

# Olly the Owl

Here's a fine feathered friend who's as charming as he is wise. Find the perfect perch for him so you can display his plumage in all its glory.



## SIZE

approximately 6 x 6 x 6 inches

## MATERIALS

- ~ Pattern (see pages 4-6)
- ~  $\frac{1}{8}$  yard of fabric A for the body
- ~ 3 coordinating fabric scraps for wings, stomach, feathers, feet, and beak
- ~ Muslin or solid ivory cotton fabric scrap for eyes
- ~ Fiberfill stuffing
- ~ Feathers for embellishment (just a few)
- ~ Embroidery floss, chocolate brown or black, for pupils

## TOOLS

Basic sewing supplies

★ Seam allowance is  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch unless otherwise noted

## TO CUT

1. Locate the pattern on the following pages.
2. Cut out the following pieces:
  - \* Body: on the fold, three from fabric A, one from a coordinating scrap
  - \* Eyes: two from muslin
  - \* Beak: two from a scrap
  - \* Horns: two from one scrap, two from a different scrap
  - \* Eyelids: on the fold, four from a scrap
  - \* Wings: two from one scrap, two from a different scrap
  - \* Tail feathers: three from one scrap, three from a different scrap
  - \* Back feathers: three from one scrap, three from a different scrap
  - \* Feet: four from scrap fabric

## TO SEW

3. *To make the body:*
  - \* You should have three body panels in one fabric and a fourth in another—this will be the stomach. Pin the stomach panel to another body panel, right sides together, and stitch down one side (see fig. 1, next page). Continue stitching the body panels on, right sides together, leaving a 2-inch opening for turning in the final seam.
  - \* Turn the body right side out and push out the seams with a point turner. Press all seams. Stuff the body very full, filling all seams and curves. Hand-sew the opening closed (see fig. 2, next page).
4. *To make the wings:*
  - \* Match up top and bottom pieces from two different fabrics. Stitch the curved edges, leaving the

straight edge open for turning (see fig. 3). Turn right side out, push out the seams, and press. Stuff just enough to give the wing some body, about halfway full.

**S. To make the feathers:**

\* Stitch together three large tail feathers and three small back feathers in the same way you made the wings in step 4. Press, but do not stuff. Set aside.

6. To make the tiny beak, do the same as for the wings and feathers, but stuff this one as full as you can.

7. Such tiny toes—but as cute as can be! A little finicky, but well worth the effort. To make the feet:

\* Pin two foot pieces together, right sides facing. Stitch all the way around the foot shape. Trim and clip as close to the stitches as possible. Cut an X into the middle of one side (see fig. 4).

\* Turn the foot right side out through the X. Use a narrow stick, wire, or dowel to push out the toes. Stuff the foot and hand-sew the X closed. This seam will be hidden when stitched onto the body.

**B. To make the eyes:**

\* Pin two eyelids together, right sides facing. Stitch the outer corners of the inside curve only, leaving the middle open (see fig. 5). Turn to the right side, and press under the seam allowance on each open side (similar to the way you might leave an opening when you're installing a zipper). Make a line of basting stitches around the perimeter of the opening, leaving a tail to use for gathering (see fig. 6).

\* Pin each eyelid to an eye, matching the outside edges. The eye is more full than the eyelid, by design, so you'll need to bunch it up every now and then. Stitch, using

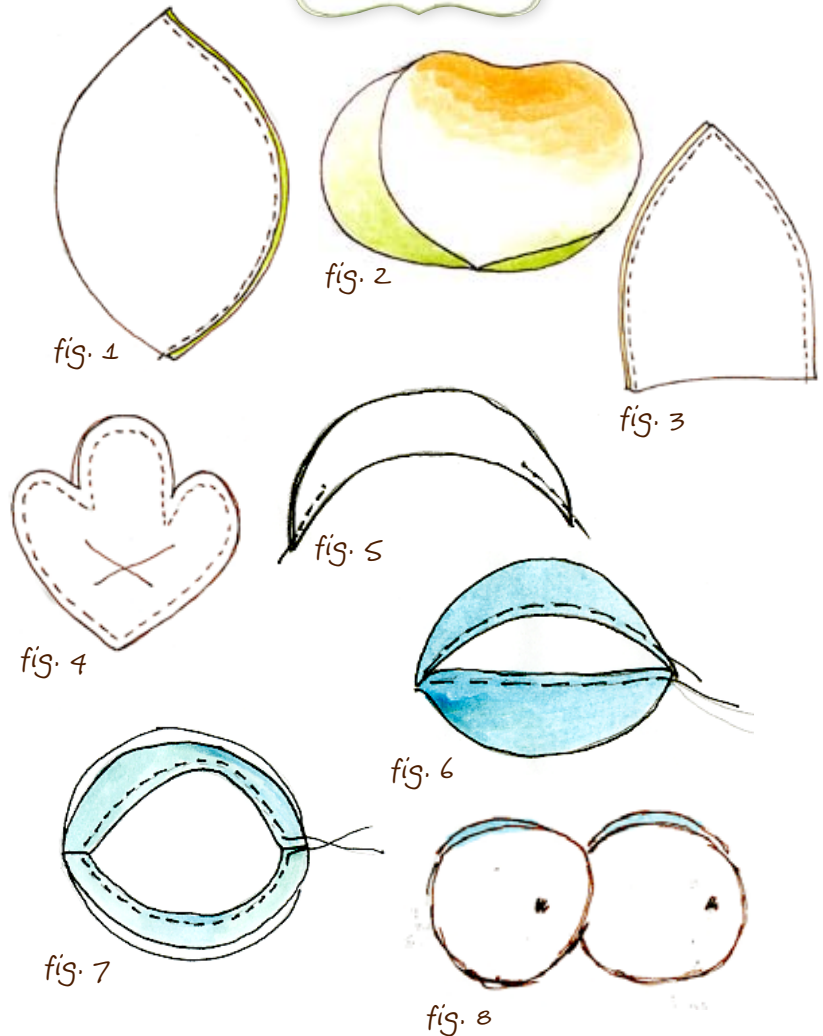
a ¼-inch seam allowance. Turn inside out through the opening. If you'd like, you can add a line of topstitching along the seamline on the eyelids, for emphasis.

