

Headless Horseman Instructions



Instructions to make the Headless Horseman Doll
In-the-Hoop of your embroidery machine.

BALLYHOO
Creations

VIDEO TUTORIAL

Short videos showing the different parts of making this vampire can be found at:

<https://ballyhoocreations.com/product/ith-headless-horseman-package/>

Near the bottom of the page, there's a tab for Instructions and Videos.

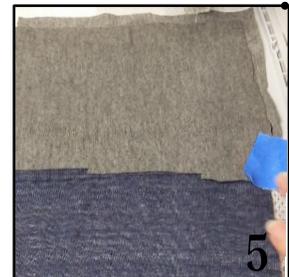
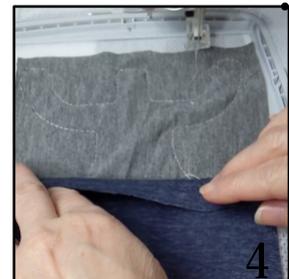
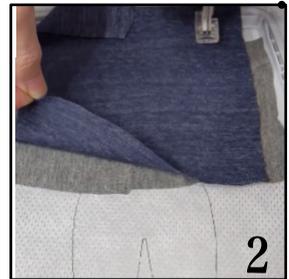
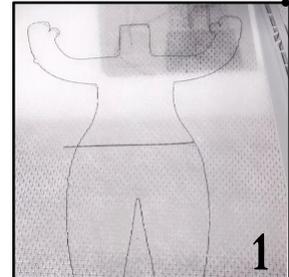
TOOLS & SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Embroidery machine
- Embroidery Thread and bobbin (40wt polyester thread is suggested, bobbin can be the same or use 60wt or 90wt bobbin thread if you like)
- Sharp fabric scissors
- Hemostats may be helpful for turning and stuffing
- Fabrics (instructions for each part have more info on fabric choices)
 - For body - front & back sized to your hoop choice, stretch knits recommended
 - For head - front & back sized to your hoop choice, and a scrap of green or brown for the stem (optional)
 - For coat - felt or stretch knit 9x12 for small & medium, 12x15 for large
 - For hands - front and back to fit your hoop choice - stretch knits only
- Embroidery stabilizers: cut-away mesh, water or heat soluble film, no show mesh, tear-away
- Poly stuffing or other stuffing of choice.
- Hand sewing needle and strong thread for closing the head, or fabric glue

INSTRUCTIONS FOR BODY - PAGE 1

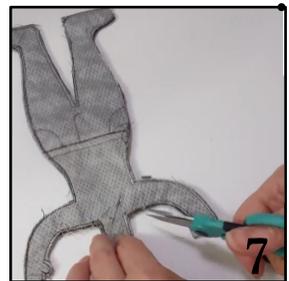
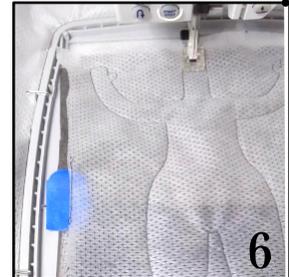
NOTE on fabrics: this design is intended to use stretch knit fabrics. You may use woven fabrics but they may not turn right-side-out as easily and will have a stiffer appearance. You can also make the body out of fleece or scuba knit, but you might want to omit the front waist seam to avoid bulky seams that your machine must stitch over (this depends on how sturdy your embroidery machine is)

1. Hoop some no-show mesh stabilizer. This lightweight stabilizer makes it easier to turn the doll right-side-out later on.
2. STITCH COLOR 1 to create a placement outline on your stabilizer. (see photo 1)
3. Place your shirt fabric, RIGHT SIDE UP, so the bottom of it meets the waist line on the stabilizer.
4. Then place your pants fabric, RIGHT SIDE DOWN, on top of the shirt fabric so it's bottom edge is also at the waist line. (photo 2 shows gray shirt & blue pants fabrics)
5. STITCH COLOR 2 to create a seam that attaches the shirt and pants fabrics
6. Flip the pants fabric downward and smooth it out so it covers the leg placement stitches and the waist seam is smooth.
7. STITCH COLOR 3 to tackdown the front fabrics.
8. STITCH COLOR 4 to create the pocket and waistline details on the pants (photo 3)
9. For the back of the body, place the back fabric for pants, RIGHT SIDE DOWN, so the top is a little higher than the waist on the front, then fold down the top edge until your fold on the back pants matches up with the waist seam. (photo 4)
10. Then place the shirt fabric, RIGHT SIDE DOWN, so it overlaps the pants by 1/2". You don't want to overlap too much or the shirt will get caught in the crotch seam. (which is no big deal, you can cut it loose if that happens) (photo 5 shows gray shirt fabric laid over the blue pants fabric which is still folded at the waist seam)



