

ANGELA'S HELP SHEET :)

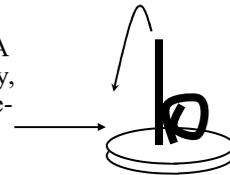
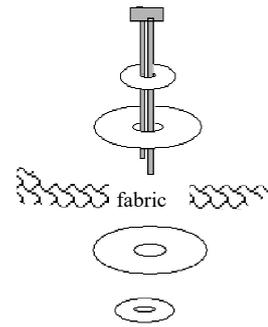
Cotter Pin Joints - used mostly with fur or plush fabrics

These traditional joints consist of a two leg metal split pin and two hardboard or fibre board washers (some joints will have small metal washer too (see right) *These joints are unsuitable for younger children's softies.*

They are centered at the top of leg or arm. Fit one washer onto the pin (include the small metal washer first, if you have one) . The pin then goes through a small hole made in the fabric. It is usually possible to simply wriggle the pins between the fabric's threads, especially with furs or a plush, without the need for a hole.

Fit them into the limb first, then into position on the body. (stuff the limb before fitting if you wish) Fit the washer over the pins, inside the body

The legs of the pin should be rolled down so they sit tightly against the washer. A small pair of round nosed jewellery pliers is perfect for this if you have them handy, otherwise you will need a strong pair of tweezers, or smallest pliers from the household toolbox. Each pin should be rolled down so they sit opposite to each other against the wash.



Fitting Traditional Glass Eyes - not suitable for younger children's toys

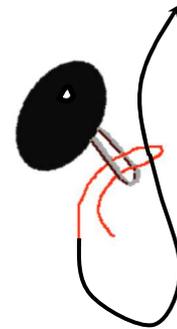
Glass bear and doll eyes have a small wire loop at the back. Use a good strong thread, (upholstery, non-elastic jewellery thread, waxed twine or fishing line) Loop the thread in half and push this through the eye's wire loop. Then take the ends of your thread through the thread loop. Pull and the eye should be centered securely.

Tweezers or small pliers are need to pinch the wire loop so it will easily fit through the fabric. You should not need to make a hole in your toy.

Bring each set of threads out at the back of the head , with a small 4 or 5mm between them (your pattern may choose an alternative position, so do check).

Tie a half knot and gently pull until both eyes are sitting snugly against the head.

There should be no wobble :) Complete the knot , then lose the threads by taking the back through the head and snipping close to the head (they should spring back inside :)



Safety Joints - perfect for younger children's softies

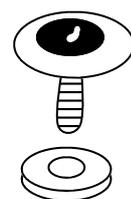
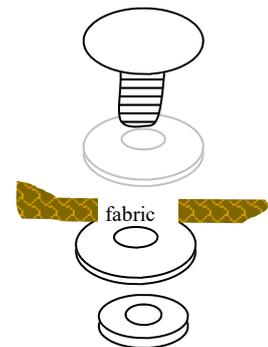
These should always be used for younger children's huggables and are always made from plastic. They have a mushroom shape with stem, a locking washer and either one or two larger washers to sit either side of the fabric.

Fit in the center top of each arm/leg. A hole will need to be made in the fabric, large enough to squeeze the joint's stem through (a dab of fabric glue can help to avoid any fraying. If your joint has two larger washers, follow the diagram on the right and include the grayed out piece. If your joint consists of one washer only, follow the diagram and ignore my grayed out piece :)

Do make sure you have the joint in the correct position before fitting the final locking washer as these are impossible to remove once in place ! The locking washer may need quite some push to fit. Keep pushing down on it until it will move no further.

Safety Eyes - safe for little ones toys

There are two types of safety eyes, all-plastic and others with a metal locking washer. You will need to make a hole in the toy large enough for the stem to fit through. As with the joints above, you add fabric glue around the hole to avoid any fraying. Safety eyes need to be fitted before stuffing the head, so can be more difficult to position correctly (I would lightly stuff the head temporarily so that you get a better idea of where to set them :) The locking washer must be pushed down firmly against the eye - no room for wobbles.



For more help, take a peek at my online tutorials at pcbangles.uk

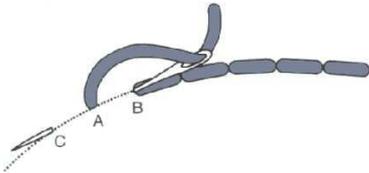
STITCHES YOU MAY NEED

RUNNING STITCH



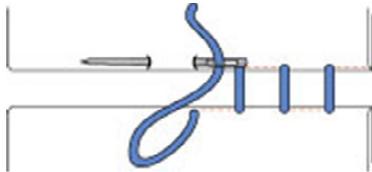
Simple sewing stitch. Mostly used as a temporary stitch. Used for tacking hold fabrics together while you work the finished seam. Also used for gathering fabrics by pulling the threads.

BACK STITCH



A brilliant stitch to hand sew seams as it gives a nice strong, neat line. Quite simply a running stitch (as above) but “back stitch” to fill in the gaps between.

LADDER STITCH



Can be used to join pieces of fabric but in soft toy making it is the “go to” stitch for closing openings neatly. Work in groups of 3 or 4 stitches, pulling the threads of each group to close the opening. It leaves a very neat, almost invisible closure.

OVER CAST (or OVERSEW) STITCH



Can also be used to close openings but soft toy makers use it for attaching ears and where you do not want to join the head but stitch it directly to the body :)