

# Pinfeathers

## Pincushion Pattern

by Jennifer L. Wambach  
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### Course Materials:

- Fabric: about 1/8 yard each of 5 different fabrics (I used Riley Blake's Flutter collection); scrap of orange felt; scrap of off-white felt; scrap of dark gray fabric
- fusible fleece or other heavyweight interfacing for wings
- lightweight interfacing for eyes, pocket, forehead
- fiberfill stuffing or ground walnut shells
- plastic pellets or rice to weight owl
- sewing machine, scissors, pinking shears, thread, pins, needle, printer



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## Owl Pincushion • For Cutting Corners by Riley Blake Designs

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### Step 1 - Cutting & Interfacing

1. Print pattern pieces, making sure page is set to print at 100% (in the print dialog box, choose “none” instead of “fit to printable area.”) Pin and cut pattern pieces, noting whether one or two are needed. Transfer markings to fabric: black triangles and black dots.

When cutting wing pieces (D), lay outside and inside fabrics RST, pin and cut. Then flip over wing pattern piece (D) when cutting opposite wing pieces.

Cut bottom eye pattern piece (F) with pinking shears to create a ruffled look.



2. Fusible fleece ironed on wrong side of wing

2. Iron lightweight interfacing to wrong side of forehead (A), eye-middle (G), eye-pupil (H), and outside piece of pocket (E). Iron fusible fleece to wrong side of outside piece of wings (see photo).



4. & 5. Placement of beak and eyes

### Step 2 - Owl Body

3. Match up top of forehead (A.) to top of body front (B.), pin and sew forehead to body, using a satin stitch along bottom, where indicated on pattern piece, from ear tip to tip. (I used a zig zag stitch, settings of 4.0 / 0.6. Anything closer together tended to pucker the fabric.)

4. Pin and sew beak to owl body front, covering up bottom of forehead. Refer to photos for placement.

Here are the fabrics I used for the different pattern pieces:

- A. Forehead: Flutter Dream Blue
- B. Body front & back: Flutter Main Red
- C. Base: Flutter Butterfly Green
- D. Wings: Flutter Butterfly Green (outside) & Flutter Dot Orange (inside)
- E. Pocket & Lining: Flutter Doily Blue (outside) & Flutter Butterfly Yellow (lining)
- F. Eye - bottom: Wool blend off-white felt
- G. Eye - middle: Flutter Butterfly Green
- H. Eye - Pupil: Riley Blake Basic Shades - Asphalt
- Beak & Feet: Wool blend orange felt





5. Sewing eyes to owl body

5. Stack eye pieces, largest to smallest (F, G, H), sew around each circle as shown in photo. Pin to owl on either side of beak, just under forehead and touching the top corners of beak (see photo for placement.) Sew just outside middle eye piece (G) to attach to body.



6. Pinning pocket outside and lining RST; pocket sewn onto owl body

6. Put two pockets pieces together, RST, sew around perimeter with 1/4" seam allowance, leaving about 1 inch open on bottom for turning (indicated by black dots on pattern.) Turn, pushing out corners with pointed but blunt object (the wooden stick that comes in some bags of fiberfill is ideal).

Top stitch only the top of pocket. Tuck edges of opening to inside, pin pocket to owl body, centering pocket in the middle and placing it about 1/4" below tip of beak. Pin, gapping top of pocket out slightly so it won't become too tight once owl is stuffed (see photo). Sew to owl body.



7. Topstitching wing



8. Sewing "feathers"



Finished wings

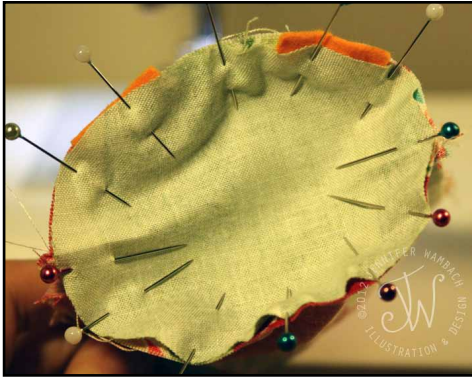
## Step 3 - Wings

7. Place wing pieces together, RST (fusible fleece will be on outside of one side), sew around edges, leaving flat side open. Turn, press, top stitch only around curved part of wings.

8. Sew lines for feathers. You can use the pattern as a template for placement, or just wing it (ha ha!), as I did.



9. Wings pinned to owl body in preparation for sewing body front and back together



11. Base pinned to owl body. Notice the back (flat) edges of feet peeking out



12. Owl turned right side out, getting stuffed with fiberfill

## Step 4 - The fun part!

9. Pin wings at sides of owl body front ((flat, unsewn edge of wing will be even with outside edge of owl body — see photo), matching the edge of body with edge of wings. Place the top of wings slightly higher than top of pocket.

10. Pin front and back of owl body together, RST, sew with 1/4" seam allowance. Sew only around sides and top, leaving bottom open. Clip tips of ears.

11. Pin base to owl body, matching black triangles on pattern pieces. Make sure to insert feet in front where indicated by black triangle, front of feet pointing towards interior. Sew, leaving about 1 inch open for turning and stuffing, as indicated by black dots on pattern piece.

12. Turn, poke out ears, stuff with either fiberfill or crushed walnut shells. If using fiberfill, toss in a handful of plastic pellets at the bottom to weight it. Handsew opening shut.

## Enjoy!

This little guy is really useful. He's a pincushion, he holds needles inside his wings, and he keeps little things in his pocket that are essential to the operation of the sewing machine, things that also seem to be irresistible to a toddler, like bobbins and seam rippers. He's also kinda cute.

### Random tips & tricks:

- I've tried out different kinds of felt, and have a definite preference for wool blend felt. It's much nicer looking and more durable than the stuff you can get at the craft store.

- You can use thread that either matches or contrasts with your fabric. I used orange to satin stitch the forehead and white for everything else.

- I recommend not attempting to cut the pattern pieces after spending 15 hours alone with three kids aged 5 and under. It takes some thinking to figure out how to place the fabric to cut the wings, so that you end up with two outside and two inside pieces, each which face opposite directions. I did not follow my own advice and ended up with two left wings, twice in a row. Then I cut them the right way out of the wrong fabric. :) Practice makes perfect, right?!

- When satin stitching the forehead, practice first on scrap fabric to make sure the stitch looks nice and doesn't pucker your fabric. And when sewing the real thing, take it slow!

- You can use dry rice instead of plastic pellets to weight down the owl.

- If you'd like the owl's wings to fasten closed, velcro dots would do the trick. Or, if like me, you can't find those 20 packages of velcro you JUST bought *anywhere* in the *entire* house, a pin works too!



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## Owl Pincushion Pattern Pieces

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H. Eye-pupil  
(cut 2)

