



Beginner's guide to **TOY MAKING**



10 easy-sew plushie toys to make at home



**INSIDE
HOW-TO
GUIDES**





CHEERFUL COMFORTS

If you fancy trying something a bit different this year, why not give some of our most loved toy making patterns a go? These projects are so fun and are guaranteed to spread joy whether you make them for yourself or a loved one! They're perfect for using up some of your leftovers too if you're looking to get through some of your fabric stash before you start browsing for new additions for the year ahead. You'll find projects from some of our favourite toy designers in here, including Jo Carter, Lucy Ward, and Anna Alicia. Enjoy!

Charlie



Put a creative twist on your family portrait this year by sewing some mini-mes in felt! This project from Louise Kelly can be found at gathered.how

CONTENTS



21



13



25



28



41



5



33

12 PROJECTS & IDEAS

- 05 TOY WORKSHOP
- 13 BUNNY
- 17 DRAGON
- 21 UNICORN
- 25 PENCILS
- 28 TIGER CUSHION
- 32 PIN-UP: ROBOTS
- 33 BUTTERFLIES
- 37 PUPPIES
- 41 FOX
- 43 PIN-UP: OWL

FROM THE MAKERS OF

Simply
Sewing
FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC



Don't miss this gorgeous collection of projects to sew for little (and not-so-little!) ones from the makers of *Simply Sewing* magazine. Packed with **patterns** for **clothes**, **gifts** and **accessories**, it'll keep you busy making for Christmas and beyond. On sale 8 September 2020 for just £11.99* with FREE UK delivery.

ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!

**ORDER ONLINE WWW.BUYSUBSCRIPTIONS.COM/SEWINGFORKIDS
OR CALL 03330 162 138, QUOTE 'SEWING FOR KIDS PRINT 1'[†]**

[†] UK calls will cost the same as other standard fixed line numbers (starting 01 or 02)

and are included as part of any inclusive or free minutes allowances (if offered by your phone tariff).

Outside of free call packages call charges from mobile phones will cost between 3p and 55p per minute. Lines are open Mon - Fri 9am-5pm.

Overseas please call +44 (0)1604 973 746. Price applies to UK orders only. EUR price £13.99, ROW price £14.99.

All prices include P&P. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery.

THE TOY WORKSHOP

Get started with our guide to the basics, from stitching toys together to stuffing and adding embroidered finishing touches!



GET STARTED WITH TOY MAKING

ADDING FACIAL FEATURES

Creating a facial expression often relies on internal stitches within the head of the toy that manipulate the features into position, these are made after the toy is assembled. These stitches can transform the finished look of the toy.

CHOOSING EYES

The main options for toy eyes are plastic safety eyes or embroidered eyes, whichever option you choose, shaping stitches can then be used to perfect their position. Much of a toy's appeal depends on its expression, so there will often be internal shaping stitches between the eyes.

PLASTIC SAFETY EYES

Plastic safety eyes are available in various sizes and are easy to use. They must be fitted following manufacturer's instructions. With plastic eyes, you need to mark on the fabric pattern pieces the position of the eyes prior to sewing as it is difficult to position them both correctly once the toy is sewn together.

EMBROIDERED EYES

Embroidered eyes are the safest eye option for a toy intended for children under the age of three. Embroidered eyes can be made by backstitching the outline of the eye and then filling it in with satin stitches, or by using a French knot. Stranded cotton is ideal for eyes as you can vary the number of strands.

WORKING THE SHAPING STITCHES

Step one If you're using the same thread



after embroidering the eyes, then take the thread back into the eye that has just been stitched and through the head and out at the other eye.

Step two When sewing shaping with the stranded cotton, the stitches must be within the eye so that they are not visible outside of it and don't alter the shape of the eye. ⁰¹

Step three If the toy has plastic eyes, use thread that coordinates with the fabric surrounding the eye for your stitching. The stitches will be worked next to the eye and should blend in with the fabric.

Step four To secure the thread before beginning the shaping, make several small stitches to anchor the thread as close to the eye on the inside as the washer behind will allow.

