

PPLD Young Adult Services Tutorial:

Dragon Plush

Watch the video tutorial here: <https://youtu.be/0Kbv2Vos3os>

SUPPLIES

- Fabric or felt
- Thread
- Needle
- Scissors
- Paper
- Pen/pencil
- Dragon template (see page 6)
- Stuffing (polyfill, more fabric, plastic bags, paper—whatever you have on hand!)
- Optional: straight pins, needle threader, chalk



Hand Sewn Dragon Instructions

Part 1: Trace and Cut Out Your Dragon Pattern (10 min)

1. Either draw your own dragon pattern or trace the one provided in Appendix A on page 7! Either way, draw the design on a blank sheet of paper, then cut out each piece (wing, body, spikes)!
2. Trace the paper dragon patterns two times onto the fabric with chalk, pen, pencil, etc.
3. Cut out the pieces. The body will be the front and back of the dragon, while the wings and spikes will be sewn on later.



Part 2: Needle and Embroidery Preparation (5 min)

1. If you're using embroidery thread, separate it into 2-3 strands and set the rest aside. If you're using regular thread, skip to the next step.
2. Cut a piece of thread that is about the length of your arm.
3. Thread a needle by poking the thread through the "eye," which is the hole at the top of the needle (see video for step-by-step process). Pull it through, but leave a tail of thread about 3-4 inches in length dangling off the end. We're doing this so that the thread doesn't slip out of the needle while we sew!
4. Finally, tie a simple overhand knot at the bottom of the thread (see p. 6 if you need help with this knot). We're doing this so that when we pull the thread through the fabric, the knot stops it and holds it in place. Otherwise, we would pull it straight through and lose all our hard work!

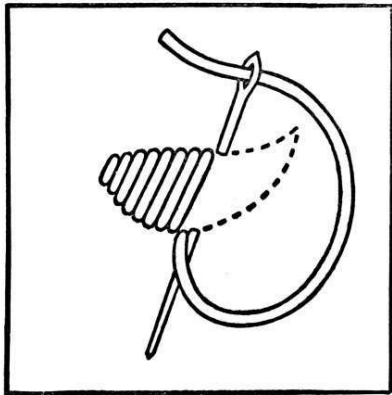


Overhand Knot. Source: [com-mons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Boys%27_Life,_1_-_Overhand_Knots.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Boys%27_Life,_1_-_Overhand_Knots.png)

Hand Sewn Dragon Instructions, cont.

Part 3: Embroidery (15 min)

1. First, sew on the face. Take one body piece that you want to be the front of the dragon, then mark out where the eyebrow, eye, and nostrils will be.
2. Pull the needle through the fabric from back to front and sew a single diagonal line to make the eyebrow. You can make the eye beneath it any shape you want. I sewed a “satin stitch” of 3-4 straight lines right on top of each other to make my eye (see p. 6 for more on this stitch). Finally, sew on the nostrils. I did two vertical lines next to each other on the snout.
3. Tie off your thread. Turn your fabric over so that you are looking at the back side. Poke the needle under the last stitch you sewed and pull it almost all the way through, until there is a little loop left right at the bottom. Poke your needle through that loop, then pull it tight. It will form a knot. See the video for a close-up of this process.
4. Add any other details you want at this stage. Next we’ll be attaching the body!



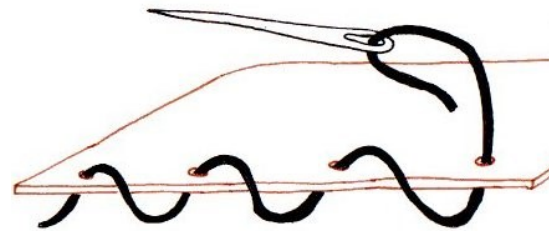
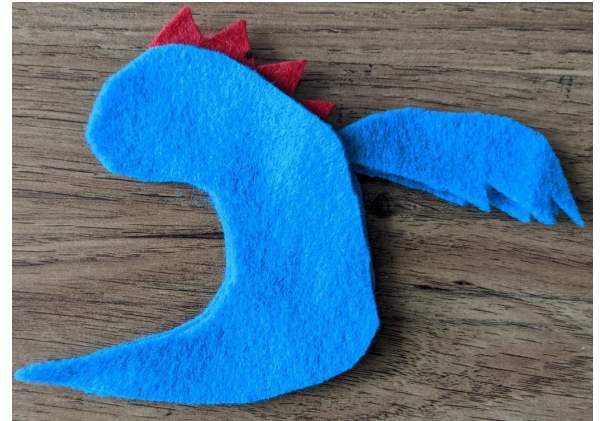
Satin Stitch. Source: [com-
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Satin stitch.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Embroidery_and_Tapestry_Weaving_by_Grace_Christie_fig_39_Satin_stitch.jpg)



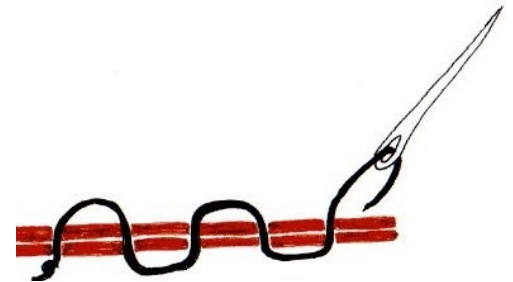
Hand Sewn Dragon Instructions, cont.

