

# Simple Wing Tutorial



So I feel like this is a tutorial that already exists out there, but figured it might be cool to see how I made my wings on Cosplay Melee and multiple times in the past!

These wings are cheap (\$50 or so), lightweight, easy to make with a few simple tools, and fast!

Materials you will need:

- Heat gun
- Hot glue gun and hot glue
- ½ Inch diameter PVC pipes (2 is enough for a normal-sized set of wings)
- Two ½ inch PVC elbow joints and Two ½ PVC Tee joints
- 1 yard or so of bottomweight (denim) in your desired color
- Feathers and/or craft foam:

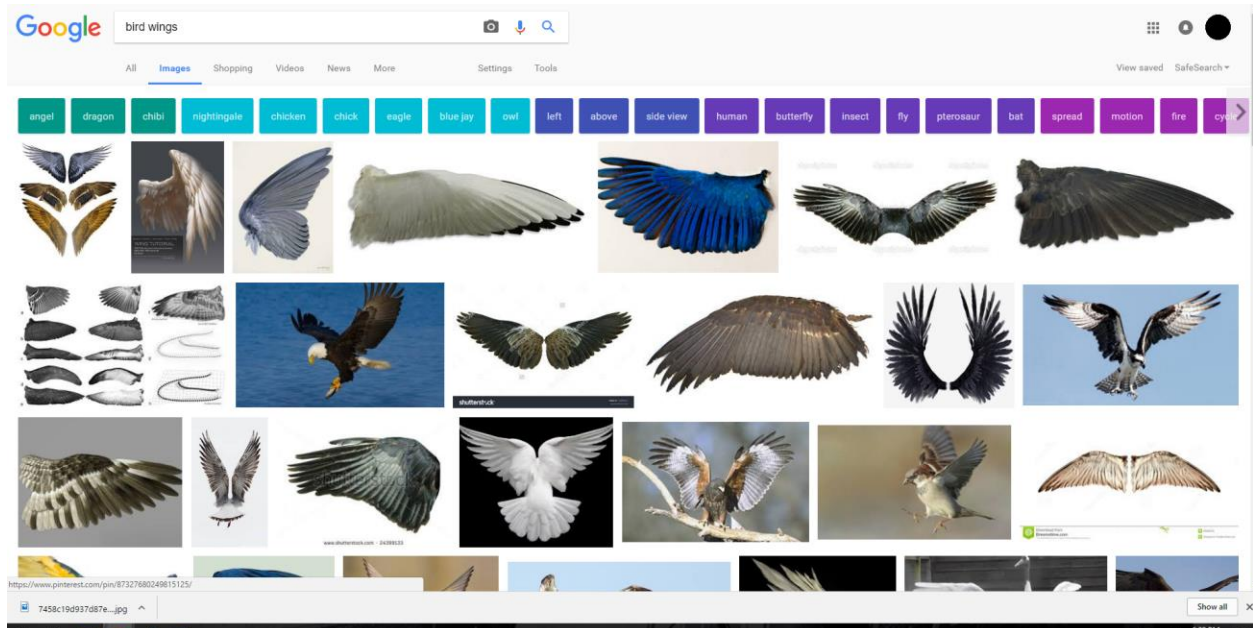
I've made multiple different sets of wings. My VS Angel wings were all goose feathers, and my Garuda wings are all craft foam. My Vehr'a'liel wings are a combination of both! So it's all about preference and your desired look!:



-- If you end up going with craft foam for your feathers, I recommend shish kabob sticks or very thin dowel rods to make the stem of your feathers to make them more realistic-looking. You'll also need plasti-dip and paint to cover your wings and make them the right color, of course!