Step five Take the needle through the head to the inside of the other eye. ⁰²

Step six Take the thread back through the head to the first eye, making sure

that the stitch isn't so small as to pull and damage the fabric or the embroidery. ⁰³

Step seven Take the needle back through the head back to the other eye and pull lightly on the thread to draw the eyes together. The thread needs to go back and forth at least three times. ⁰⁴

Step eight Continue to pull on the thread until the eyes are in the desired position and then secure the thread with a few small stitches.

Step nine Take the needle back into the head with a small stitch and out again anywhere and snip away the excess to leave a tail of thread inside the head.

Step ten If after completing the face shaping it appears too subtle, more stitches can be added in the same way without having to remove the first set until you're happy with the finish.

Step eleven Face shaping between the corners of the mouth and the eye above are sewn following the same method.

MAKE AN EASY GLOVE PUPPET

YOU WILL NEED

- Mid-brown fleece, main body: 45x45cm (18x18in)
- Lining: 50x25cm (20x10in)
- Black nose fleece: 5x5cm (2x2in)
- Polyester toy filling
- Stranded cotton: black
- Basic sewing kit

NOTES

- Seam allowance is 5mm (¼in).
- Approximately 21cm (8¼in) tall.
- Download the templates from gathered.how/sewing-toys

CUTTING OUT

Step one Print and cut the templates.

Step two From the fleece fabric cut:

Middle face: one

Side face: one pair

Ear: two pairs

Back head: one

Body: one pair

Step three From the lining fabric cut:

Lining: one pair

Step four From the black fabric cut:

Nose: one

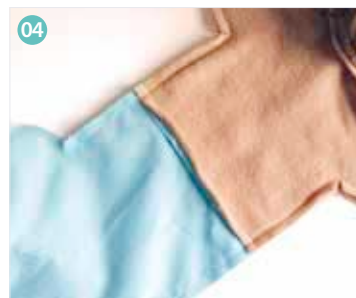
MAKING THE HEAD

Step one Sew the top of the nose to the bottom of the middle face.

Step two Take a side face and sew to the relevant side of the middle face.

Avoid sewing into the seam allowance at the bottom of the nose and instead finish 5mm (¼in) from the edge of the fabric. Repeat to attach the other side face piece to the middle face. ⁰¹

Step three Place two ear pieces RS



facing and sew around the curve. Turn RS out and tack the bottom edge closed. Repeat to make the other ear.

Step four Tack the ears to the RS of the face where marked. ⁰²

Step five Sew the back head dart.

Step six Sew the lower front of the face together below the nose. ⁰³

MAKING THE BODY

Step one Sew the bottom of the face around the top of a body piece.

Step two Sew the bottom of one lining piece to the bottom of the body.

Attach the back head and remaining lining piece to the other body piece.

Step three Line up the dart at the top of the back head with the marker at the top centre of the middle face and sew the front and back together along one side, leave the top end of the lining open. Return to the top centre point and sew the opposite side.

Step four Clip internal corners under the arms on both the lining and the body. Make clips at the internal curves around the 'neck' area on the lining. ⁰⁴

Step five Turn RS out and stuff the head. Push the lining inside the body.

ADDING THE FACIAL FEATURES

Step one Draw features using an erasable pen. Use six stranded cotton strands to backstitch a mouth.

Step two Use French knots for the eyes or backstitch small circles and then infill them using satin stitches.

Step three Sew internal shaping between the eyes to pull them in.

Step four Adjust the filling in the head.

Step five Close the opening in the lining by folding it under 1cm (¾in) to the WS and stitch.

Step six To seal the stuffing, the lining can be stab stitched to the body where it meets around the neck seam.

SEWING AND STUFFING SHAPES

CUTTING PATTERN PIECES

Cut out all of your pattern pieces accurately before beginning. Always check your pattern first to see if it includes a seam allowance. In most cases it will be included, but if not then add your own. A seam allowance of 5mm (¼in) is good for small shapes or tight curves to maintain accuracy. Whatever you choose, remember to be consistent throughout.

