Directions for Making a Stargate Cat Bed

These directions are for one 9 symbol/glyph 3 chevron Stargate. Using these basic directions and pattern it is possible to scale up the bed to be larger fairly easily by adding additional gate glyphs to the length. Please be aware if you are building a larger gate that you will need to increase your materials.

Cats not included!

On-hand Supplies Needed:

These are supplies you are likely to have on hand already that you will want to use to build your gate.

- Ruler
- Scissors/Rotary Cutter
- Sewing Machine (or needle and thread with an extra dose of insanity)
- Glue Gun
- Fabric marking pen or pencil
- Electric Bread Knife – Optional, but it does make cutting your foam pieces significantly easier.

Materials Needed:

- 1 piece 1 inch foam measuring 8 inches by 5 ft.
- 1 piece 2 (or 3) inch foam measuring approximately 16 inches round
- Medium grey material – Choose a sturdier fabric such as canvas, duck cloth or denim. (I chose a denim)
    - Cut 1 piece 10 inches by 5 feet for the gate walls
    - Cut 6 pieces 8 inch by 8 inch squares to be cut for Chevrons.
- Orange Material (or light blue for Atlantis Gate)
    - Cut 6 piece 6 inches by 6 inches for the Chevrons
    - If you are making the Atlantis Gate, you will need to add additional material for each gate symbol star.
- 20 inch round piece for bottom. (I chose a heavy canvas in light grey, so if you are working with canvas for your walls include this piece in that material)
- 1 spool darker grey thread suitable for machine stitching.   +1 spool light blue if you are making the Atlantis Gate.
- 1 piece Dark Grey/Black Fleece 10 inches by 5 feet
- 1 piece blue (I found a nice tie-dye blue looks great) approximately 20 inches round.

For those using metric here's some handy measurement conversions:
½ inch =1.27cm; 1 inch = 2.54cm; 1 foot = 30.48cm

Directions:

1. Choose your 9 gate symbols you would like to use. (I specifically did not include the gate symbols I used, because my gate symbols are important to me... birth star signs, names, etc. And I'd rather you choose your own than copy mine.) Gate symbols can be found with a simple internet search. Here's a couple links to get you started:
   1. http://stargate.wikia.com/wiki/Glyph
   2. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stargate_(device)

2. Scale your Gate Glyphs so they are no larger than 5 inches high, and print them out for your Symbol/Glyph Patterns.

3. Using the Gate design pattern measurements, mark out the decorative gate borders, and stitch on. Generally you will want to stitch the vertical lines first, and then use the horizontal stitch line to cap off the verticals as that will produce a more finished look. Stitch all one border, before measuring and stitching the other border. For the bottom, I used zigzag stitch for all lines, set to a size similar to one you would use to applique. For the top, I used a simple straight stitch for my verticals, that I double stitched and then used the zigzag for the horizontal lines.

4. Measure out your gate symbol sections using the design pattern measurements. You will want to include 1 to 3 stitch lines as a border between your glyphs. Trace out your symbols onto each section and stitch on. (For the Atlantis Gate, use your applique stitch and affix all of your circular "stars")

Illustration 1: Gate border decorative stitching

5. Sew your gate sidewall into a loop. That seam should be one of your stitch lines between your first and last gate symbol. Pay close attention to your decorative borders to ensure they line up correctly.

6. Attach your dark grey fleece interior fabric to the top off your gate. Try to place your seam fairly close to your top decorative stitch.

7. Using your new formed circle of fabric, trim up your foam so that it fits together snuggly, end to end. If you have an electric bread cutting knife, that will cut your foam very neat and easy. If you don't have one... don't sweat the small irregularities in your end... it will all be covered with fabric anyway. :)

8. Heat up your glue gun, and glue the ends of your foam together. (You don't need to take your foam out of your gate-circle, and that will help you out by helping hold those two ends together for you!)

9. Pin down your gate fabric to your foam circle. Pin the outside fabric up from the bottom into the foam. Pin the interior fabric at a downward angle on the inside in the bottom inch.

