

WORKSHOP: "FISH PILLOW – GLUE METHOD"



Summary: Participants used old jeans and scrap fabrics to cut out and embellish a fish pillow. Hot glue was used to hold everything together, salvaged buttons became eyes and the fish was stuffed with tiny squares of a cut up old blanket. This project can also be done by sewing with or without turning fabrics instead of glue.

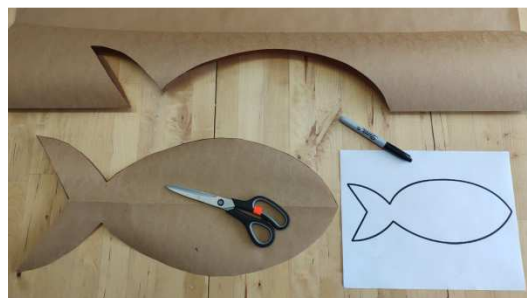
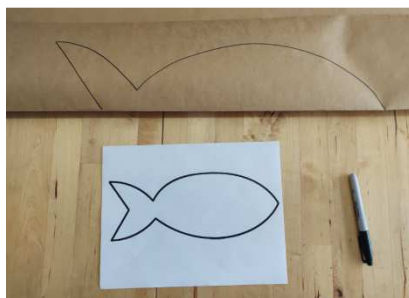
Materials and Equipment:

large paper
pencil, eraser, sharpener
washable marker or chalk pencil
denim from old jeans or similar fabric
scrap coloured fabrics
2 buttons
sewing thread
2 blanket pieces
instructions/ideas sheet
pliers
optional – smock

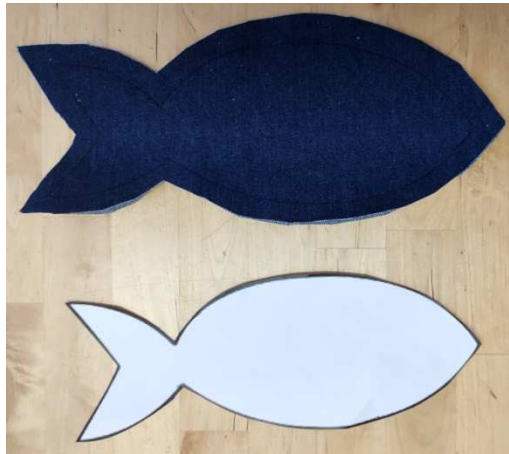
printout of a fish shape
scissors
sewing kit
glue gun
glue for glue gun
scrap cardboard for under your glue gun
coated gloves for working with hot glue
1 piece coarse sand paper
optional – iron and ironing board (not provided)
optional – sewing machine
optional – liquid fray preventer

Class Plan:

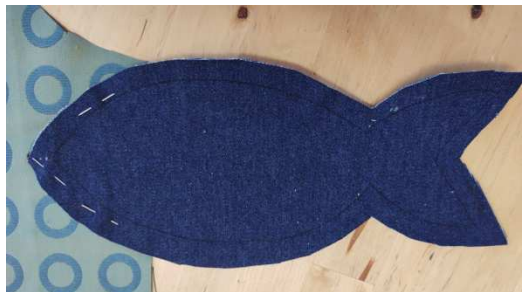
1. Cut out the fish outline provided or create your own fish shape.
 - a. Optional: You can make the fish outline larger or draw your own fish. Fold a large piece paper in half and sketch the top half of your fish with the fold of the paper running down the fish's belly. Then cut it out and unfold into a whole fish.



- b. You could also take a picture of an actual fish and draw an outline from it, or make up your own from your imagination.
2. Cut out two pieces of denim or other fabric of your choice $\frac{1}{2}$ " larger than your fish shape on all sides. Place the denim fabric two layers with back sides together



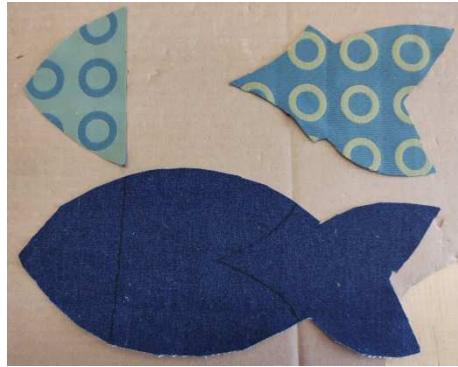
- a. We chose denim, a fairly plain main body fabric, because we plan to paint it.
3. Cut out coloured fabrics to decorate your to create a face or other body decorations. This fabric could cover the whole tail, the head or add body stripes.
 - a. Cut out your fabric pieces by placing sections of your fish over fabrics face up, trace the section with a washable marker or pin in place and cut out. Use a double layer of fabric back sides together to make the same shapes for both sides of your fish.



