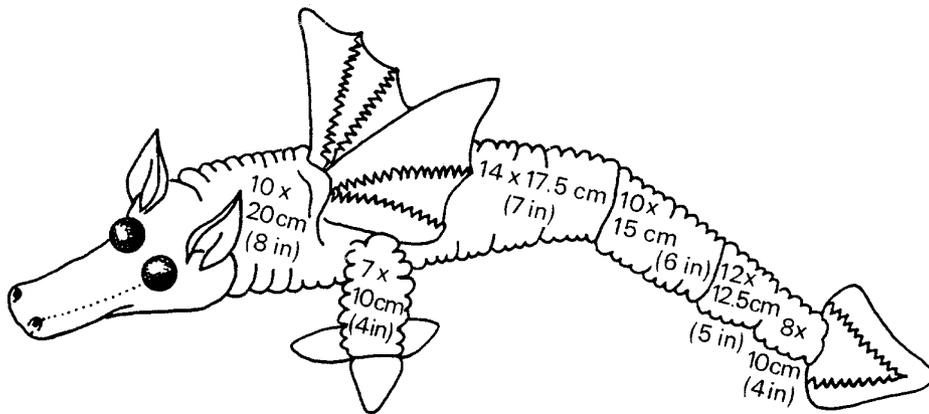


Suffolk Wyvern

Wyverns are heraldic winged dragons differing from all other dragons by having only two legs. The body of this toy is made from un-stuffed, gathered circles of fabric which are known as Suffolk Puffs. These puffs are collected together and threaded on to elastic, which gives the Wyvern a mobility that is quite uncharacteristic of conventionally stuffed soft toys.

Materials required: 2 m (2¼ yd) of 120 cm (48 in) wide fabric, 2 m (21 yd) millinery elastic, 4 raincoat buttons to act as elastic stops, 30.5 cm (12 in) square of foam sheeting, 12 mm (½ in) thick 15 cm (6 in) square of yellow felt, 84 g (3 oz) polyester stuffing for head, 2 buttons for eyes (or you can make them out of felt).

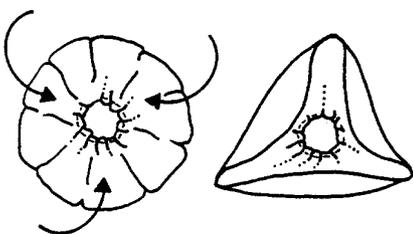


Cutting: Prepare patterns for head, ears, wings and tail from the pattern graph. You will also need circle templates cut from card with diameters of 20 cm (8 in), 17.5 cm (7 in), 15 cm (6 in), 12.5 cm (5 in), and 10 cm (4 in) respectively. This makes a Wyvern approximately 66 cm (26 in) long. Cut all pattern pieces from fabric and the body circles as follows: 12 circles 20 cm (8 in)

in diameter, 14 circles 17.5 cm (7 in) in diameter, 10 circles 15 cm (6 in) in diameter, 12 circles 12.5 cm (5 in) in diameter, 22 circles 10 cm (4 in) in diameter. Following picture shows how these circles are to be arranged. Reserve two 20 cm (8 in) circles to make the feet.

Start by preparing the fabric circles for the body as this is a long process. Run a gathering thread around the edge of each circle, pull up and fasten off. Flatten the circles between your fingers to make discs then pierce the centre of each disc so that you make a hole opposite the gathers. Elastic will be threaded through the holes to hold all the discs together. Cut a 127 cm (50 in) length of elastic and thread a button on to it. Position the button exactly half way along the elastic and knot it in place. Now thread the two ends through a bodkin, or large needle, and start forming the body. Work from the shoulders back towards the tail so that the first discs to be threaded on are the largest followed by the smaller sizes. Finish off the end by tying a button on to the elastic. Leave just sufficient slack in the elastic so that the body may be pulled like a spring.

Place right sides of both tail pieces together and sew around the outside. Turn right side out and cut a foam shape to fit inside the tail. Top stitch along the guide line marked on the pattern. Position the opening of the tail over the button at the end of the body and then sew the last body circle to the tail so that the button is enclosed. Make the wings by sewing each fabric pair of pieces together on the wrong side. Turn right side out and cut foam shapes to fit inside each wing. Make the veins by top stitching along the guide lines marked on the pattern. Do this in a contrasting coloured thread for greater effect. Close base of wings then sew them on to the top of the tenth shoulder disc.



Cut the remaining piece of elastic into a 46 cm (18 in) length and tie a button in the centre as you did for the body elastic. Thread on seven discs for one leg then pass the bodkin between the body elastic of the ninth and tenth shoulder discs. Thread on seven more discs to make the second leg and tie off the ends on the last button. Each foot is made from a 20 cm (8 in) fabric circle. Gather the circle and flatten into a disc. Do not pierce a hole, instead, fold the edges in towards the centre so that you form a triangle (see picture). Fasten the button from the base of the leg to the

foot, just under the three folds. Now stitch foot to the last leg disc so that the button is both securely held and out of sight. Sew felt claws together in pairs then push one over each point of the foot and catch in place. Make both feet in the same way so that they each have three claws.

Sew chin gusset to head gusset on the wrong side, matching A to A and B to B. Sew cheek darts on each side of the head then insert completed gusset between sides, matching C to C, and sew. Turn the head right side out and stuff firmly through the opening in the chin gusset. Close the opening and at the last moment push the shoulder button into the head and fasten it securely in place as you finish closing the head. Make the ears by sewing each pair on the wrong side. Turn right side out and gather up the opening as you close it. Position ears on the head and sew in place. Sew buttons on as eyes or cut felt shapes and sew these in place if the toy is for a very young child.

Once you understand the technique behind making the Wyvern you should be able to make a more conventional dragon by simply adding another pair of legs, The Suffolk Puffs could also be made from all your leftover pieces of dress-weight material, making a gloriously multi-coloured monster for very little cost.

The following page shows the patterns for the head, tail, ears, and wings. They are shown half-size so you will need to enlarge them (x2) on a photocopier. Alternatively, you can halve the size of the disc diameters and make a smaller Wyvern.

Pattern for the Suffolk Wyvern.

