Using dark brown, work fly stitch feet in the middle of the underbody.

This pattern is for 8 cm long chickens.

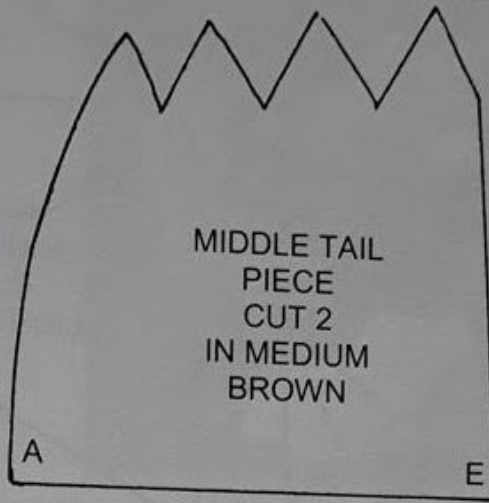
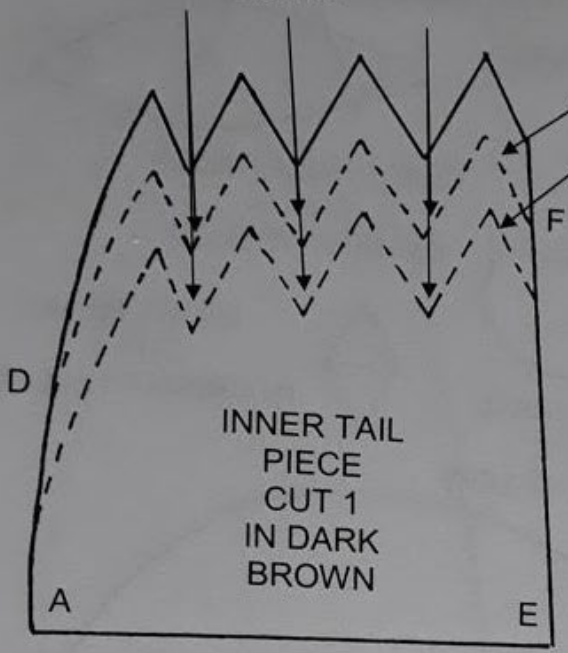
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Catch firmly at these indents

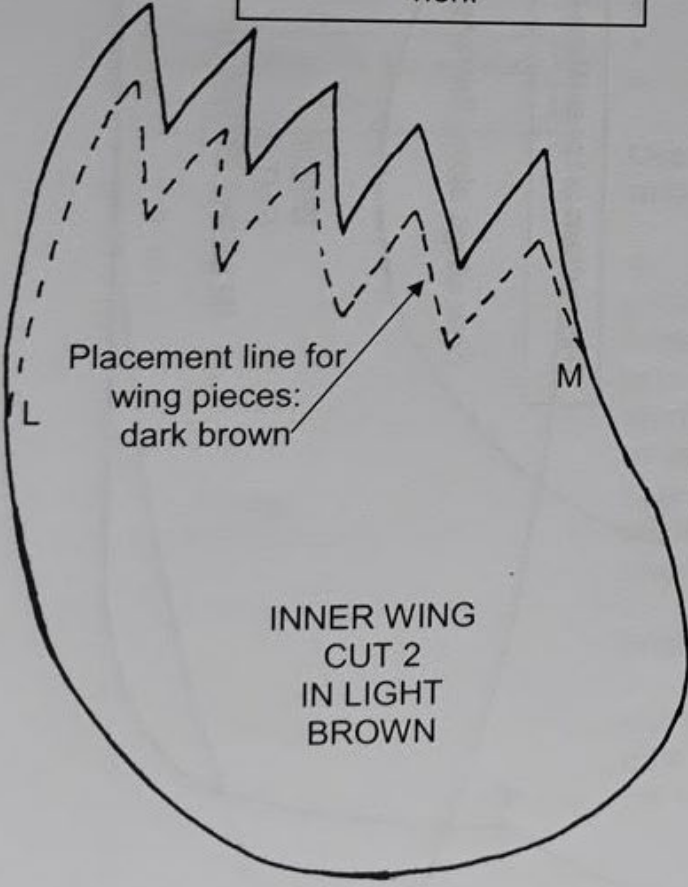
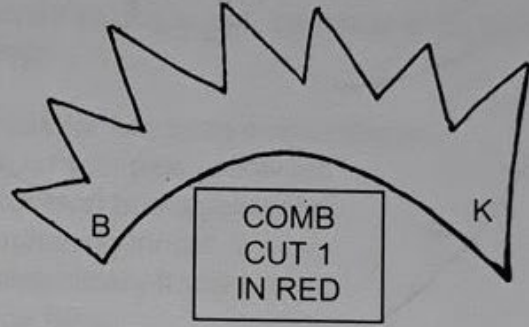
Placement lines for tail pieces:
medium brown
light brown