- b. Optional: Cut out one or two roughly rectangular or any fun shaped pieces of fabric to make fins. Make them deep enough to include in the glued seam later. Note: decorative fabrics can be interesting on both sides and don't have to be used the 'right' way out.



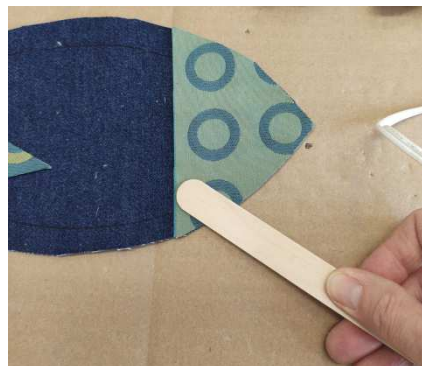
- c. Optional: Leave some plain space on your fish to paint.
 - d. Optional: Iron your fish pieces if needed. If you don't have an ironing board a folded towel on a flat surface works well. If you don't have an iron, a pot full of hot water or flat bottom kettle also works but be careful to avoid spilling the hot water!
4. Attach the decorative fabric pieces to the fish body with thin lines of hot glue:
- a. Trace your shapes onto your fish with a washable marker.



- b. Hot glue onto your fish around the edges of the section to be glued. Stay close to the edge but not so close that the glue will ooze out of the seam edges when pressed. Wearing coated gloves with hot glue is recommended.



- c. Press the decorative fabric in place with a wood craft stick before the hot glue cools.



5. Position your fins on the fish body and attach them with hot glue:

- a. Place your fins pointing out of the body of the fish on the non-decorated side of your fish cut out and trace the location with a washable marker.



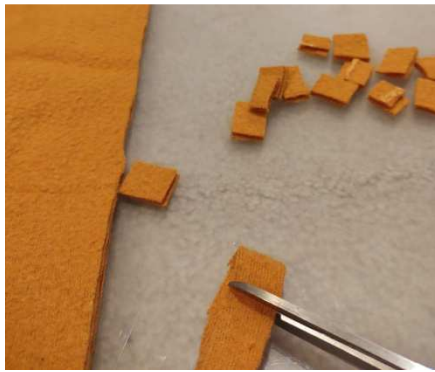
- b. Run a line of hot glue on the fish body then press the fin in place using a wood craft stick.
6. Join your fish body fabric pieces together.
 - a. Place your fish body fabric pieces wrong sides together.
 - b. In sections, run a line of glue around all the edges about 3/8" in from the fabric edge, pressing sections together with a wood craft stick as you go.



- c. Leave a space 3-4" long without glue for stuffing the fish.
7. Allow the glue to dry then check for gaps by gently running a wood stick between the fabric layers to test the seam is secure. Fill any gaps with more glue, except for the 3" opening left for stuffing.



8. Cut up the blanket pieces into about 1/2" squares.



9. Use your blanket squares to stuff your fish.



- a. Use closed scissors (or a knitting needle) to poke the stuffing into place inside your fish, working on the most distant sections like the tail first then filling in the body.



10. Close up the opening on the belly of the fish:
 - a. Pin the opening together to hold the edges in place.



- b. Apply hot glue between the two layers of main fish body fabric.



- c. Press the seam together using a wood craft stick. Wearing coated gloves is recommended.



11. Add button eyes to your fish on each side of the head:

- a. Sand the back of each button using very coarse sand paper. This helps the glue grip onto the otherwise smooth button back.



- b. Hold the button with your pliers, apply hot glue to the back and press it into place on the fish. The hot glue will squeeze through the holes in the button a little and give the eye a sparkle when dry.



- c. The button eyes can also be attached using a few sewing stitches, which is more secure.

12. Optional: Apply liquid fray preventer to all the raw fabric edges to prevent fraying. It dries clear and is washable and flexible when dry. Untreated raw edges are also fun though.



13. Does your fish have a name?
14. Next week we will cover fabric painting and you can add paint decoration to your fish.

Useful Information/Adaptions/Variations:

- If gluing on button eyes, choose buttons that are flat on the back and do not have a shank.
- Wearing coated gloves is recommended for using hot glue. The gloves do not protect from the heat very much, but help avoid getting hot glue on skin. Use caution with hot glue even if you are wearing gloves.
- Try making more than one fish in different shapes and sizes for a fun school of fish.
- Fish can be hung on the wall or used as a pile of throw pillows.
- Try making different shapes of fish and invent your own outline.
- Try making other creatures. With the glue method, you don't have to worry about turning fabrics and tight corners like you do with sewing and turning.
- Glue lines can be replaced with sewing lines even without having to turn things right side out.

Trouble Shooting:

- Glue and paint drips can be covered with more scraps of decorative fabric.
- If the stuffing comes out of the seams of the fish anywhere, poke the stuffing back inside, pin the edges together and apply more hot glue between the layers of fabric.