

Wren ★ Feathers

Doll-size leis

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Quarter inch seams allowed on all pieces unless otherwise specified.

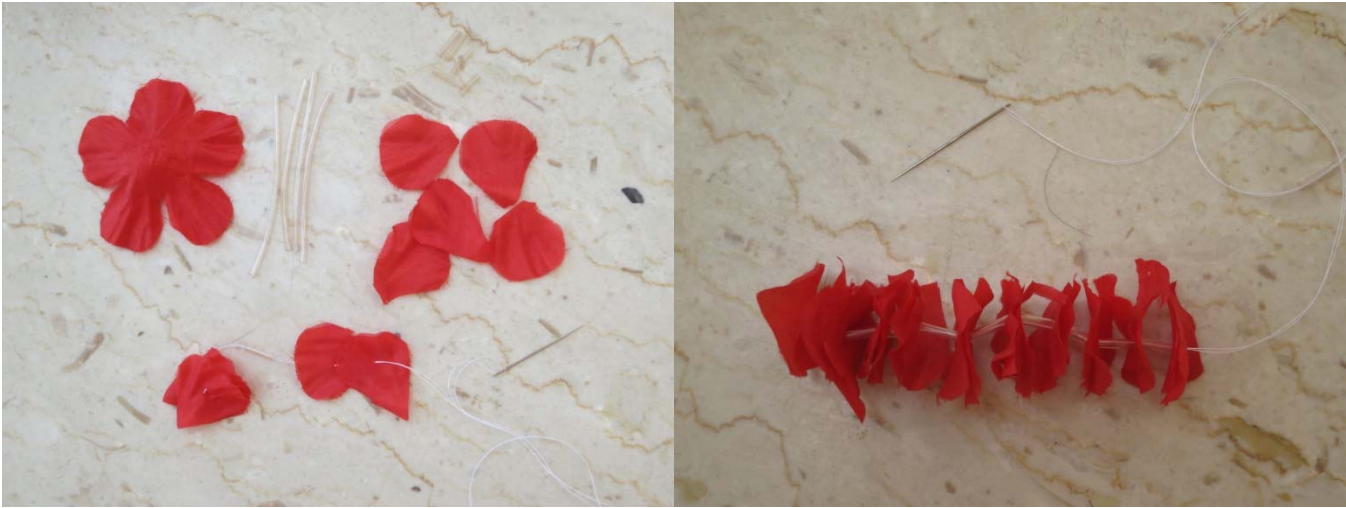
I assume you have basic sewing knowledge and the explanation should suffice, but if you need help please email me!



Leis have a role in Nanea's stories, and are a huge part of Hawaiian culture. Knowing how to make their own costume pieces from real leaves and flowers are part of a hula dancer's skill set too. If you think hula is just people wiggling their hips in plastic skirts, check out this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-NhPqimnr3o> you can see the dancers braiding their own leaf anklets at 1:58.

Men's hula is less well-known, but even more athletic, check out this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-NhPqimnr3o> video to see the "warriors of hula". For even MORE hula, search for "Merrie Monarch" which is a festival and competition that showcases the best of the best in hula dancing!

Obviously, for dolls it's more practical to make leis from fake materials for durability, but finding flowers small enough to use that weren't also really expensive was a challenge for me. I grabbed a few leis from a thrift store (try party stores too!) and thought about it for a while before ending up with with this idea. They are very simple to make and one people-size lei should make a few doll size ones so you can share! With traditional dance costumes, your dolls might want to have a crown, necklace, bracelets, and anklets, or any combination of the above.



Take it apart and cut the petals off each flower. This goes faster if you stack multiple flowers at a time. Cut the little plastic spacers into pieces about $\frac{1}{4}$ "- $\frac{3}{8}$ " long. Thread a needle with strong, doubled thread, tack a few stitches into the first flower and start stringing! Use 2-3 "flowers" before each spacer. You can adjust the fullness by using more/fewer flowers and varying the length of the spacers. Depending on the doll's head size, your preferred necklace length might not be big enough to get over her head. If that's the case, or if you're making anklets/bracelets, stop stringing when you reach the desired length and sew on fasteners like snaps or jewelry clasps.