Part 4: Front to Back (30 min)

1. Line up the entire front piece with the back piece. Place the wings and spikes in between the two pieces. Arrange them until you like how they are sitting. If you have straight pins, poke them through the fabric to hold these pieces together where you want them to be.
2. Cut another arm-length piece of thread in whatever color you want. As before, tie an overhand knot at the bottom of the thread.. Then, poke the needle into the bottom piece of felt from the inside. The knot will be hidden between the two pieces of felt.
3. Start with the dragon's tail, sewing it closed with a whip stitch by bringing the thread around the edges of the fabric and then poking all the way through both layers (see p. 6 for more detailed instructions on sewing a whip stitch). Continue around up the dragon's back until you reach the wings.
4. When you reach the wings, sew a running stitch instead (straight lines going in and out about a centimeter in from the edge of the fabric). You are no longer going around the edge; you are going up and down through the main part of the fabric in order to attach the wings and spikes securely to the rest of the body.
5. If you start getting low on thread, stop and tie a knot. Then rethread your needle, tie a knot at the end of the thread, and keep on going!
6. Continue around the head, sewing on a scrap of fabric as a tongue or a flame if you would like. Stop when you reach the belly! You need to leave a few inches of room to stuff the dragon.



Whip Stitch. Source: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Whip_stitch.jpg



Running Stitch. Source: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Running_stitch.jpg

Part 5: Stuff Your Dragon! (10 min)

1. Use whatever stuffing you have on hand to fill the dragon. Polyfill is what was used in the video. You can use the eraser end of a pencil to push the polyfill into hard-to-reach areas.
2. After you are finished stuffing, use the whip stitch to close the hole and voila! You have a dragon of your own!

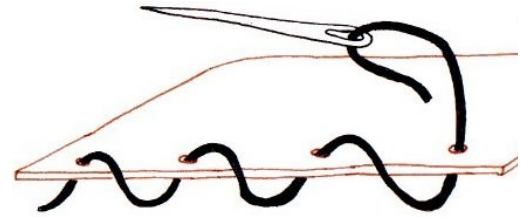


The Finished Product (front and back):



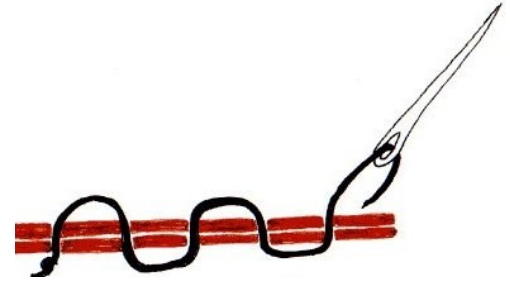
Definitions & Resources

Whip Stitch: The whip stitch basically involves sticking your needle up through the back and front pieces of fabric, going around the edge of the fabric, and pulling the thread through. Rinse and repeat. For clarity and very specific instructions (including how to tie knots when sewing a felt plushy), view this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GwCp-V-SiA>



Whip Stitch. Source: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Whip_stitch.jpg

Running Stitch: Also called a straight stitch, as you are simply stitching in a straight line. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4nhj8kMpAI>



Running Stitch. Source: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Running_stitch.jpg

Pinning Fabric: To pin fabric, you will insert the sharp edge of the pin down and out through the back all of the pieces you would like to stay together. Then, insert the sharp end back through the front of the fabric. (Start at 2:52) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sgi17qIKBx0>

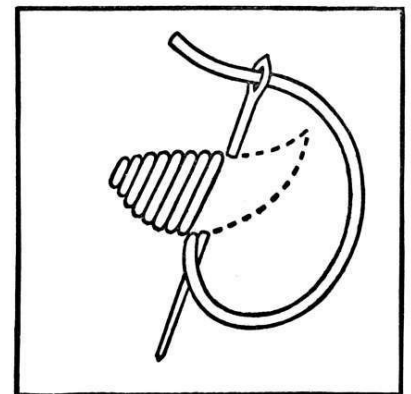
Overhand Knot: This is a really simple knot: it's the first knot you tie when you tie your shoes! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CyLoZDq2uFo>



Overhand Knot. Source: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Boys%27_Life,_1_-_Overhand_Knots.png

Satin Stitch: The stitch I used to sew the dragon's eye in the video is called a satin stitch. Here is a video tutorial on it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FzAumfcqWE>



Satin Stitch. Source: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Embroidery_and_Tapestry_Weaving,_by_Grace_Christie,_fig_39,_Satin_stitch.jpg

Appendix A: Dragon Pattern

Spikes (cut 1)



Tongue (optional)
(cut 1)

Body (cut 2)