

Casper's Overalls

This creative toy idea was given to me by my fellow parrot enrichment enthusiast, Lin Westgard. Lin started a business, Casper's Closet, where she sells custom made parrot toys and conducts toy making workshops in Anchorage. I purchased my first pair of Casper's Overalls from Lin and have made several since, using Lin's example as inspiration. Below are instructions for how I make this toy.



Put a plastic baby link hanger through the shoulder strap and fasten it tight with a zip tie.

Unfasten the buckle and remove the metal fastener that goes over the button on the bibs. You can put the buckle back on - or use a button to fasten it back together. A zip tie fastens the strap to the button on the bib.



Lin Westgard makes these for her Umbrella Cockatoo, Casper. Lin is one of the most cautious people I know with regards to safety. I asked her about the buckle and she said she hasn't had a problem with Casper getting his toes caught in it or chewing on it. But I thought I would rather remove the buckle and I came up with the idea of fastening a button on with zip ties- or you can sew thru the fabric.



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Then go to work filling the pockets with any number of things. Crunch munch balls, cuttle bones, paper coin wrappers with peanuts or veggie sticks stuffed inside them, corn husk wrapped nuts, chop sticks, small foot toys. Also hang toys on the loops. Here are the front and back photos of the overalls Lin made for Casper



And there we have them Casper's Overalls!



Here you see photos of Casper foraging in a pair of overalls.



Lin gave me this pair of Casper's Overalls to show me what is left when he is finished with them.

Here we have Ditto foraging in his first pair of overalls.

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Do Ahead Tip: You can make up 2 or 3 pairs of these overalls, stuffing the pockets with non-perishable treats and other toy items. When you get all the toys and non-perishables attached to the loops and stuffed in the pockets—hang them on coat hangers and store them in a closet. Then they are ready for you to pull out in the morning to put in the cages before going off to work. At the last minute it is easy to add a few pieces of fresh fruits and vegetables stuffed in the pockets to add to the foraging experience.



You can also make a pair and stuff the inside of the overalls and legs. To keep everything in fasten the legs shut with zip ties.



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