INSTRUCTIONS FOR BODY - PAGE 2

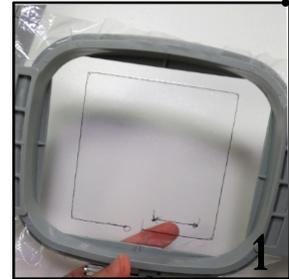
11. Place another piece of no-show mesh stabilizer over the back fabrics so they are covered. If you're worried about turning the hands or feet, you can removed the back stabilizer from those areas to make turning easier.
12. STITCH COLOR 5 which will double stitch the entire body seam. (photo 6)
13. Remove project from hoop.
14. Cut away excess fabric and stabilizer. If you're using stretch knits, you can use the placement stitches on the stabilizer as a cutting guide. (yes, it's close! be careful not to cut your seams) (see photo 7 for what it looks like after cutting)
15. Clip the corners carefully around thumbs, neck, armpits, crotch and ankles. Be careful to cut close to the seams without cutting them.
16. Cut a slit in the stabilizer at the back waist seam. (the front has the pockets, the back does not) (photo 8)
17. You should be able to access inside the doll now between the shirt and pants flap.
18. Turn the doll body right-side-out. Hemostats make this easier. There are Ballyhoo Creations videos that also give tips on turning if you're struggling.
19. Push out all the seams with a blunt object. (photo 9)
20. (optional) add a wired armature, or pipe-cleaners for light posing, or a foam hair roller in the neck to keep the head erect. (Armature video available at <https://ballyhoo creations.com/2020/04/making-wired-poseable-cloth-characters/>)
21. Stuff the doll to your desired shape through the back waist flap.
22. After stuffing, you can hand-sew or glue the back flap closed so it will just look like the shirt is tucked into the pants.
23. The body is complete.



INSTRUCTIONS FOR OPTIONAL HANDS - PAGE 1

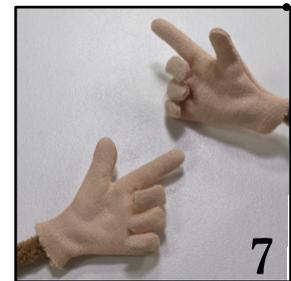
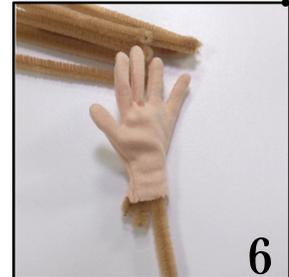
NOTE on fabric: This pattern is designed for stretch fabrics only since that makes it possible to turn the tiny fingers right-side-out later on.

1. Hoop some soluble stabilizer or tear-away stabilizer in your hoop. NOTE: the clear soluble tears away easily and works great, but if you don't have it (or don't want to waste it) you can also use regular tear-away, it's just tedious to remove all the tiny bits from the fingers.
2. STITCH COLOR 1 on your stabilizer for a placement outline with an arrow showing direction of fabric stretch. (photo 1)
3. Place 2 pieces of skin-tone fabric over the placement area. Your fabrics should have right-sides-together, and the stretchiest direction should be in the same direction as the arrow stitched in previous step. Do NOT cover with stabilizer. (photo 2)
4. STITCH COLOR 2 for double-stitched seams. (photo 3)
5. Remove from hoop and tear away the stabilizer from the entire project, both inside and outside the hands.
6. Cut out the hands with a scant 1/8" seam allowance all around. Take your time and use fine detail scissors for best results. (photo 4)
7. Use hemostats or tiny turning tubes to turn each finger right side out. (photo 5)