### Wing Anatomy:

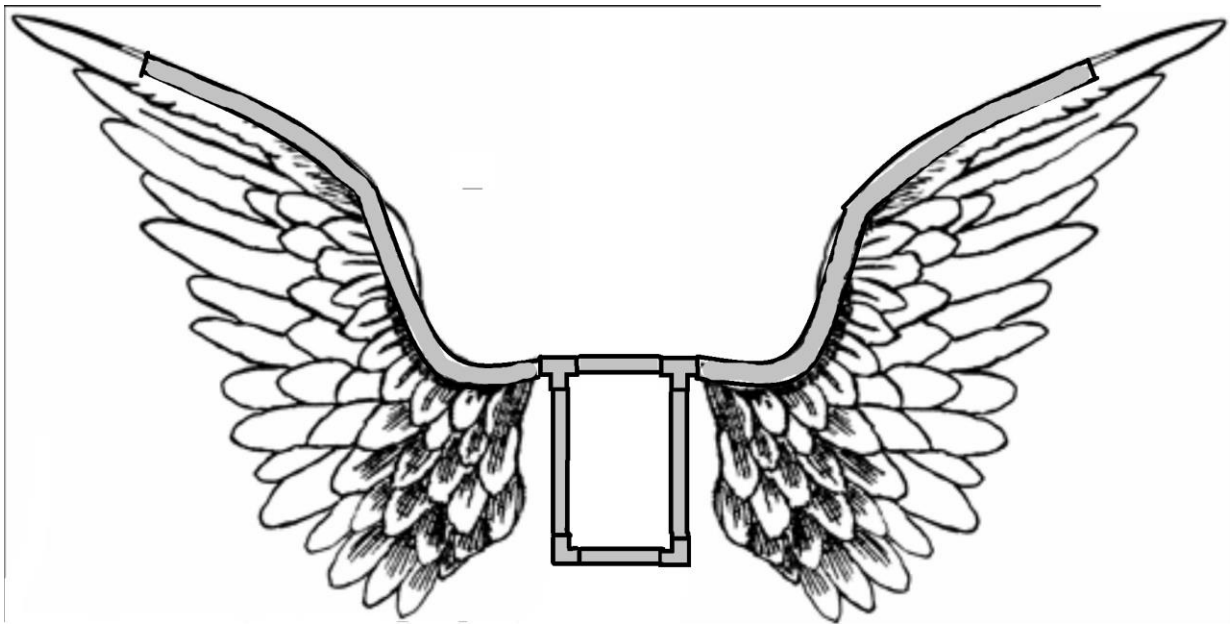
One of the biggest flaws I see in peoples' wings is not understanding bird anatomy. Simply Googling 'Bird Wings' and analyzing the varying shapes and positions of feathers can help dramatically in making wings look more realistic. This is why using both craft foam and real feathers can be appealing, because the very large feathers along the tips of wings are impossible to replicate with real feathers, so recreating them out of craft foam and attempting to blend them with real feathers can create the most accurate wings, in my opinion.



### The Frame:

You know what's cool about PVC pipes? When you heat them up, they bend! It takes a lot of patience, but you can shape PVC into whatever you want with a heat gun!

I always find it best to draw out the shape I want my wings to be on a very large sheet of paper first and then make a mirror of that shape for the opposite wing so they have the curve. Wings can be in all different phases of unfolding, and can curve backwards and forwards to create a more realistic look. Both my VS Angel wings and Garuda wings were designed to be flat so I could fit them in a luggage check in, but my Vehr'a'liel wings curved forwards and backwards and it really brought them to life!



