

LUCKY ELEPHANT PIN ©Paula Casey- Johnson

Asia has always had a strong cultural connection to the elephant. When Thailand was called Siam, the sacred White Elephant was on their flag and infused in their culture. According to Thai legend, in the beginning all elephants were white and flew through the air like the clouds and rain.

For your Elephant Pin choose a beautiful scrap of hand-dyed cotton fabric, it doesn't take much fabric for this project. Also have on hand embroidery floss in a few of your favorite colors and seed beads for embellishing your pin, oh and two shiny black beads for his eyes. Trace around templates onto folded fabric (leave enough space between pieces for 1/8" seam allowances on all pieces). Trace 1 head and 2 ears. Tusks are cut from felt.

Stitch just inside traced lines, leave an opening in top of ears but sew all the way around the head. Cut the pieces out 1/8 inch from stitched lines. Cut a 1 inch long slit in back of the head. Clip curves and turn pieces right side out.

Press head and ears with a hot iron. Stuff head and trunk lightly, stitch opening closed. Now for the fun part! Embroider a vine down the elephant's trunk and embellish it with seed beads. I did feather stitches on the ears and sprinkled them with beads. Also sew a few stitches across the top of trunk for detail. Apply the ears and sew on the eye beads. For tusks apply a bit of glue (Fabri-Tac or tacky glue) and fold them in half lengthwise. Stitch the tusks onto the head and apply a pin-back to the back of the head. Finished pin is about 4 inches long.

