

THE BIRD MAKERS PROJECT

HAND SEWING YOUR BIRD – BLANKET STITCH

If you do not have a sewing machine, follow this guide to hand sew your bird. This guide will take you step-by-step through the process of sewing together your bird using Blanket Stitch.

Once you have completed these steps you can refer back to [The Bird Makers Project 'Instruction Guide'](#) and continue on with Step 4: Shape and Stuff.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

Your Black Garment – Fabrics recommended for Blanket Stitch are; T-shirts, stretch cotton, jersey, shirting or any non-fraying fabrics.

Fabric Pins – Bubble Head pins work best however you can also use safety pins

Fabric Scissors (or similar)

Black Sewing Thread

Needle

WHAT WE WILL PROVIDE

Instructions

Step-by-Step Hand Sewing Video

Focused Hand Sewing Video

Co:3

A U S T R A L I A

STEP 1:

CUT

NOTE: You may like to watch our [How To Blanket Stitch Your Bird Video](#) for a demonstration of hand sewing your bird prior to working through this guide.

Having completed Step 1: Pattern in [The Bird Makers Project 'Instruction Guide'](#) you will already have your chosen Bird Pattern drawn onto your black garment.

Using **Fabric Pins** pin around the inside of the three (3) bird shapes marked on your black garment; 1 x Bird Body, 2 x Bird Wing, to hold in place.

- o Make sure you pin the front and back fabric of your garment together.

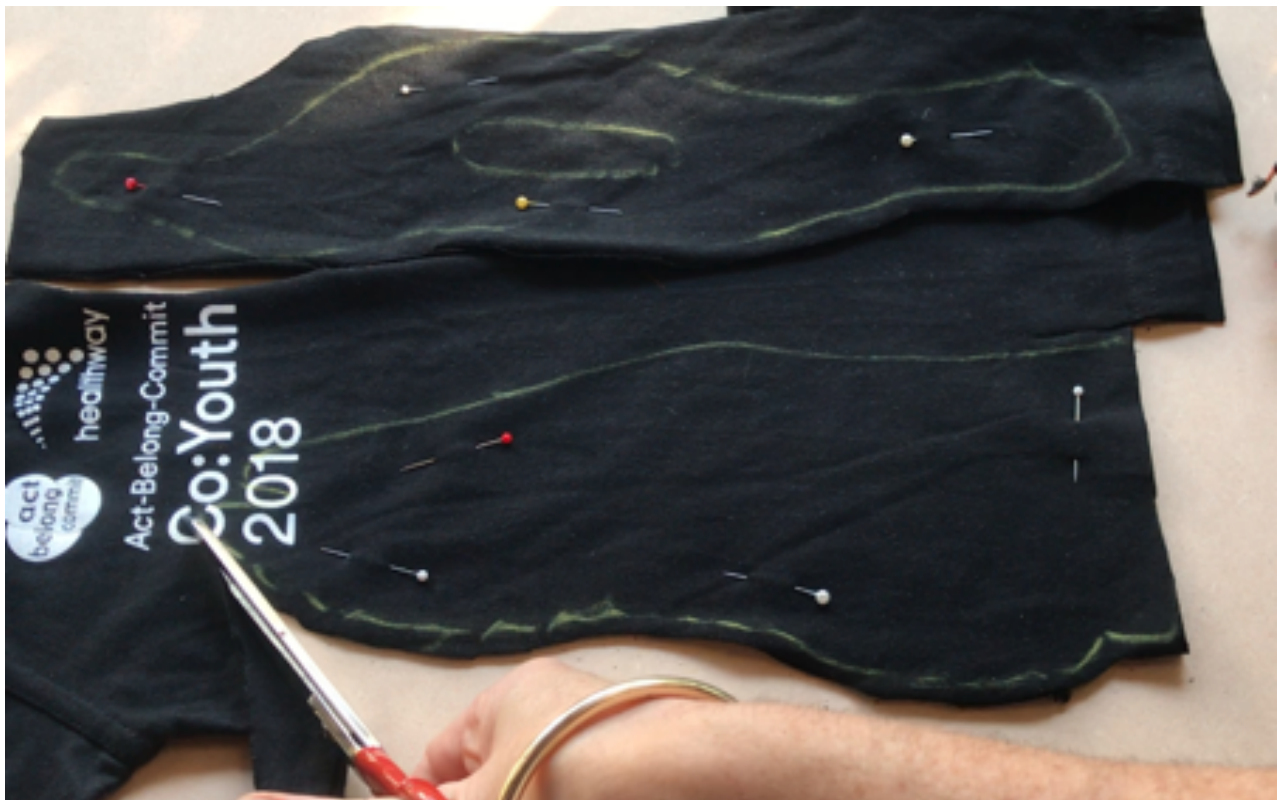


STEP 1:

CUT CONTINUED

Using **Fabric Scissors** (or similar) cut out each shape **making sure you allow for 0.5cm of fabric around the outside of the chalk line.**

- o For the wings: **you can cut ON the shortest straight edge** because this is the only chalk line you will not sew along.
- o For the body of the bird: **DO NOT cut around the oval shape in the centre**, this will be done after the bird shapes have been hand-sewn together.



Once you have cut out the body of the bird and two wing shapes **KEEP YOUR GARMENT SCRAPS!!**



STEP 2:

SEW

NOTE: At this stage of the process, we will be stitching all of pattern lines EXCEPT those indicated with a white  below.



Cut a length (at least 80cm) of **Black Sewing Thread**. Thread the **Needle** and knot both ends together connecting the thread in a continuous loop. You may need to tie two (2) knots so the thread does not pull straight through the fabric.

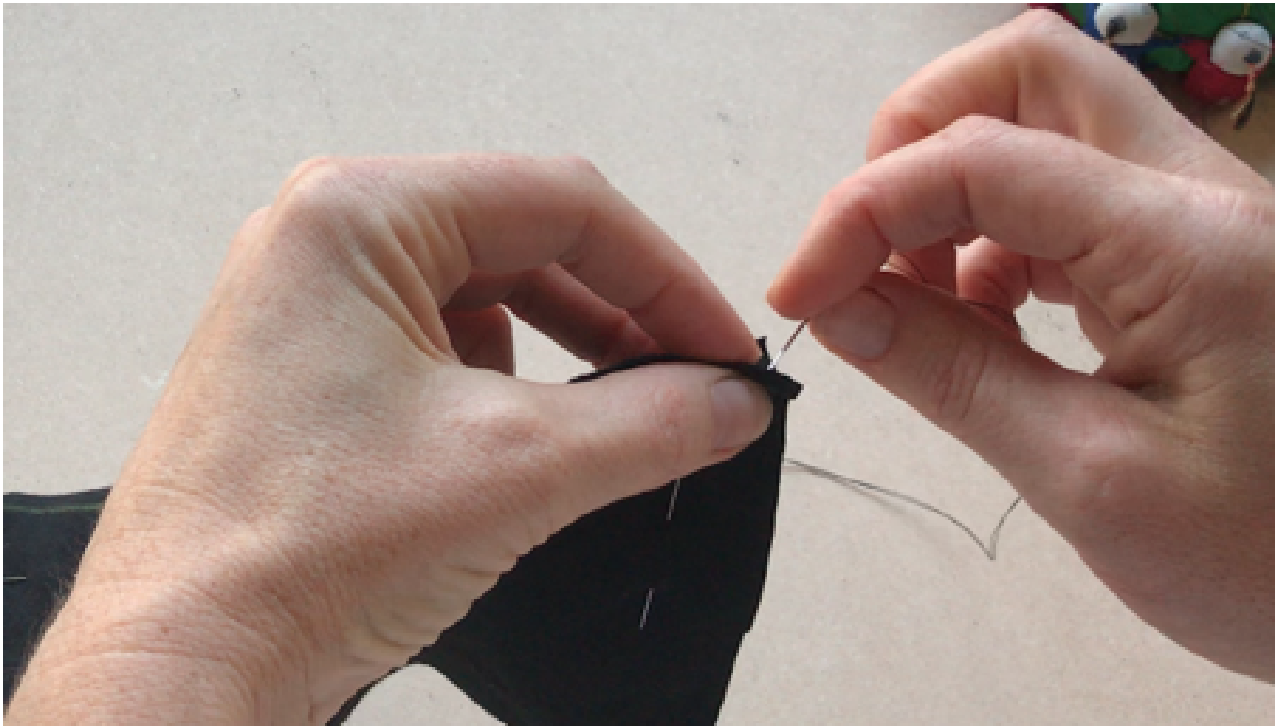


STEP 2:

SEW CONTINUED

Hold one of the wings at the junction of the straight edge and one of the curved sides.