INSTRUCTIONS FOR OPTIONAL HANDS - PAGE 2

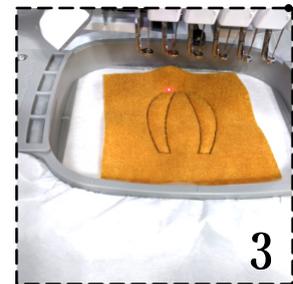
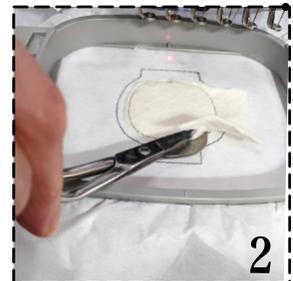
8. You may either stuff or wire the hands. Wiring instructions are below...
9. Use 3-4" pipe cleaners to stuff each finger. Bend the end of the wire before inserting it into fingers to avoid them poking through the fabric. Insert a wire into each finger so there are 5 wires coming out of the wrist. (photo 6)
10. The hands are done and ready to be attached to the body/ arms. (photo 7)



INSTRUCTIONS FOR HEAD - PAGE 1

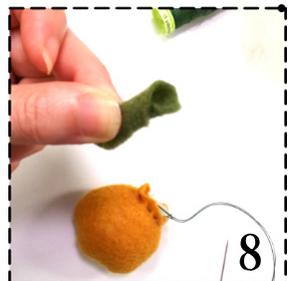
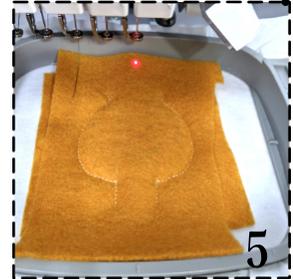
1. NOTE on fabric choices: This design was digitized for stretch fabrics but can be used on other fabrics too. Keep in mind, thick fabrics like felt may be difficult to turn right-side-out on the small pumpkins. For stretch fabrics or fuzzy ones like felt - you should use a water soluble topper to help the face stitch properly.

1. Hoop cut-away stabilizer.
2. STITCH COLOR 1 for a placement outline on the stabilizer (see photo 1)
3. Place a thin layer of quilt batting to cover the placement stitches
4. STITCH COLOR 2 to tackdown the batting
5. Cut away excess batting outside the tackdown circle. Be sure to cut away the excess at this point to avoid batting in the seams (makes it hard to turn right-side-out later) (see photo 2)
6. Place your front fabric, RIGHT SIDE UP, over the batting so it covers the placement stitches on the stabilizer
7. STITCH COLOR 3 to stitch the vertical lines on the pumpkin which create a quilting effect (see photo 3)
8. Place water or heat soluble topper over the pumpkin. This will ensure your stitches look nice on stretchy or fluffy fabrics.
9. STITCH COLOR 4 to stitch the facial features of the pumpkin
10. Pull away the topper (see photo 4)



INSTRUCTIONS FOR HEAD - PAGE 2

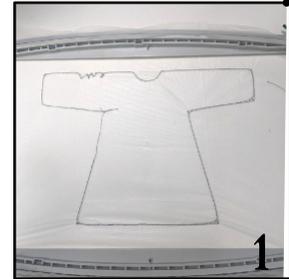
11. Place the back fabric, **RIGHT SIDE DOWN**, to cover the front of the pumpkin
12. **STITCH COLOR 5** to stitch the side seams. These are double stitched for a strong seam. (see photo 5)
13. Remove project from hoop.
14. Cut away excess fabric and stabilizer from the pumpkin. You can use the placement line on the stabilizer (1st "color" you stitched) as cutting lines. Do not cut off the neck or the top tab. (see photo 6)
15. Clip the inner corners on both sides of neck and both sides of top turning tab.
16. Turn the pumpkin **RIGHT SIDE OUT**. This is easy with stretch fabrics, but might be more difficult with stiff fabrics like felt on the smaller sizes. Be patient with turning.
17. Tuck the neck tab up inside the pumpkin. The neck flap for doll heads serves as a pocket to insert the doll's body during assembly.
18. Stuff the pumpkin from the open area at the top of the head. If you're going to insert something into the neck area (doll neck, pencil, dowel, etc) be sure to stuff both front and back of that neck area so the head will sit straight. (photo 7)
19. Hand sew a running stitch around the open area at the top of the pumpkin, all the way around using short stitches and strong thread like upholstery thread. Don't pull the thread taut just yet.
20. (Optional) Use a scrap of green or brown fabric rolled up, and tuck it into the pumpkin head for a stem. (see photo 8)
21. Tuck the excess fabric of the top tab inside the pumpkin.
22. Pull the thread tight so that it closes in around the "stem" and closes the top of the pumpkin. Take a few more stitches through the stem and tie a knot.
23. That's it! You've created a pumpkin head! Feel free to smash them a bit to get a rounder shape.



