



MAKE: PROJECTS

Emoting Puppets

Sew a pair of finger puppets that pulse with emotion.

By **Syuzi Pakhchyan** Time Required: 3 to 4 hours Difficulty: Moderate



Finger puppets are fun storytelling devices that provide hours of imaginative play. With a mere wag of a finger, your puppet comes to life and begins its theatrical performance.

Your puppet's persona is predominately determined by its design. Is it big and clumsy? Slender and refined? Jolly with a knobby nose, or nervous with beady eyes? By adding electronic components — LEDs, a battery, and a switch — your puppet can blush, turn yellow with fear or green with envy, or have its heart pulse in excitement.

The circuitry for each puppet can be sewn by hand (or machine-stitched, if you prefer), so grab your LEDs, and let's bring a few puppets to life.

PARTS

Conductive thread (1)

Batting (1)

Pattern (1) download and print from files.

Embroidery thread (1) pink and black.

Embroidery needle (1)

Fabric (1) 1/3 yard printed fabric.

LEDs (1) for male puppet: 5mm yellow.

Felt (1) 1/3 yard of felt, wool or artificial.

Battery holder (2) Cr1225.

Lithium 3V battery (2)

Tactile switch (2)

Muslin (1) 1/3 yards.

TOOLS

Black marker

Pencil or marking pen.

Photocopier

Printer

Scissors

Sewing machine optional.

Utility knife

STEPS

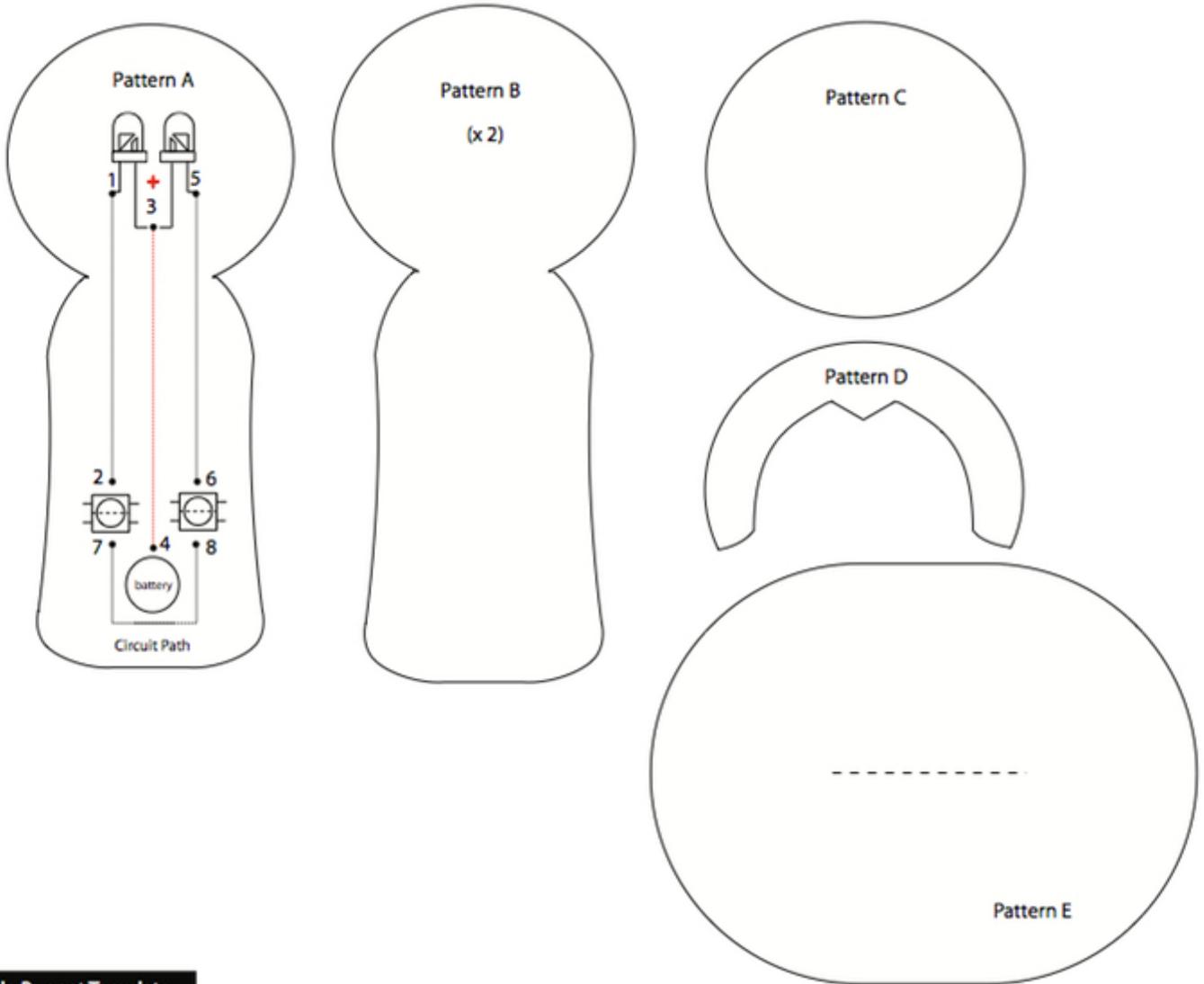
PROJECT STEPS

1. Cut the pattern.
2. Sew the circuit path.
3. Sew the electronic components.
4. Sew the electronic components, continued.
5. Sew the electronic components, continued.
6. Create the male form.
7. Create the male form, continued.
8. Craft the female form.

