

Sewing instruction for hand puppets

Material required for one puppet:

- Red canvas (or other fabric that does not stretch) for mouth and ears
- Fabric in a different colour for head and body (e.g., canvas, cord)
- 2 wobble eyes
- Thread in the colour of the fabrics
- Scissors, pins, sewing machine

Time: 1-2 hours



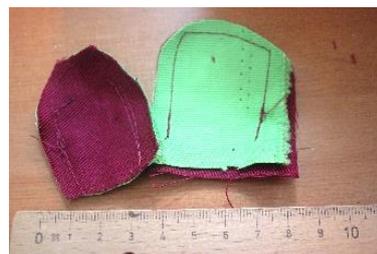
Measuring of the pieces of fabric (e.g., green puppet for slender hands)

1. **Ears:** 2 red and 2 green rectangle 4cm x 6cm
2. **Mouth:** 1 red rectangle 22cm x 12cm (width depends on the width of the hand as the fingers will be inserted into the puppet's mouth: at least [width = width of hand + 4cm])
3. **Front:**
 - a. **For head:** 1 green rectangle 10cm x 14cm (width depends on the width of the mouth: at least [width of head = width of mouth + 2cm])
 - b. **For body:** 1 green rectangle 21cm x 14cm (see width of head-rectangle)
4. **Back:** 1 green rectangle 28cm x 14cm (see width of head-rectangle)
5. **Hair:** 1 red see width of head-rectangle 4cm x 30cm



Sew the ears

For one ear a red rectangle is placed on top of a green rectangle (right on right) and sewed together on three sides using a straight stitch. The ear will then be turned inside out, which may be a bit fiddly.



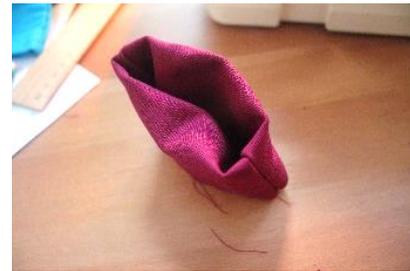
Sew hair

The red fabric will be folded 4 times so that no fabric edge is visible outside. Sew together with a straight or a zigzag stitch using differently coloured thread. Cut into pieces that are about 3cm long.



Sew the mouth

The fabric rectangle is folded in half (right on right; left picture) and sewn together with a straight stitch at the sides (not at the long side opposite the fold). Turn the fabric inside out. Then, turn the front edge into the mouth (right picture). For the mouth to stay this way, sew the layers of fabric together in the “corners” of the mouth.



Attention: You may want to check at this point if your hand fits into the mouth. If necessary, open the seams and try again :)

Sew the mouth and the front pieces together

1. **Mouth + head:** Place mouth and head fabric on top of each other (right on right) and carefully sew together using a straight stitch. Pay attention so that you don't accidentally stitch the inside of the mouth.
2. **Mouth + body:** Now the other side of the mouth is placed on top of the shorter edge of the body fabric. Carefully sew together using a straight stitch. Pay attention so that you don't accidentally stitch the inside of the mouth.
3. **Join head and body:** To the right and to the left of the mouth, the body and head fabrics will be sewed together using a straight stitch (Left picture: Preparation with pins; right picture: finished seam).



This is how the finished front looks like:



Sew front and back together

First, put down the back fabric in front of you (right side up, wrong side down) and arrange the hair and ears the way you want them – see picture 1. Then, put the front fabric on top (right on right) and pin the two pieces together (except at the short edge where later the hand will be put inside) – see picture 2. Sew together using a straight stitch. Check if your hand fits inside – if not, open the seam and try again.

Finally, turn the puppet inside out and check for any mistakes. Everything fine?



Hem the lower seam

Fold the lower seam twice and hem it so that the fabric edge is invisible.



Eyes and “brain”

Sew on the two wobbly eyes.

In order to fill the head a little bit, you may want to use a sock.