INSTRUCTIONS FOR COAT

This coat was designed for non-fraying fabrics such as felt, fleece or knits

1. Hoop some soluble stabilizer such as water soluble stabilizer. You could also use tear-away stabilizer but it may not tear-away cleanly from the border design.
2. STITCH COLOR 1 on the stabilizer for the placement outlines. Note the fold line in the coat shoulder area. (photo 1)
3. Be sure your fabric is big enough to be folded and cover all the placement stitches, then place the middle of the fabric, RIGHT SIDE UP, at the fold line and cover the coat outline. The part covering the outline is the front of the coat, while the other half hanging out of your hoop is the back of the coat. Do NOT fold the fabric yet, that's in Step 6.
4. STITCH COLOR 2 to tack-down the front of the coat. This will also stitch a seam at the shoulder for your fold line with the word "fold" stitched on there.
5. STITCH COLOR 3 to stitch the coat border details.
6. Fold the fabric so the back will cover the front with right-sides-together. Use the fold line at the shoulder area as your guide for folding. Be sure the back completely covers all the stitches you've done so far.
7. STITCH COLOR 4 to create the side seams of the coat. These will automatically be double stitched for security.
8. Remove project from hoop.
9. Use the placement lines on the stabilizer as a cutting guide to cut-away excess fabric from the seams. Do NOT cut the fold at the top. (photo 4)
10. Cut a small semi-circle away at the front neckline. There should be a stitch there from COLOR 2 tackdown that you can use as a cutting guide. (photo 4)
11. Remove the stabilizer from the garment. Pull out the basting threads across the top shoulder/arm area.
12. Cut a straight line down the front of the coat between the border stitches. (photo 4)
13. Turn the coat right side out and finger press the seams flat.
14. Your coat is now ready to be put on your doll. (Photo 5)



ASSEMBLING DOLL PARTS

1. Add hands to Body

To attach hands to body you can use one of these methods:

- 1.1. For hidden attachment (hidden by clothing, etc) you can use electrical or other tape to attach the hand wires to the outside of the doll arm, then cover the join with the vampire coat. (see photo 1)
- 1.2. For visible wrists: cut the end off the doll arm fabric and tuck the sleeve under to make a clean cuff edge. Insert the hand wires into the doll arm and attach to the armature in the doll's arms with electrical tape. Then pull the cuff down and glue it to the hand fabric. You can also sew or glue trim around the wrist to conceal this join.



2. Attach the head to the body

- 2.1. Add your doll's head to the body by inserting the neck stem on the body into the dolls neck pocket. (photo 2)
 - 2.2. Then hand stitch or use fabric glue to secure the head to the neck.
3. Dress the doll - put the coat on your headless horseman doll. (photo 4)
 4. In photo 4, the doll also has a bit of lace gathered and hand sewn at the neck for a cravat. You could also add some lace at the sleeve cuffs for a Gothic look.



LADDER STITCH TUTORIAL

Ladder stitch:

1. Thread a long needle with a double layer of strong thread that is about 12" long and tie a knot at the end.
2. Starting at the inside of the doll - push the needle and thread from the inside to the outside at one end of the seam opening.
3. Take a horizontal stitch across the seam opening and insert the needle again, it should come out about $\frac{1}{4}$ " down that same side. If you have stabilizer under your fabric, be sure to catch the stabilizer in your stitch.
4. Then do another horizontal stitch going the opposite direction across the seam opening.
5. Repeat this stitch pattern. It resembles railroad tracks. The horizontal arrows in the diagram are stitches on top of the fabric, while the vertical dashed arrows are underneath and not seen.
6. When you pull on the thread, it should pull the opposite sides together to close the gap.
7. When you have stitched the entire seam, make a knot in the thread and then push the needle back into the doll to come out a few inches away and cut the thread so it disappears back inside the doll stuffing areas. Now your thread is secure and buried where nobody can see it.