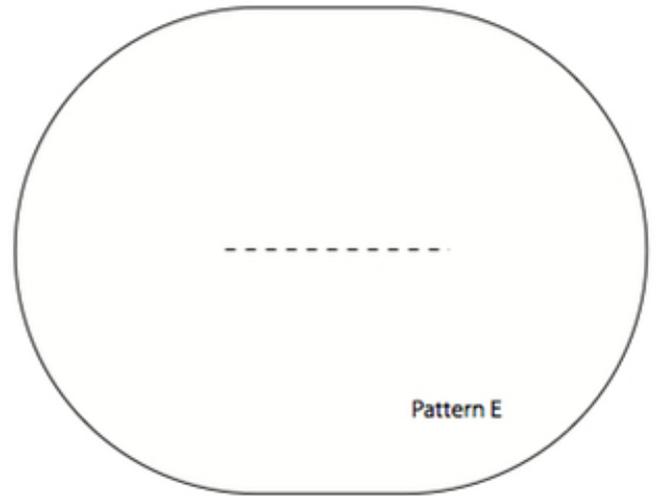
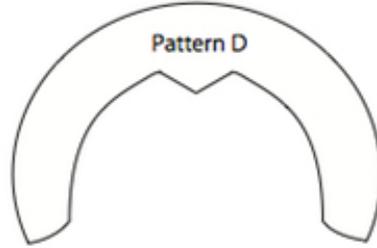
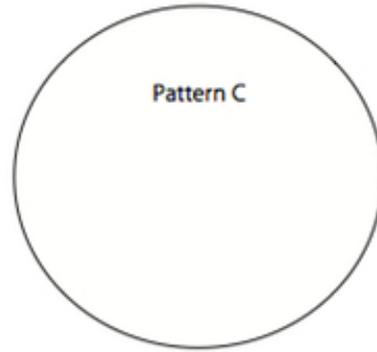
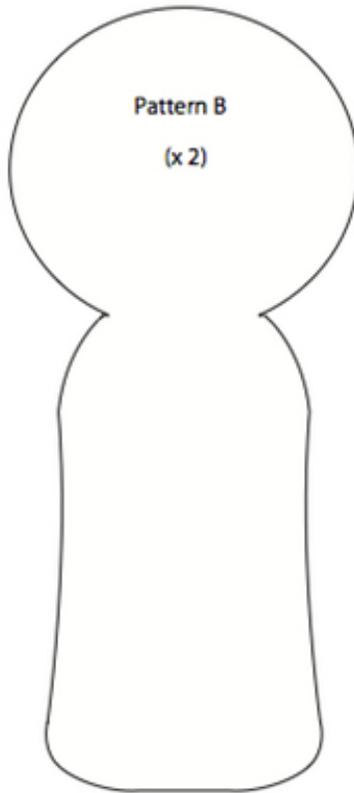
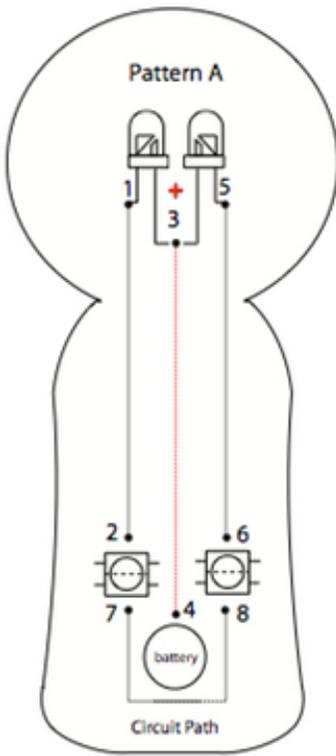
9. Craft the female form, continued.

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Step #1: Cut the pattern.



Male Puppet Template



Male Puppet Template





The male and female puppets in this tutorial were inspired by Kwaidan: The Story of O-Tei, the Japanese tale of fated love, death, and karmic rebirth. If you're not familiar with the story, don't worry; they are perfectly suited to play out any modern-day tragic love story. You will perform Steps 1–3 once for the male puppet and once for the female puppet, with slight alterations for the female hair and body forms. Print the pattern from the file.

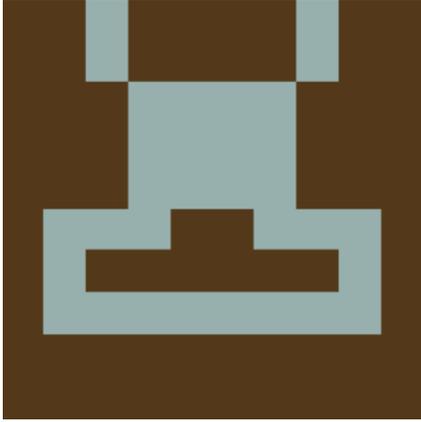
Using scissors, cut out all 5 pieces of the pattern.

With a pencil or marking pen, trace patterns B–E onto felt. Cut out all 6 pieces (2 pieces for pattern B). Trace pattern A onto a piece of muslin and cut out the form. Transfer the dotted lines from pattern A onto your muslin. The dotted lines will be your circuit path.

Note: Pattern B (2 pieces) is the puppet's main form; patterns C–D are the hair; and pattern E is the upper torso.

CONCLUSION

his project first appeared in **CRAFT Volume 03**, pages 60-67.



SYUZI PAKHCHYAN

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