PINNING INTO PLACE

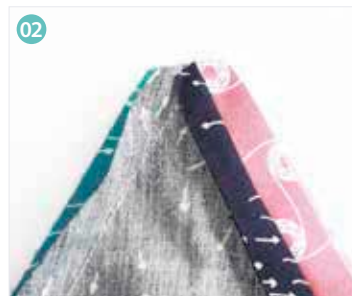
Pin each pattern piece to your fabric, making sure you follow the grainlines printed on the pattern pieces. These are arrows that indicate the print or pile direction for marking and cutting out. If a pattern doesn't have them then think about which way each piece will face when the project is sewn together. This is particularly important if you are using a patterned fabric or one with a pile such as velvet or fleece. If you can't pin the pieces in place, you can use a water-erasable pen instead. Draw around the pattern pieces onto the wrong side (WS) of the fabric. Pinning isn't possible with thicker fabrics (pins can leave a mark), so use the right method for your fabric type.

CUTTING THE FABRIC

Cut out each shape and keep the pattern pieces pinned to the fabric until you're ready to stitch, or remove them and label the fabric pieces on the WS. ⁰¹

STITCHING TOGETHER

Following the instructions given with the pattern, stitch each piece together using a consistent seam allowance. Usually, you



will need to leave a gap in one seam so you can turn your fabric pieces right sides (RS) out for stuffing. It's best to leave this gap on a straight seam. After stitching the shape together, clip the curves and snip the corners to help the seams to lie flat. ⁰²

EMBELLISHING

It's usually best to embroider or embellish your shape before you assemble it. Sometimes you will need to add these stitches after stuffing, particularly if you want to use them to sculpt and shape the piece. Stitches are worked from the RS, through the filling to define features.

TURNING OUT

Once the seams are stitched, trimmed, and pressed, you can turn your finished piece RS out. If there are any corners, push these into a neat point gently, but take care doing this as the snipped seam allowance could fray and show on the RS.

FILLING TYPES

Polyester toy filling, also called fibrefill, is the usual choice for stuffing toys. There are other filling choices, but always check the manufacturer's guidelines to see if it's baby and toddler safe.

HOW TO STUFF

If using soft toy filling, gently tease the stuffing apart before you push it into the shape so you use small pieces. Use a rounded tool to work the filling into the shape, such as the end of a small paintbrush or wooden spoon. If you are using one of the other filling types, pour it in using a funnel made from paper. ⁰³ If you're using sand or walnut shells, you will need to stuff some of the more pointed areas with fibrefill so they keep their shape. Also add a little fibrefill just under the opening to keep it all in place while you are stitching the gap closed. Slipstitch the edges of the gap closed. ⁰⁴

MORE ABOUT STUFFING

Here are some more tricks and tips you can use to make your stuffed toys and other filled shapes beautifully smooth and even.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT FABRIC

Curved edges, sharp corners, and narrow shapes can be a challenge, not only for machine sewing but for evenly padding the shape, too. Choosing the most appropriate fabric for your project is key to an even finish. A gorgeous lightweight cotton or cotton lawn is the perfect fabric for smaller shapes. Finer fabrics turn right sides out more smoothly, with little bulk, which is ideal for narrow areas and tricky corners.

MAKING YOUR FABRIC SHAPE

One of the simplest tips is to take your time at every stage, from tracing the templates and machine sewing, to finally filling with stuffing and adding the finishing touches by hand.

Use your machine's handwheel to give you greater control when it comes to machining around any tight corners and curves. You can also sink the needle and then lift the presser foot to pivot the fabric slightly before putting the presser foot back down to continue sewing.

Trimming a narrow seam allowance around the machined outline will help to reduce bulk, and cutting V-shaped notches around curved edges is essential for smooth lines. Just take care when doing this not to cut through your machine stitches!

EQUIPMENT

Turning the fabric right side out can be fiddly, so this is when you'll need a range of crafty tools to help tease out the corners and seams.

The best items we've found for turning out sewn shapes are artist's paintbrushes which have rounded, tapered handles (and will come in handy when it comes to filling your shape, too) as well as tapestry needles, which are thicker, sturdier needles with a blunt tip.

