

## Some types of Wings:

**Paper wings:** Simple project that can be done with kids or for adults. See handout.

**Wire wings:** (usually for fairy, insect, or bat wings) with stretched nylon, cellophane, fantasy film, or sheer fabrics:

Wire wings can also be fairly simple to make if you are doing wire loops covered in pantyhose and painted, but wire wings can also get quite elaborate if you solder (or weld or glue specific kinds of



wire) the wires for veining details and use iridescent sheer fabrics.

Above are some examples of wire wings and below are a couple decent tutorials on wire wings:

<http://crafting.squidoo.com/fairywings>

<http://www.cdhm.org/tutorials/making-fairy-wings.html>

**Aluminum or pvc structure:** (usually for bird or Angel wings) covered with, fabric, embroidered fleece, or feathers:

Making Feathered wings in my opinion is the most time consuming style of wing, and the hardest to make moveable in any full scale because of the weight of the structure and the feathers themselves. Using fleece embroidered to give the impression of feathers is lighter and more durable than sewing feathers together and was my solution for weight and simplicity. To create your 'bones' with 'feathered' wings, the two options I'm familiar with are 1" pvc or aluminum conduit pipe. Pvc pipe is lighter than aluminum but depending on how big you want to make your wings, you may need the strength of aluminum. For an angel or bird wing I bend the pipe to the shape of the bones I'm mimicking, and use folding table hinges (available at most home stores) for joints if you want movement. While you can bend pvc fairly easily with a heat gun (available at the same home stores that carry the pvc pipe), you would need a conduit bender for aluminum and a bit more arm strength.

**Other types:** Fabric/ flexible rod (I've seen fiberglass rods that are good for this) style of wings. In this style, you connect a rod to one side of a sheer flowy fabric, then tuck one end of the rod to the back of a corset and let the fabric flutter behind. It makes easy dramatic wings that can be detached and moved around like flags or scarves.

Another style of wing is to build them like glider sleeves where they attach from the side of the body to the underside of the sleeve. This keeps wings light, but limits what you can do with them.

### **Attaching & things to be aware of when costuming large wings:**

Depending on the size weight and functionality of your wings you can attach them as simply as using a few magnets or as complex as a full corset rig to hold the weight and/or electronics. For my wire fairy wings I used magnets attached to stabilizer and covered in cloth to clip over any shirt back. But with my fleece wings, the weight was enough that I built pvc sheathes into the back of a corset to distribute the weight and give me enough stability for their movement mechanism. However you attach wings, always be aware of how much weight you are adding to your body and what that will do to your muscles over time. It's because of the added weight, and hallway and sitting clearances, that I always make wings in any costume removable.