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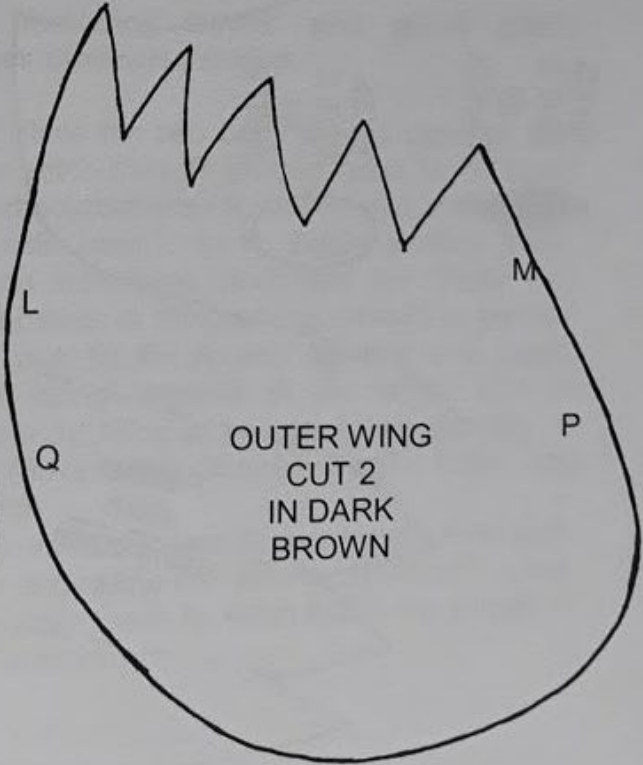


WATTLES
CUT 2
IN RED

This pattern is for a 16cm hen.