Using you **Needle**, hide your knot by sewing INSIDE the two (2) pieces of fabric. Pull your thread all the way through the fabric until the knot secures it.



STEP 2:

SEW CONTINUED

Take your **Needle BEHIND and THROUGH both layers of fabric AND the double thread**. Pull your thread all the way through.



To start the Blanket Stitch, **from the BACK push the Needle and thread UP through the two layers of fabric ON the chalk line**.

NOTE: Always come from the back to the front with your blanket stitch.



STEP 2:

SEW CONTINUED

DO NOT Pull you thread all the way through, leave a loop at the back.



Bring your **Needle** and thread through the loop, pulling the thread until the loop is closed.

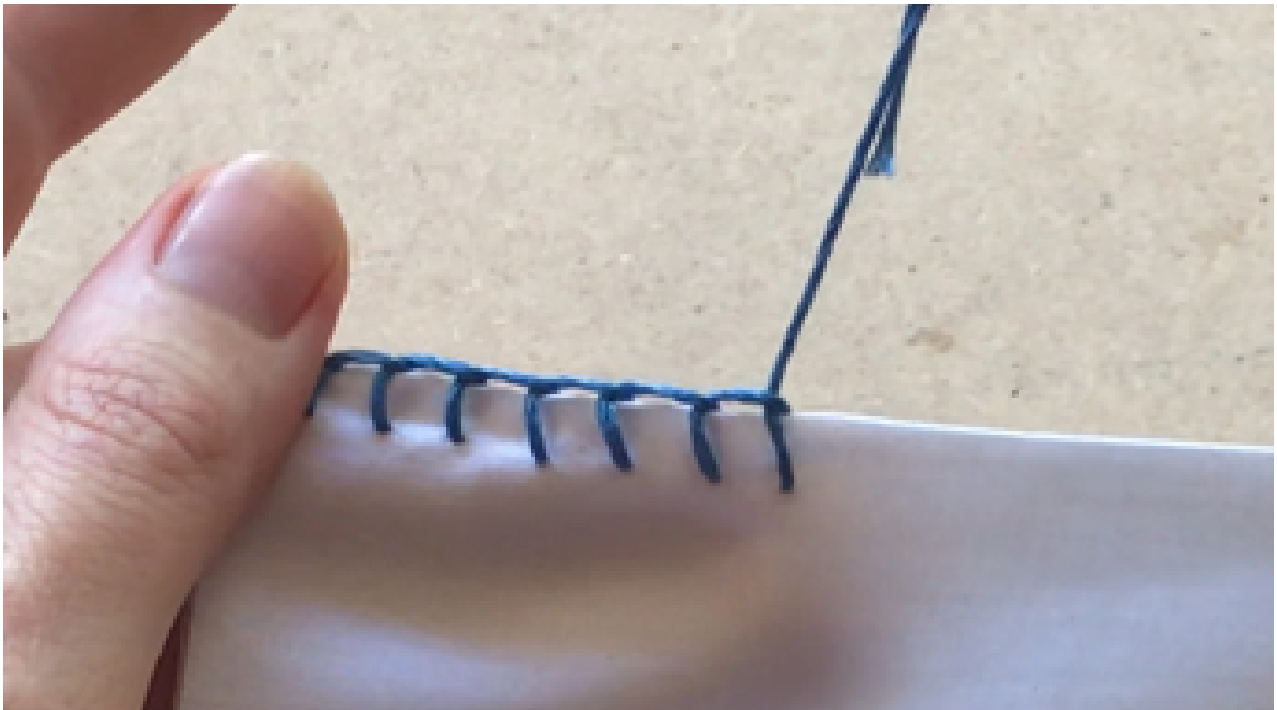


STEP 2:

SEW CONTINUED

Start another Blanket Stitch 0.5cms next to your previous stitch ON the chalk line. Remember to always come UP with you needle and thread from the BACK.

NOTE: The example below shows the Blanket Stitch using contrasting thread and fabric. Notice the 0.5cms between each Blanket Stitch keeps it even and tight.



NOTE: If you need extra guidance on how to sew a Back Stitch, please refer to our [How To Blanket Stitch Video](#).



STEP 2:

SEW CONTINUED

Continue to Blanket Stitch along the chalk line.

When you have approximately 10cms of thread remaining, complete the stitching by securing the thread by forming a loop with your thread and stitching back through it.

