

How to Create a Stuffed Animal Marionette

Materials Needed:

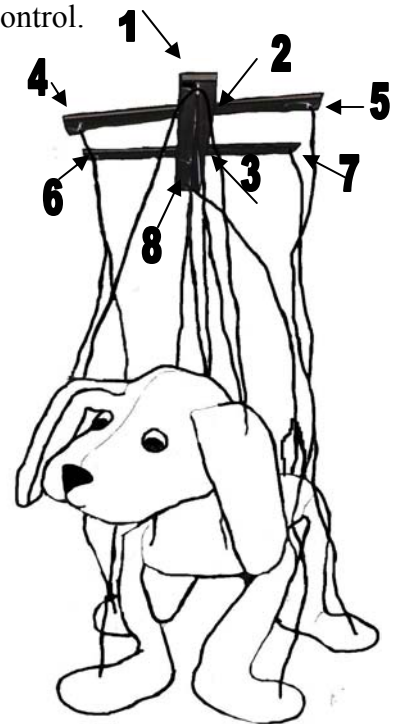
- A floppy stuffed animal that stands on all fours (control and stringing is different for one standing on just two legs)
- Large embroidery needle
- 25 lbs test, .021 Dia. nylon fishing line
- ¼" x 2" piece of wood approximately 4' long
- 4 – #4 x ½" screws
- 8 – ½" screw eyes
- 1 cup hook

Puppet Control Instructions

1. Cut two 1' pieces of ¼" x 2" wood.
2. Cut one piece of ¼" x 2" wood the length of the stuffed animal from nose to tip of tail.
3. Sand and smooth all the edges and sides.
4. Paint with satin black paint.
5. Place the longer piece of wood on the table and put the smaller pieces on top of it at a perpendicular angle. Measure from the stuffed animal's nose to the front leg and then again to the back legs. This is the same measurement used to place the two small pieces of wood on top of the large piece.
6. Using two 4 x ½" screws, screw the short pieces to the long piece.
7. Turn the control over and screw ¼" screw eyes according to the diagram below (Note: #2 and #3 are located at the intersections of the wood. All others are at the ends of each piece of wood).
8. Turn the control over again and screw a cup hook into the top to hang the control.

Stringing Instructions

1. Using the nylon fishing line, sew a 16" long piece of line to the top of the stuffed animal's head. Tie several knots making sure not to pull the line too tight around the material.
2. Bring the line up to screw eye #1 and tie several knots.
3. Sew another line from the middle of the front section of the stuffed animal's body. Tie several knots again making sure that the material is not pulled to tight in the knot.
4. Bring the line up to screw eye #2 making sure the head is at the right angle to the body.
5. Tie several knots.
6. Continue in the same fashion in the following order:
 - Back of body to #3
 - Right front foot to #4, being sure the foot is turned at the.
 - Left front foot to #5. *Make sure the control is level.*
 - Back right foot to #6
 - Back left foot to #7
 - Tail to #8
7. **For floppy ears**, (skip to Step 8 if stuffed animal has perky ears). Sew the fishing line about 1 ½" from the top of ear in the center. (Continue with Step 9)
8. **For perky ears** (as in a cat), sew fishing line at tip of ears.
9. Bring line from one ear up through #1 and down to the other ear. Do not knot at the screw eye. You can cock the puppets head by pulling up and down on this string.



Now your marionette is ready to perform. Just tilt the control back and forth and move forward to make the puppet walk. Pull on the tail string with short little staccato pulls to make the tail wag. Hold the front body string and lower the front of the control to make the puppet sniff the ground. Experiment with all sorts of movements and most of all—Have Fun!