

Jelly Fish

These are great for little hands - It uses the running stitch and the circles don't even have to be round! I like the running stitch with this project because the edges look a little more fluttery. Sam likes swinging these around - he's a 4 1/2 year old boy - when they have made the journey around the moon a few hundred times they get hung up in the window where they dance in the wind. We have a little smack of them (thats what a group of Jelly fish are called!) .

You can use the running whip stitch or the blanket stitch, instructions are [HERE](#), along with the downloadable pattern, cutting instructions and details on how to assemble this jelly fish.

Materials:

fabric can be either woven (no stretch) or knit (stretch) - got an old t-shirt laying around, a shrunken sweater, some felt left over from a holiday project. Any of these will work.

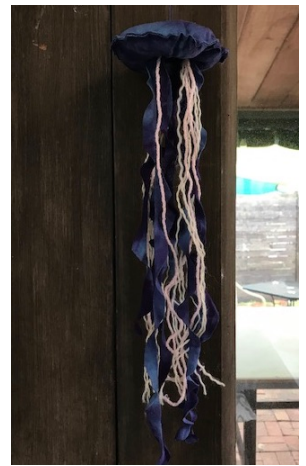
some ribbon or yarn - old Christmas ribbon works great - if you don't have any of these make little strips of fabric from the t-shirt you are about to cut up - we need tail it can be anything that is ribbonlike.

stuffing: if can be polypill or cotton or an old pillow stuffing - we just need a little fluff.

sewing needle and a few pins - if no pins - paper clips will help to hold the project together as you sew.

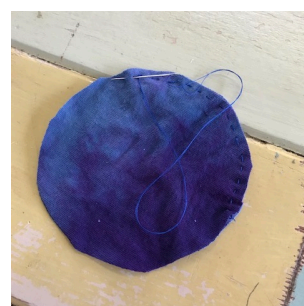
thread or embroidery floss (if you are using floss have the kids split the floss length into two sets of 3 strands (most floss is 6 strands twisted together) this will make it easier to thread the floss through the needle.

Pattern: Jelly Fish - yes cut 4 of these circles - we sew 2 and cut 2 for tentacles



Instructions:

1. Cut out the pattern - you will need 4 circles
2. Thread your needle with thread or embroidery floss
3. Line up 2 of your circles cut outs and pin in place
4. Take your first stitch at the edge of the circle and move around the circle away from where you started - start with your knot between the two layers and poke up into one of the layers.
5. Use the running, whip stitch or the blanket stitch around the the edge of the circle - stop after you have sewn all but 1 inch from your first stitch.
6. Set your threaded and attached needle to the side. Take a little stuffing and stuff the circle, once you have it as stuffed as you want, pin or hold the spot closed and keep sewing until the jelly fish is all closed up.



7. Tie a knot with your needle still attached (you can use your needle to get a nice close knot) and then bury the tail of the knot by pushing the needle near your knot into the body of the jelly fish and up out of the jelly. Cut the thread close to the fabric and rub the fabric to get the thread to go into the jelly fish.
8. Now for the tentacles - take the two other circles you cut, one at a time, and cut into them in a spiral. Cut until you get to the center. Do this for both. They make a very twisty looking ribbon when you are done. Hold your tentacle up with your fingers to see how they are growing as you go along, pinch at the center to see the best effect. TIP: don't cut your spiral too thin - the fabric may tear apart and make your tentacles shorter.
9. Lay tentacles on the table, find their center. Add ribbon or yarn or more spiral cut fabric to them - go longer or shorter with what you add until you like the look of them. I usually do 2 or 3 circles cut in spiral and some ribbon or yard unraveled - to give the Jelly fish some texture.
10. Once you have the tentacles you like, get your jelly fish body. Pick the side you want to be the top.
11. Turn the jelly fish over so you can see its bottom.
12. Pick up your tentacles at their center - so you have equal-ish tentacles and each side - and place them in the middle of your jelly fish bottom. Pin in place.
13. Cut a little circle of fabric from your leftovers.
14. Pin the little circle of fabric over the center of the tentacles, so there are tentacles on each side.
15. Sew the little circle of fabric to the body of the Jelly Fish using the running or whip stitch. When you get to the tentacles either sew through them or if that is too hard skip over them a little and take the next stitch.
16. Finish sewing when you have reached your first stitch. Tie a knot with your needle still attached (you can use your needle to get a nice close knot) and then bury the tail of the knot by pushing the needle near your knot into the edge of the little circle and up out of the circle. Cut the thread close to the fabric and rub the fabric to get the thread to go into the star.
17. One last step! Thread a needle with thread or floss in the usual way - floss is better if you have it here. Make sure it's long enough. Tie a knot at the end. Poke your needle into the little circle you just sewed on: from the bottom up and out of the top of the Jelly Fish. Pull your thread snug so there is a little dimple in the bottom of the Jelly Fish. Tie a knot using your needle at the top of the Jelly Fish. Cut your thread at the needle NOT at the fabric. Tie a knot at the end of the thread you just cut and DONE - one fabulous Jelly Fish. Hang it, spin it around and around, make it the start of an under sea bedroom theme or puppet show.

