

## Flight of the Phoenix

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Keywords: design, mythology, LED



Figure 1: Front view of Flight of the Phoenix (left); LED lights and cross-stitching (right)

My design concept developed from Greek mythology and cross-stitching. I have always loved doing and making things with my hands so I chose to hand stitch the phoenix bird on the bodice. My other passion is technology, so I added LED lights. The skirt was inspired by the many colors of the flames (Figure 1) from which a phoenix would rise.

I used draping and flat patternmaking to develop the dress with multiple fabrics. I began by creating and cross-stitching the phoenix design for the bodice, then picked yellow, red and pink LED lights sewn with conductive thread to emphasize the wings. For the variable effect of a fire's flames, I chose a range of yellows to reds in an assortment of woven and knit fabrics with different textures, such as satin, silk, cotton, and jersey knit. A base black pencil skirt was made, and then the 15 rows of pleated ruffles were attached after hem rolling each. My materials included satin, silk, cotton, jersey, and a polyester/spandex blend for a close fit in the back bodice. The mask was created with red leather and a ceramic claw that I painted for a beak. Feathers and cut up silk flowers were attached to suggest the appearance of a bird.