Cut another length (at least 80cm) of **Black Sewing Thread**.

Thread the **Needle** and knot both ends together connecting the thread in a continuous loop. You may need to tie two (2) knots so the thread does not pull straight through the fabric.

Begin to Blanket Stitch again, starting 0.5cms in front of your last stitch.



Continue Blanket Stitching along the chalk line and when you get to the end, complete the stitching by securing the thread by forming a loop with your thread and stitching back through it.



STEP 2:

SEW CONTINUED

Repeat this process on all Bird Shapes until you have stitched along all of the advised patterns lines.

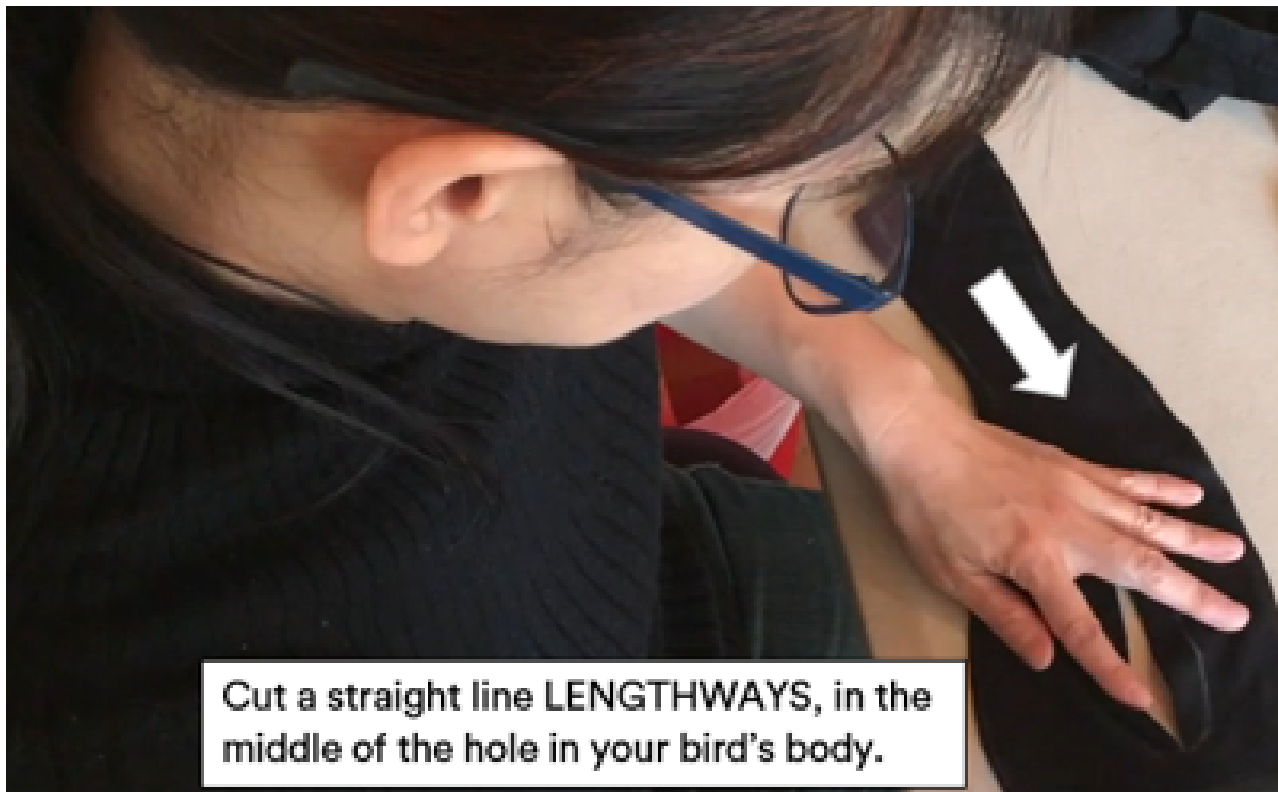
NOTE: Stitch all of pattern lines EXCEPT those indicated with a white  below.



STEP 2:

SEW CONTINUED

Using your **Fabric Scissors** on the Bird Body **cut a straight line through the middle of the chalk line oval** inside the body of the bird.



WELL DONE! You have cut out and Blanket Stitched your bird. Time to please go back to [The Bird Makers Project 'Instruction Guide'](#) and start Step 4: Shape and Stuff.

