

Costume Tricks and Spook-tacular Treats for



by Robyn Freedman Spizman

Looking
for creative

Halloween costumes or ways to add
some FANTASTIC fun to your Halloween
happening? You'll go **BATTY** over
these ideas! Here are some **BOO**-tiful
tricks and treats for
your choosing.



Butterflies, Bats, and Bugs!

Materials needed:

- ✂ thin wire coat hangers
- ✂ clean, recycled nylon stockings
- ✂ needle and thread or pipe cleaner
- ✂ masking tape
- ✂ glitter (optional)

GET READY TO FLY

1. With an adult's assistance, unwind the coat hanger and be sure to bend the sharp ends under so that the ends are safely tucked out of reach. Put a piece of masking tape around the wire ends.
2. Find the center of the piece of wire. This will be the middle of your wings. Bend the wire on each side so that it forms two wing-like shapes.
3. Take a pair of nylons or panty hose that might have a run and recycle them by pulling one leg over each of the forms. Pull gently to avoid running the nylons and tie the nylons in a tight knot at the center of the wire. Cut off any excess.
4. You can cover the knots with a ribbon tied in a bow.

CALLING ALL ANGELS

In case you're looking for wings for a play during the holiday season, these look heavenly on a white leotard or shirt.

Photos: Daniel Henniger

FANTASTIC FLYER

Best Vest Costumes

A vest is a terrific base for any costume. It's comfortable to wear and fun to make. Just let your imagination go wild! The green vest we used inspired an alligator, which could also double as a dinosaur, a creature from the deep sea, or a plain old monster...take your pick! Vests are also perfect for elves, holiday gift packages, or any costume you wish to create.

Materials needed:

- ✂ vest
- ✂ needle and thread
- ✂ fabric glue
- ✂ felt — variety of colors
- ✂ newspaper or cotton batting for stuffing

READY, SET, SEW

1. To make the alligator or any costume on a vest, felt pieces and odds and ends will transform it into a work of art. Use fabric glue or needle and thread to stitch the details in place. The alligator was created with layered felt to create the scales of the stomach.
2. A large felt tail stuffed with newspaper and stitched in place is attached to the back of the vest.

Model: Ali Spizman

Happy Hatters

Hats can be covered with feathers, candy, or you name it! Use a New Year's Eve Top Hat for Thanksgiving Pilgrims by adding a paper buckle right in the front.

Materials needed:

- ✂ baseball hat
- ✂ odds and ends, feathers
- ✂ cardboard — for felt insert on alligator
- ✂ Ping-Pong® balls
- ✂ needle and thread or glue gun
- ✂ adult supervision

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR

1. Make an alligator hat by covering two Ping-Pong® balls with green nylon. Tie off the extra nylon and secure with a knot. Place the knot face down on the cap brim. Glue in place.
2. Glue wiggly eyes to the center of the balls, and fringe some ribbon to make some great eyelashes.
3. To top off the alligator head, cover cardboard with green felt and trim, using ribbon or fringe to hide your seams. Glue in place by opening the bottom edges of the felt so that the piece stands up on the cap. Let it dry.
4. Cut white felt triangles for teeth and glue to the bottom of the hat brim.



FANTASTIC FLYER

Perfect Props

Materials needed:

- cardboard rod from a coat hanger
- recycled aluminum foil
- ribbon
- cardboard
- tape



INSTANT MASK

Use the cardboard tube to hold a mask by attaching the mask to the top of the tube. Cover the tube with ribbon and tie curled ribbon for a special touch.

MAGIC WAND

Cut out a star from a piece of cardboard and cover it with clean, recycled aluminum foil. Tape the star to the cardboard tube and wrap the tube with ribbon. This is great for angels in holiday plays.

Minute-Made Costumes

MIX AND MATCH

Need a costume in a jiffy? Mix up clothing that does not match and look like a silly clown. Add non-toxic face paint or a happy hat and you're bound for the circus.

SUPER KID

White or red tights, blue shorts, a tank top, and high-top sneakers make a great super kid costume. Make a small slit in the top of a pillowcase and thread a piece of ribbon through the opening. Gather the ribbon and tie it in a bow to create an instant cape. Safety-pin the cape in place and put masking tape around the pins so they won't open up! Stick to a red, white, and blue theme for a high-flying look.

SUPER SAFETY TIPS

WHAT A SIGHT!

Make sure your sight isn't blocked. The eyes on plastic and rubber masks can easily be trimmed to make sure a trick-or-treater sees everything in sight.

PUT YOUR SAFEST FOOT FORWARD!

Watch out when walking across lawns in the dark. Often sharp lawn markers or hidden lighting are hazardous to night walkers. Be extra careful and avoid lurking across lawns.

PLAY IT SAFE!

Be a candy detective and avoid any unwrapped candy. Some local hospitals will x-ray your treats, or be sure to go through your bag with your parents to make sure each treat is a safe one.

