



Here are the instructions for how we built the Peacock Princess wheelchair costume for Halloween 2015. Please keep in mind that each costume is designed specifically for the individual wheelchair of the child so adjustments will likely have to be made in order make it work for your chair.



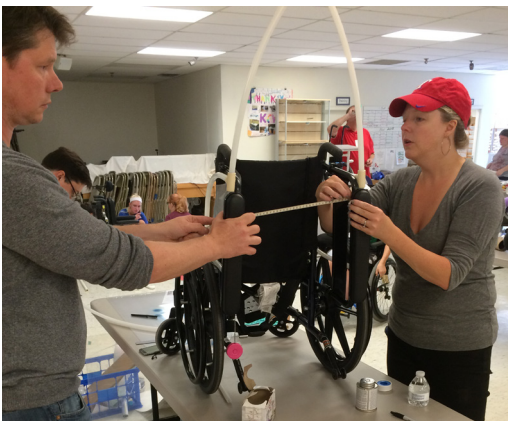
For starters, this is a photo of the Drive wheelchair we were building the costume for. Notice that this girl's wheelchair had the armrests tilted back. While this gave us more attachment points behind, it is not required and the costume could easily be adjusted even if the armrests were tilted down into the normal position.



STEP 1: Building the PVC Frame

We started by building a basic frame with bendable PVC plumbing pipe and joints. These are all fairly inexpensive but try and plan out what you need so you only have to buy the minimum. Find places on the chair where the pipe can run right next to it so you can attach it later with simple zip ties. I would recommend buying a bag of these because they are cheap, hold everything together really tight and don't damage the wheelchair. Buy a bag because everytime you take the costume off, you will have to cut the zip ties off and throw them away and then will need new ones to reattach the costume later.

Build your frame, but don't attach it yet to the chair.



STEP 2: Spray Painting

We then spray painted the frame a dark blue to match the colors found in the actual peacock feathers. Next we used a green fabric to fill in the frame so we had something to attach all the feathers to. I believe we attached the fabric by sewing it around the frame. You could also hot glue the fabric as well.

The first section of feathers were made with felt squares cut into the patterns of the peacock feathers. We then glued actual peacock feathers to the center of the felt feathers and then glued them to the green fabric of the frame. The pictures below are of the center section of the throne behind the seat.





STEP 3: Felt Feathers

The same thing was done to the 2 side panels with one exception. We reversed the colors of the felt feathers to give it a better contrast with the back panel.

STEP 4: Zipping It Up

Now you can attach these panels to chair with zip ties to make sure everything fits appropriately.

STEP 5: Wheelcovers

I wish I had a photo of the back of the wheelcovers to help explain a bit more. We used foam board, cut into a circle with slits on the edges so we could attach it with zip ties to the spokes of the wheels. (See "Wheelcover Template" illustration) The number of slits should be determined by the number of spokes on the chair. Use at least 3 slits to attach to the chair. (If it has 6 mag wheel spokes, use 3 slits. If it has 8 spokes, then use 4 slits.)

We then hot glued more felt feathers and real feathers around to decorate and cover up the foam board.

Something you don't see in these photos, but will in the final photos, we then added glitter and jewels to the wheelcovers to make them really bling.





STEP 6: The Skirt

The skirt was a very simple tulle skirt made with an elastic band and four colors of tulle that match the colors of the peacock feathers, green, teal, blue and purple. The girl we made this for then just wore dark gray leggings under this skirt.



STEP 7: Shirt Printing

The shirt was made with custom designed artwork by Walkin' & Rollin' Costumes. (I have included this artwork in the email.) We uploaded the artwork to a website that could print this shirt for us. (We used Zazzle.com, but there are many out there.) We chose a long-sleeve deep royal long sleeve t-shirt. You could also make this short sleeve if you wanted to.

There is also the option of buying iron-on printable sheets for dark colored shirts. However, this design would be a nightmare to cut out without leaving the white background square around the artwork.



T-Shirt

Kids' Hanes Tagless ComfortSoft®
Long Sleeve T-Shirt, Deep Royal,
Youth M



COMPLETED: Fit For A Peacock Princess

Here are the pictures of the completed costume. The Peacock Mask was actually purchased at Target during the Halloween season. They actually had a peacock mardi gras mask that matched the colors perfectly. (That was just lucky.) You can also see some of the jewels and glitter on the wheelcovers in the bottom right picture.

Also be sure and check out our YouTube page where we show this costume being assembled directly onto a wheelchair. You get some better views of some of the parts too.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NhpoKs7BbYA>