\* Begin stuffing the eyeball until you have a smooth round eyeball, pulling the gathering stitches as needed (see fig. 7). You can play around with the stuffing to create the look you like, displaying a little more (or less) eyelid. When you're happy, pull the gathering stitches tight and sew the opening closed.

\* Mark with a pencil where to stitch

the pupils. I did them off center, but you could center them or place them to look upward or downward. Thread your needle with embroidery floss and, from the outside, embroider several little lines to make a dot, disguising the knots with stitches if you like. Repeat these instructions for the other eye (see fig. 8).

9. Ollie is a horned owl. To make each horn: Pin two pieces together (from different fabrics), right sides facing, and stitch the sides. Leave



the short straight edge open. Trim the seam allowance and turn right side out. Stuff the horns full, so they are nice and stiff.

olly the owl

**10. To put together Olly's body:**

- \* Begin with the three large tail feathers. Pin them along his back, with the middle feather on top overlapping the other two (see fig. 9). Hand-sew in place. No need to finish the raw edges of the feathers, because they will be hidden.
- \* Layer the smaller feathers on top of the larger ones. Hand-sew in place. Cover each layer's raw edges as you add new pieces
- \* Add the wings next. I folded in the side edges slightly to create a little height at the shoulder (see fig. 10). Hand-sew in place.

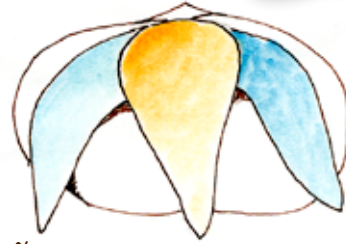


fig. 9



fig. 10



fig. 11

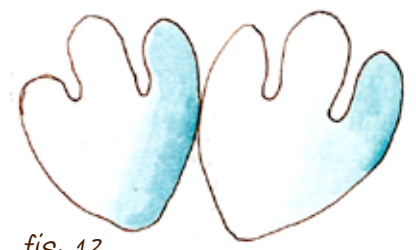


fig. 12

**11. To put together Olly's face:**

- \* You'll sew on the beak next, but first check where you'll position the eyes and horns. The beak should peek out from underneath the eyeballs (see fig. 11). Also, the eyeballs should cover any raw edges at the top of the head. Hand-sew the beak in place.
- \* Hand-sew the eyes one at a time, stitching around the eyeball to secure it in place. Hand-sew the horns behind the eyes. For eyelashes, I stitched a few real feathers along the eyelid seam.

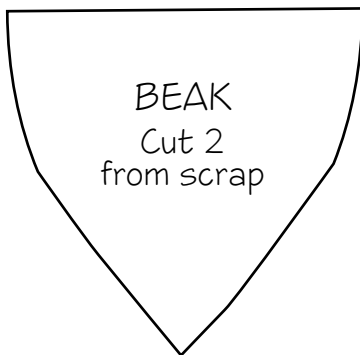
**12. To finish:**

- \* Lay the feet side by side and stitch the feet together along the inside toe (see fig. 12). The toes should line up in a straight row, not in a rounded shape, so they'll peek out from under his fat belly. Position the X openings beneath the body and hand-sew the feet in place. Isn't this a hoot?

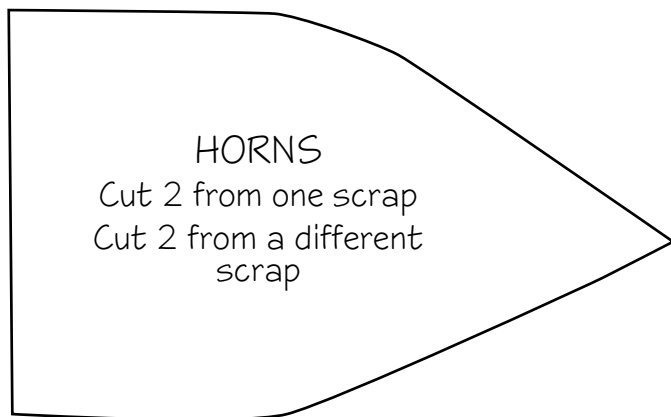




EYES  
Cut 2 from muslin or ivory



BEAK  
Cut 2  
from scrap



HORNS  
Cut 2 from one scrap  
Cut 2 from a different  
scrap

