

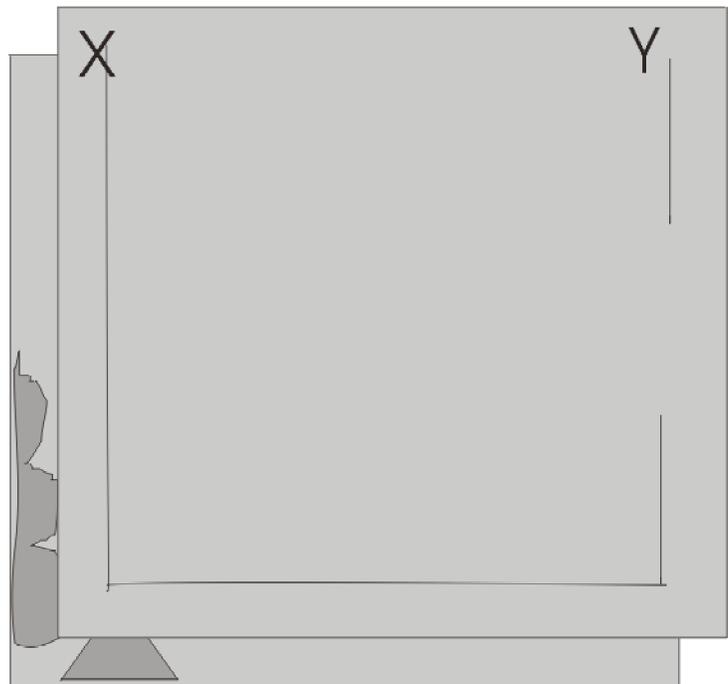
Log Cabin Chicken

This pattern is called Log Cabin Chicken because the first ones I made were done using Log Cabin blocks. You can use anything you like, as long as you have two equal sized squares. Please make sure they are very square. If you want to make one from crazy quilted squares, I suggest making one from muslin or other fabric first, just to get an idea of where things would end up in the crazy quilted version. Another reason to make a prototype is that there aren't a lot of illustrations with this pattern, as it was originally drawn up as a class handout. Note the example referred to in the pattern has long since been given away as a gift.

Make two Log Cabin blocks, or other squares of your choice. If you make the Log Cabin blocks, make sure one side is light, the other dark.

2. Cut a triangle from yellow or orange felt, and a comb from red felt. You can make these from cotton fabric as well. If you don't have any felt on hand, fuse two layers of cotton together to make the beak and comb. No worrying about raw edges that way. Use the basic shape shown in the drawing for the comb. The beak is a triangle, of course, you just can't see the tip in the diagram. Make sure you make them big enough, as you're going to lose 1/4" of their depth in the seam allowance. No wimpy combs or beaks. If you use fused fabric or felt, you can always trim them once the chicken is completed if they are too large.

Tail goes against seam at the X.



3. Place your squares right sides together, placing the beak and comb as shown. (The squares are offset in the drawing to show the placement, but should be lined up evenly for sewing.). Make sure the ends of the beak and comb are 1/4" or slightly more away from the corner of the square. You don't want them to be caught in the seam at the corner. The dark edges of the Log Cabin block should be together, but it is up to you whether the top of the chicken is dark or light.

4. Using a 1/4" seam allowance, sew the bottom edge as shown on the right side of the drawing, leaving an opening for turning. Backstitch at the opening. Sew the top (comb) and front (beak) edges in one seam. Turn right side out for a moment to make sure it will look like a chicken, and that you have the beak and comb in the right place. Beak on the front, comb on the top. Press the seams open as best you can.

5. Make the tail by cutting two rectangles that are twice as long as wide (i.e. 1" x 2"). Fold in half right sides together (so it looks like a square) and sew along one of the raw edges from the fold to the corner. Turn right side out and press into a triangle by placing the seam line in the center (see

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example). Repeat for other rectangle. Judge by the size of the chicken you are making how large to cut the rectangles. It is up to you how large you want the tail to be. In other words, I just winged it.

6. Cut about 1/4" off the raw edge of one of the two tail pieces. Place the tail pieces, raw edges together so one shows behind the other one, along the "top" seam of the chicken. This is the one with the comb in it. Place them so the smaller one is against the chicken's body. Line the points up with the seam. The raw edges of both tail pieces should be aligned with the raw edges of the "top" square, with the points facing towards the comb. When sewing, you shouldn't be able to see the smaller one, as it is behind the larger one.

7. With the tail pieces pinned into place, match up the X and the Y right sides together. The tail should be between them. Sew from X to Y. This gives you a funny shaped blob of fabric, but when you turn it right side out, it will look like a chicken. Trust me.

8. Trim corners and turn right side out. Stuff firmly with stuffing and slip stitch the opening. Sew two tiny black beads in place for the eyes. If you like, you can add a yellow or gold sequin behind the bead if you want more realism. How do I know this? I just went outside and looked.

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