

Chick in a Basket

These are abbreviated instructions adapted from the Creativebug video found at the Crystal Lake Public Library website. The instructor has created a beautiful, very helpful video that demonstrates how to create this charming little chick in a basket. Watch the video here:

<https://www.creativebug.com/r/crystallakelibrary/classseries/single/hand-sew-an-easter-chick-softie-and-basket>

Supplies Needed

- 6" x 6" piece yellow felt
- 8 ½" x 8 ½" piece light green felt
- 11" x 2" piece dark green felt
- Snippet piece of orange felt (for beak)
- Polyfil stuffing
- Brown, yellow, green embroidery floss
- Needle
- Straight pins
- Templates printed on cardstock (see video or April 2022 CLPL Take-and-Make calendar entry)
- Scissors
- Ruler
- X-acto knife (optional)



Create the Chick

1. Cut the chick templates out and place them on the yellow felt, making sure to arrange the templates so that there is room for the chick body, the two wings and the tail. Once arranged, cut out all the chick pieces from the yellow felt, plus the orange beak.
2. Start by adding the facial features. Using two-ply of the brown embroidery floss, stitch the eyes with a satin stitch. Attach the beak with two stitches and knot off on the back.
3. Using the template as a guide, attach both of the wings, using two-ply of the yellow thread with a running stitch all around the edges of the wings.
4. To assemble the chick, use two-ply yellow thread and a blanket stitch, attaching the two sides that are around the face first.
5. Once the two sides are stitched to the front face piece, fold the tail in half and insert it in the back between the last two open sides. Stitch the blanket stitch going through all of the layers and then continue for a few more stitches.

6. Stuff the chick with polyfil (or your preferred stuffing). Stuff it until it feels stuffed enough for your personal preference.
7. Continue stitching until you reach the top. Join all three sides by stitching and then knot your thread, hiding the knot in the chick.

Create the Basket

1. Cut out the basket templates. Using the templates, cut the basket from the light green felt and the handle and two buttons from the dark green felt. Be sure to cut the two slits on the basket. You can use an X-acto knife or a scissors.
2. To create the basket, fold up the sides, folding the short side outside the basket and the long side on the inside, folding over the short side about half an inch. Once folded, pin through all three layers.
3. From the top, insert the strap through the slits and pin, so that the amount of strap showing on either side is even. Pin to hold it in place.
4. Before stitching everything in place, look over the basket and adjust the pinning to make it even all around.
5. Using two-ply of the green thread, stitch a running stitch all around the top of the basket, making sure to catch all of the layers as you go. Once you have stitched all around, attach your two felt buttons over the areas where the folds come together. One large cross stitch looks good here, but feel free to attach it any way that works for you. Once everything is attached, be sure to knot your thread thoroughly.
6. To strengthen the handle, fold the handle in thirds lengthwise, folding one side under and a third of the way in and then the other side over that. Whip stitch the two under layers together, making sure not to go through the top layer. Knot once finished.
7. Place the chick in the basket along with paper grass if desired. Add some treats or small toys for an adorable handmade springtime gift.

As mentioned above, be sure to check out this helpful video on Creativebug if you're looking for more visual directions (may require a CLPL card):

<https://www.creativebug.com/r/crystallakelibrary/classseries/single/hand-sew-an-easter-chick-softie-and-basket>