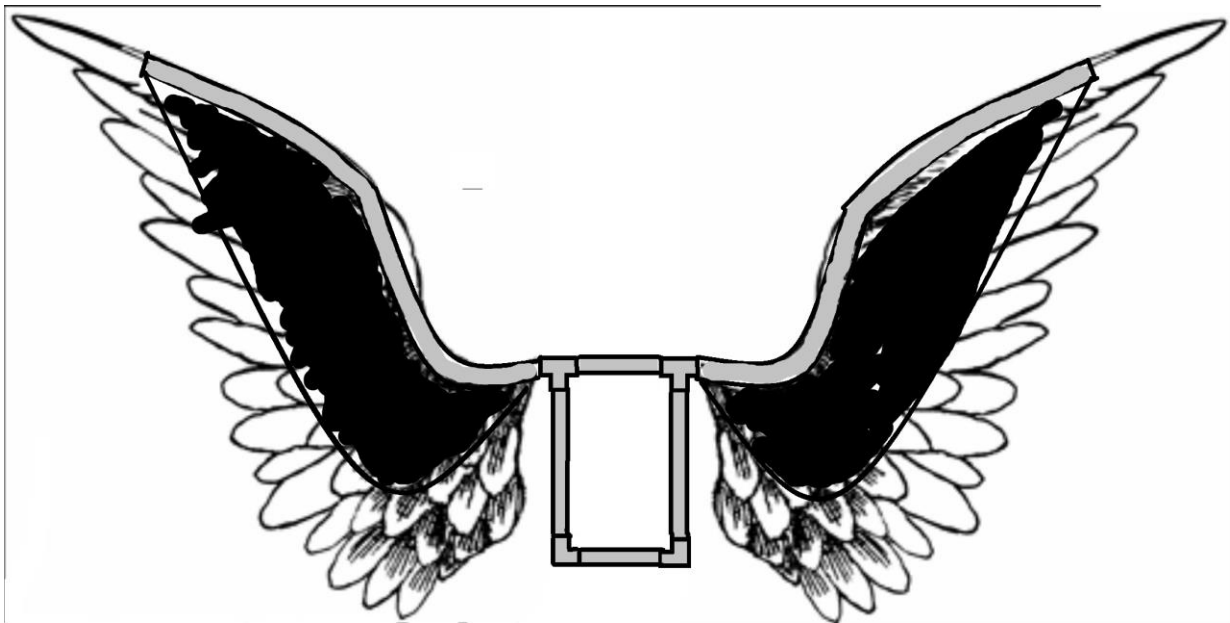
The base of the wings where your straps will go (or where the wings can get tucked into a corset if you don't want straps) is made up of a rectangle of cut PVC pipes and joints. Hot glue can safely hold the PVC joints together, but if you have PVC glue, it's definitely the best option.

Heating up the PVC to the curve of the wing you desire is time-consuming, but the more realistic the bend, the better it will look. Be patient!

The next step is to add the fabric so that the feathers have a solid base to be glued to! You can see this process on my episode of Cosplay Melee quite clearly (which you can watch on Amazon if interested!):



But this is the general concept of the fabric base for the feathers:



The Feathers:

Real feathers: Turkey Wing rounds are the way to go if you want cheap! I've gotten mine from <http://www.rainbowfeatherco.com/FeathersFrame.htm> which is perfect, because if you order 1 lb (the amount I used for my VS angel wings), they give you half left wing, half right wing so the feathers curve the right direction! In ALL my wings, I've cut the Turkey rounds to be points, and have broken the stems so that they are not a clean shape. I like a more disheveled look for my feathers, but of course that depends on the character.

Craft foam feathers: For my Vehr'a'liel wings I think I cut out about 80 varying sizes of large feathers to create 4 wings, and I didn't end up using them all. I sandwiched two of the same shape with a dowel rod in the middle with hot glue, and then cut out little 'V's like real feathers have. I then plasti-dipped them, which was enough to achieve the initial color, and then added detail later.

Then you hot glue your feathers on!

At this point I don't know what to recommend other than to hot glue your feathers on however you desire! Remember your bird anatomy and look at multiple reference images. Start with the ends and work your way in, so the feathers stack properly, and don't forget to cover your PVC pipe well, since although birds have bones there, the feathers cover them well.

Adding straps:

I've always just hot glued and hand-sewn industrial straps (you can get them by-the-yard at Joanns in the notions section) along the main rectangle frame of the wings, kind of like a backpack.

And you're done????? Maybe?????