

Howdy! Calamity Kim here, with a fun Make & Do!



Want to make some chickens?

Get started by choosing a theme. Look in your fabrics or favorite books for inspiration. Novelty fabrics, vintage, embroidered, chenille, wools, linens all give the chickens different characteristics that provide a springboard for your theme to bounce from.

Placing the fabrics right side together, cut two of the body and one using the breast or gusset pattern. I sometimes cut the chicks out using an exacto knife and look in the hole left by the chick to view the fabric through. Like a stencil to “fussy cut” the chick exactly where I think the fabric will play the most dramatic.

Sew one side of the body beginning at the dot on the tip of the beak and the top dot on the gusset. Slowly ease the top around and pull lightly as you stitch around to the lower dot. You can then cut the threads and start the other side the same way. Sew the back from the tail to the head and be careful not to over-sew on top of previous seams.

Trim threads and seams and turn inside out. Use the tip of a dowel or chopstick or blunt scissors to push out corners. Fill with fiberfill. Sew up opening using matching thread and ladder stitch.

Add black beads for eyes and use yellow triangle shape to cut a beak from felt. Start at the tip and stitch beak closed with ladder stitch, sew on to beak area of chick.

Use an awl to punch two holes on belly of chick (marked with black dots on pattern). Insert one piece of chenille wire and pull until ends are even.

Add another piece of chenille (bent at center) to each chenille leg. Bend the leg so that it is about 1" long and then start twisting it back up toward the body. This will make the leg strong.

Use the additional wire for toes by making 3 bends and then twisting each loop so that it becomes a tightly twisted toe. I add a spur on the back. This helps the feet to stand.

Chenille wire is colorful and kid friendly. Other stronger gauge wire may be used if you prefer. I think the rusted coat hanger wire is a good look but not something you would want to play with.

These would be great stitched on to a piece of fabric covered elastic for a pin cushion to wear or on ribbons to tie as napkin rings. They could be glued on to the end of pencils as pencil toppers.

I find stitching on those small cocktail knives and umbrellas make for lots of conversation starters. You could re-enact a duel with ladies nearby watching. Teehee. Add flowers cut from felt or silk flowers removed from stems with small beads for the centers.

Dress them up with scarves, hats or necklaces.

Make tiny crowns or party hats and have a Birthday Chicken!!

Feeling grumpy? Make an angry chicken- sure to encourage a grin from even the foulest mood! (fowl-est- get it?)

Use small post it notes and toothpicks to create picket signs for your striking new chicks!
Whatever- PLAY TODAY!!!

Spreading Joy and Keeping you in Stitches...

XXXOOO, Calamity Kim