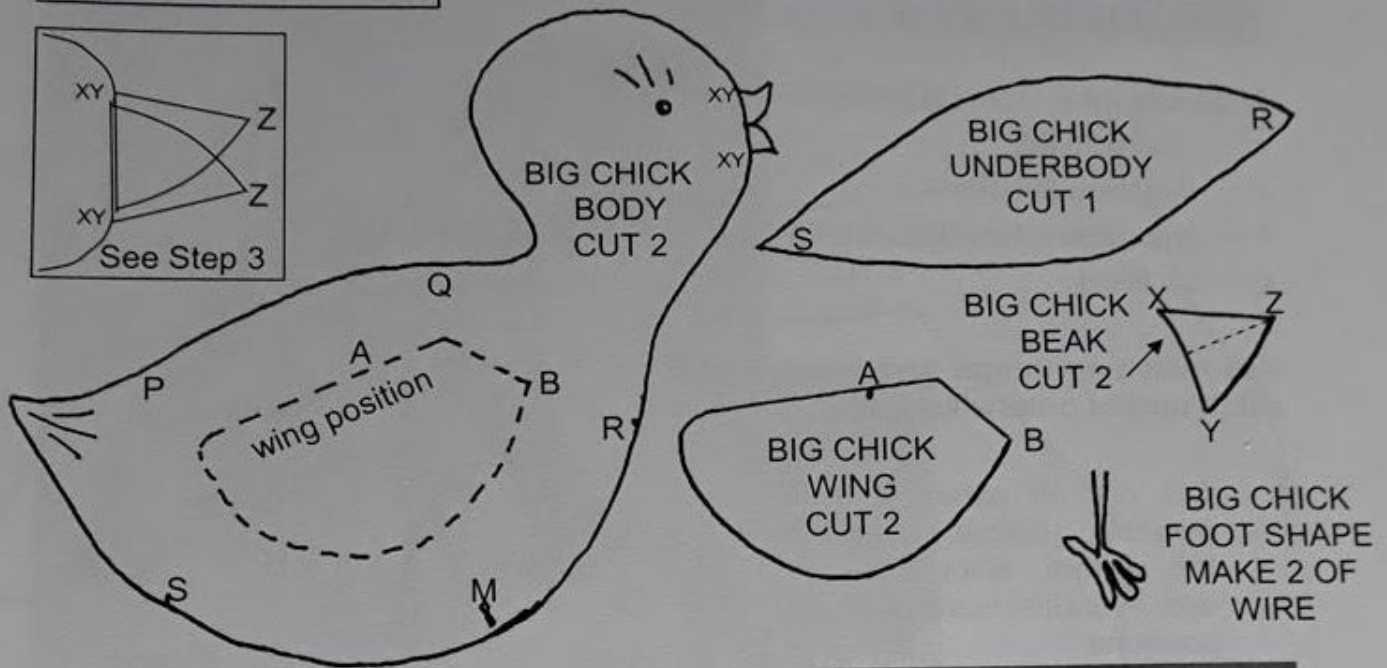


Placement line for wing pieces:
dark brown



This pattern is for a 9cm high chicken.

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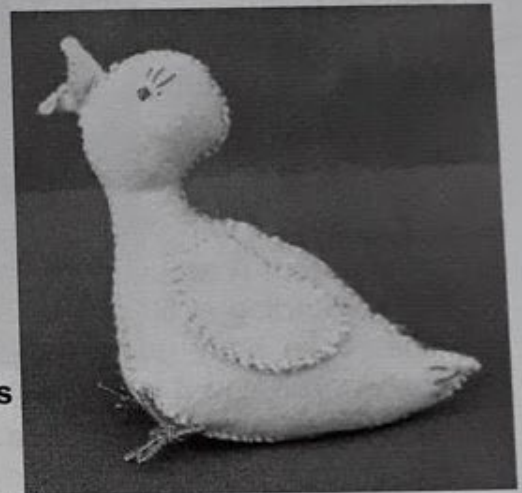


A larger chicken can be made to stand beside the hen.

Materials for a 9cm high chicken:

- 20x25cm light yellow felt
- 30cm wire (approx 24 gauge)
- matching thread
- embroidery thread
- toy filling

Use matching thread and glove stitch unless otherwise stated.



1. Cut out carefully. Before removing the pattern, tailor tack the positions of all features.
2. Glove stitch around wings. Attach to the body from A to B.
3. Glove stitch around two sides of each beak piece from X to Z and along to Y. Fold each piece in half along dotted line, bringing X over onto Y. Then place one piece inside the other and stitch to head, placing between the two pieces of the head along the line XY to XY (see diagram above left).
4. Feet: Divide wire in half. Fold each piece according to diagram above right, making legs 3cm long. Using two strands of embroidery thread, wrap around wire. Thread onto a needle to make it easier to wrap around toes.
5. Insert underbody between R and S, and stitch along one side from S to R, inserting foot at M. Starting at S again, stitch along towards R on other side of underbody, again inserting foot at M. Stitch the two body pieces together from R around head to Q.
6. Stitch from S to P, then begin stuffing chick, starting with head, neck and tail. Take very small pieces of filling and get it right to the end (see page 9). Be patient! Filling as you go, close opening from P to Q.
7. Embroider eyes in satin stitch (see page 10). Work a few straight stitches above eye to add character, as well as a few at tail.