

Fishtails



In one glance you would imagine that this fish is a stuffed pillow, possibly a fabric sculpture or a toy. Actually, it is a cat bed! By combining brightly colored fabric, machine embroidery, and built in decorative stitches from Elna's newest addition, the Elna Xquisit and Xpressive, a wonderfully entertaining conversation piece has been created. Whether it is using the automatic threading or adjusting a stitch, the Xquisit makes this project a breeze. A cat bed that any cat owner would be happy to have on display! Even if you are not an animal owner, everyone knows someone who has a pet. And as a pet owner we can always use a bed for our pets.

Project By: Cathy Gandy
Event Specialist Elna USA
Skill Level: [Intermediate](#)

Equipment:

Elna Xquisit™

Elna Xpressive™ Software

Supplies:

Temporary spray adhesive

Simplicity™ pattern 9004

Fabric yardage according to pattern except head - 1yd (instead of 5/8th yd)

Rayon or polyester embroidery thread

50wt. thread - coordinate with fabric

Size #100 jeans needle

Size #75 embroidery needle

Hand sewing needle

Stitch and Ditch™ stabilizer

1/2 " thick foam - see pattern for measurement

1/8 yd. of high loft batting for mouth

Water-soluble marking pen

24" ruler

Tear Away stabilizer

Instruction:

1. Cut 2 pieces of body fabric 22" x 29". Trace body pattern piece on the fabric. Place pattern piece right side up on one piece and right side down on the other.
2. To help with placement for decorative stitching a grid will be drawn on the traced body piece. Starting from top edge measure down 2" and mark. Continue down with the 2" mark until entire piece is marked. Now move across the piece marking lines every 1/2 ". See Diagram 1

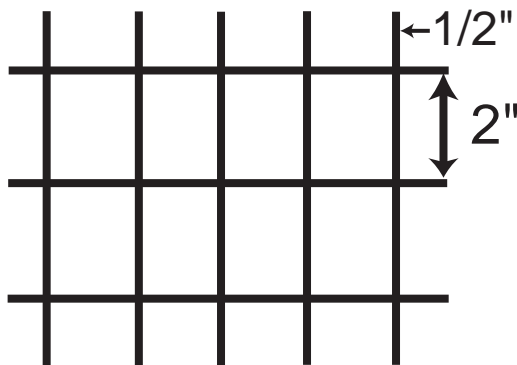


Diagram 1

3. Select decorative stitch 11/32 decorative scallop and adjust the tension to +2. Place a piece of stabilizer under area to be stitched. Decorate the body fabric by stitching on the grid according to Diagram. 2

Note: Since the decorative stitch has a sideways motion the fabric will need to be kept parallel with the 1/2" marks as the machine moves the fabric from side to side.

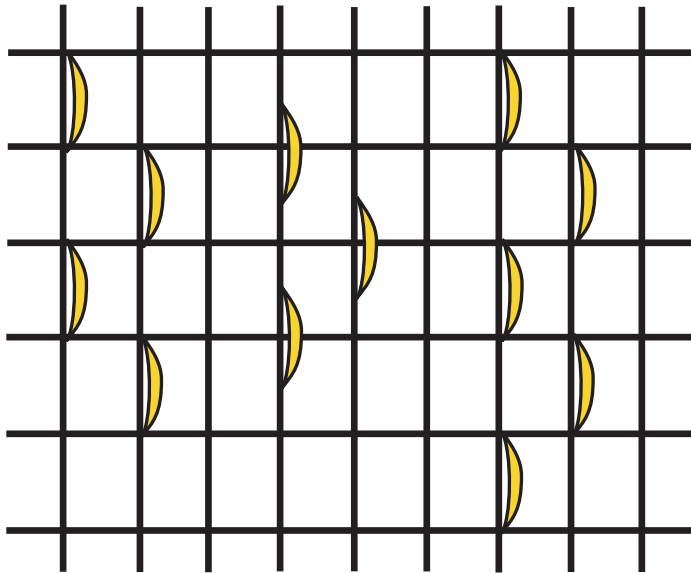


Diagram 2

4. Cut two pieces of fabric 21" x 21". Trace the head pattern piece on the fabric. The fabric is right side up; the pattern is on the right side up on one piece and right side down on the other. Mark the eye placement. Place the embroidery unit on the machine. Hoop the tear away stabilizer and fabric in the medium hoop. Center the eye marking under the needle. Embroider the eyes.

[Click here to download digitized eye design](#)

5. Spray head fabric with temporary adhesive and center foam on the fabric. Baste foam to fabric with the straight stitch and a stitch length of 4.0. Adjust foot pressure to 3 to accommodate for the loft of the batting. Place the foam on top of the fabric and place the fabric wrong side up. This places the fabric right side next to the feed dogs. Baste. When sewing head pieces together, place stabilizer under the foam on the feed dog side. Sew.
6. Continue to follow pattern instructions to step number 7. Using the above added instructions when necessary.
7. Make fins as instructed in the pattern using stitch 1 /04, length 4, and tension +2.
8. Continue through step 22 on the pattern instructions. If the tail is floppy when the body is turned, place some fiberfill in the tail section before putting in the lining.
9. Place the head onto the body and hand stitch in place.
10. Your Fish is Complete!