10. Glue the outside fabric in small sections to the bottom of the foam circle, pulling out a small

section of pins, then gluing down the fabric, and smoothing it out. Focus should be on gluing the outer edge down and in about a half an inch. Do not worry about any remaining edge, as that will get covered over with the bottom piece.

11. Glue down the inner fabric piece to the bottom of the inside of the foam circle. Pull out a small section of pins, smooth your fleece fabric down from the top edge so that it lays flat and then glue down. Continue around until the whole circle is finished.

12. Using your gate circle as a guide, trim your bottom foam to fit snuggly inside your gate-circle.
13. Attach your blue "wormhole" fleece fabric to your bottom base circle of foam by the sides of the foam circle.

14. Fit your wormhole base into your gate ring, and trim any blue fleece edges if you need to. Set aside, while you work on your chevrons.

15. Cut your Chevron pieces.

16. Sew together each of your two chevron pieces, right side to right side on both angled sides and the short end. Turn them right side out so that you have 3 larger grey chevron pockets and 3 smaller colored (orange or blue) smaller pockets.

Illustration 2: This photo was taken before I fastened down my sidewall fabric, so it shows a bit rumpled. But as you can see... tie-dye blue does look a bit like a watery wormhole.

17. Attach the colored chevron pockets to the grey pockets. (Either by machine or by glue) On a nine symbol gate, that meant my chevrons were between every third symbol. The open tail end of the chevron should overlap onto the bottom of the bed. The longest part of the tail, tuck into the "seam" between the base-wormhole and the gate-sidewall.
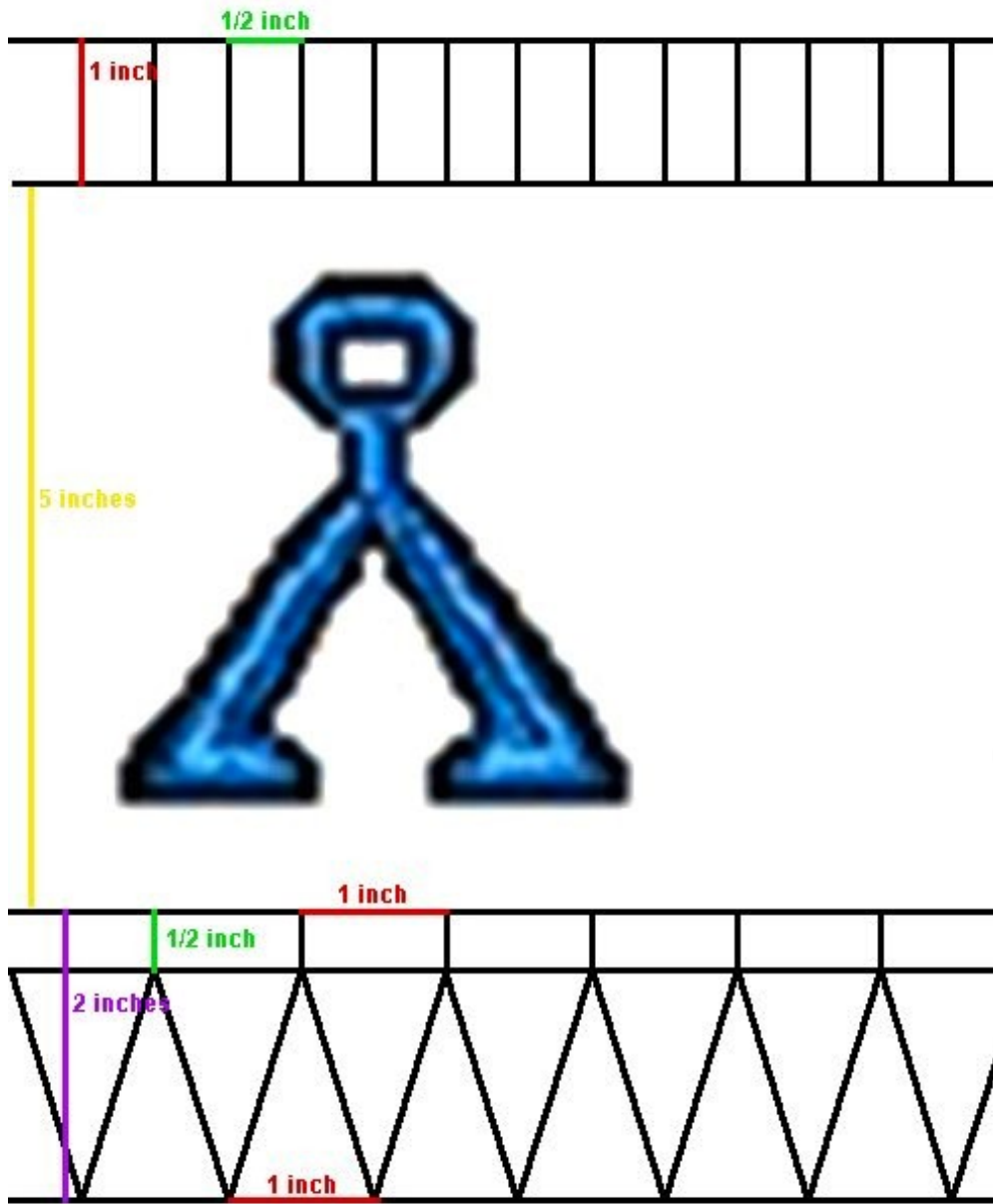
18. Spot glue the base-wormhole to the gate-sidewall several times for added stability.

