

## Feathers from Fabric

Would you believe the two feathers shown in the photo, right, are made from the same fabric? It's 100% cotton, old fashioned denim (no spandex). The white feather is cut on the lengthwise grain and the indigo one on the crosswise grain; edges are raveled all the way to the spine to make lovely, fluffy feathers, suitable for embellishing quilts, wearables or just about anywhere you'd like to add a feather or two. It's quite simple, it just requires some patience!



Start by cutting a rectangle of prewashed new or gently used denim fabric a little larger than the feather you'd like. For the white feather, cut a 2 ½" x 6" rectangle on the lengthwise grain; for the dark feather, cut 3" x 7" rectangle of fabric on crosswise grain. Experiment with different sizes and fabrics.

Cut 3 pieces of dark gold pearl cotton embroidery thread about 8" long. Pinch ends together to start stitching, then twist slightly together as you do a close zigzag over them, down the center of the strip, following the grain of the fabric as closely as possible. Be sure to backstitch at both ends. Trim the fabric into a feather shape; it doesn't have to be perfect!

Beginning at outer edge, fringe the feather by loosening and removing one thread at a time, as shown. It may be helpful to rub the cut edges together to soften them a little so you can find the next thread to pull; also it may be easier to see the threads if you work from wrong side of fabric. Continue removing threads until you have reached the center spine, but don't remove threads under it; you need those to keep your feather together. Trim off excess gold thread at ends, and fray it at the tip of the feather, to blend in.

Finished feathers can be positioned as desired and tacked in place on your project with a few stitches by hand or machine.

