

## "Orangutan" Sewing Ideas

( These are simply starting points. Let your creativity loose!)

I've tried to make these ideas as basic as possible so that "first- time" sewers will manage. Anyone with more experience can easily adapt these ideas and substitute more complex stitches. ( eg blanket stitch for attaching the felt to the hessian.)

### Requirements

- Backing fabric. Hessian is strongly recommended (Green is wonderful as it supplies ready made jungle. Beige and browns are also effective. ),
- A variety of thread and wool in shades of orangutan-like colours ("redish/orangey/brown").
- Needles with large eyes, pins and scissors. ( Plastic needles with large eyes are available.)
- Paper/card and black texta to create the stencils.
- Possible options : goggle eyes, green and brown felt and craft glue.

\* If making a wall hanging, you'll need a piece of dowell or a small stick.

\* You'll also need some extra wool to plait. This will be tied onto the dowell or stick. Then you'll be able to hang up and display your orangutan creation.

### Ideas / Starting Points

1. Draw an orangutan on paper/card. Do this softly in pencil first. When you are satisfied with your design, go over it with dark texta and cut it out. This is your stencil.

### Option A

- Position your stencil onto your piece of hessian. ( Or other fabric.)
- Secure it in place with pins.
- Trace around it with dark texta or tack around the stencil with a needle and thread.
- Remove the stencil.
- Stitch inside your outline however you choose. Longstitch is probably easiest but you are only limited by your imagination. It's as if you are colouring in your orangutan with stitches.
- In order to make the face, hands and feet more distinctive, you may cut out and attach pieces of felt. These can then be further enhanced by either sewing or drawing on features.

### Creating a Rainforest Background

Option 1 - A wonderfully quick and temporary idea. ( See photo for Option B - "Almost finished." )

- Cut off a small leafy branch from a plant such as a ficus.
- Secure this to the orangutan's hands with a few tacking stitches.

Option 2 - Permanent ( See photos for Options A & C. )

- Cut out some brown felt in the shape of a branch.
- Tack this onto the wall hanging so that the orangutan's hands appear to be hanging from the branch.
- Cut out lots of small leaf shapes from scraps of green felt.
- Glue these or tack on each leaf with contrasting green thread. ( Extremely quick and easy.)

## "Orangutan" Sewing Ideas"

### Option B

- Position your stencil onto your piece of felt.
- Secure it in place with pins.
- Cut around it with scissors.
- Remove the stencil.
- Position your felt onto your piece of hessian or alternative fabric.
- Secure it in place with pins.
- Sew it on with either thread or wool. Use a tacking stitch. (ie under, over, under, over)
- When finished, knot this off securely.
- Remove the pins. (\* Option C - Stitch over the felt anyway you choose. Experiment ! )

NB. The following description is similar to the "Rag Mat" technique used by 3 Gold at St Brigid's College in Lesmurdie. Photos and a procedure for this are also included in the Craft section.

- Cut small pieces of wool. ( probably about 8-10cms long - depends on the size of your orangutan).
- Thread the wool onto a needle and slide it under one of the tacking stitches.
- Remove the needle.
- Adjust the wool under the stitch. You may prefer it to be even or uneven. It's your choice.
- Tie a knot ( or knots) to secure it.
- Unravel / fray the wool to make it look "hairier".
- \*\* If you use "Feathers" wool, you don't need to fray as you have a ready-made hairy effect.

### Further Variations

- Instead of going through the tacking stitch, you may push the needle through the felt at the edge. Follow the same procedure. ie Remove needle, align thread and knot off.
- \*\*\* If desired, threads can also be attached anywhere on the body of the orangutan by following the procedure outlined above.

### To Finish:

- Trim carefully if necessary. ( Not too much. You can't put it back once it's cut!)
- Sew or glue on (with craft glue) goggle eyes.
- If you want the orangutan's face to have more depth, cut out a piece of brownish coloured felt.( The same size as your orangutan's face.) Before you tack it down, put some wadding or other filler at the bottom half of the face. This will give your orangutan protruding cheek pads. Once you've tacked down the felt, draw on features such as nostrils with black texta. ( See photo to more fully understand instructions.)
- Create a rainforest background as explained for Option A.

Enjoy your creativity !