19. Using your gate-bed as a pattern, trace out the base on the bottom canvas.

20. Attach the canvas to the bottom of the bed. I recommend using both glue and some hand stitching to make it look the most finished. – This bottom part keeps your animal from clawing through to the foam and will extend the life of your bed.

21. Add Cat. - Some cats may prefer to complete this step independently. Wormholes to the Caterverse are extremely stable and once established will not close unless there is Catastrophic failure of your gate. In the case of such a major Catastrophe, you may need to take your Cat to a Veterinary professional for de-wormholing.
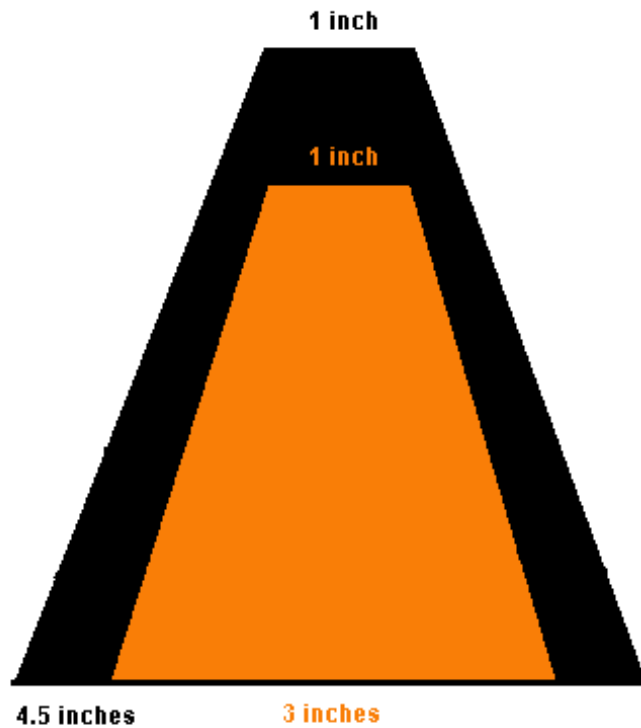
Patterns:

Pay special attention to the measurements so that your gate will scale correctly!

For the Chevrons, add ¼ inch seam allowance to all sides. For each chevron that you add to your gate you need to cut two larger dark chevron pieces, and two smaller "light" color pieces.

1 inch

1 inch

4.5 inches   3 inches

Notes:
Additional images are available at the SGC Gallery (StarGate for Cats):
https://picasaweb.google.com/116308319958628938881/StargateForCats

These directions are provided for private use only.

If you do make your own Stargate Cat Bed, please let me know on my blog:
http://misscarlotta.wordpress.com/