Being sure to fully support the fabric in your hand while you are carefully eking out seams and pushing narrow sections the right side out will help you to prevent pushing the seams open. If you have trimmed your seam allowances or cut additional notches into them, you'll need to be careful not to pull the seam allowance through to the front when teasing out any tricky sections. Again, working slowly is key!

FILLING YOUR DESIGN

This is the stage is when your design will really take shape. To create a really smooth finish, the stuffing should be shredded before you start – this is where the filling fibres are pulled apart prior to padding the shape and will remove any lumps. Shred the filling a little at a time, and work it into any narrow corners and sections of the design first before filling the rest of the shape, using an artist's paintbrush handle to gently push the stuffing in place. Make sure the handle is large enough so that it doesn't just pass through the stuffing.

You'll be surprised at just how much stuffing toys will take, so have plenty to hand. Test the shape's firmness as you go to achieve your desired finish.

TOP TIPS FOR STUFFING TOYS

Follow these go-to hints and tips when stuffing your toys.

- 1 The finished padded shape will end up being smaller than you think once sewn, so bear this in mind if you're designing your own.
- 2 Trim the seam allowance down around the stitched edge to help to reduce bulky seams.
- 3 Choose a straight edge or a smooth, curved side to position the turning gap. This will make it a lot simpler to slip stitch together after stuffing.
- 4 The opening for turning the fabric right side out should measure at least 5–7cm (2–3in). A small opening will definitely make the task a lot trickier than necessary.
- 5 Clipping and making V-shaped notches around any curved edges will keep them smooth.
- 6 The handles of artist's paintbrushes are ideal for encouraging corners to turn the right way out. Crochet hooks and knitting needles are also useful.
- 7 Keep the stuffing smooth by separating it before stuffing, and only using a small amount at a time.
- 8 There are lots of toy stuffing options available. Polyester is the most popular, but there are also washable, organic, and synthetic options. Some may not be suitable for babies and toddlers, so check the manufacturer's guide first.

STITCHING BY HAND

For most toy projects you will need to do some hand stitching, such as when tacking pieces together before sewing them on the machine or closing up turning gaps to finish the toy after stuffing. Test any new stitches out on a scrap piece of fabric before you start on your project.

NEEDLE AND THREAD OPTIONS

Use a sharp needle with an eye large enough so the thread goes through easily, but not too big so it slips out while you're stitching. The smaller and finer the needle the better as you'll get neater stitches and the needle will be less likely to damage your fabric as it will pierce the fabric threads rather than snagging them. A crewel needle is ideal for this.

Use a thread that matches your fabric as closely as possible so the stitches can't be seen. This doesn't apply to working tacking stitches, though – it's best to use a contrasting thread colour so it's easy to see when removing them later. A polyester thread or polycotton mix is best for most toy projects as it's stronger than pure cotton thread.

THREADING YOUR NEEDLE

There are two ways of threading your needle, depending on the stitch you're working:

Single thread: This is used for most hand stitches, especially those that you want to be invisible. Cut the thread to the length you need then thread it through the eye and knot the end if you want to start off that way.

Double thread: This is used for stitches that need to be strong and secure, such as running stitches for gathering. Cut the thread twice the length you need then fold it in half and thread the two ends through the eye of the needle. The loop that's left at the other end can then be used to slip the needle through after the first stitch has been made for a really secure knotless start.

STARTING OFF

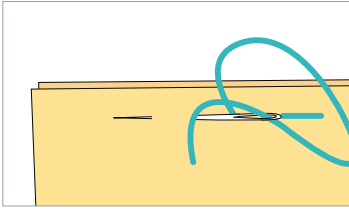
Before you begin any hand stitching, it's important to start off correctly. If you've started with a double thread then you can simply slide the needle through the loop and you're ready to stitch. You can start off by making a knot in the end of your thread, which is fine when working tacking stitches, as the thread will be removed later. For other hand stitches, remember that knots can easily come undone so this isn't a guaranteed secure

method. Working a double stitch is a tidy way to start off without using a knot. To do this, work a small straight stitch for your first stitch and then stitch over it a couple of times, keeping it as neat as possible. Slide the needle through the stitches on the wrong side for extra security.

FINISHING YOUR THREAD

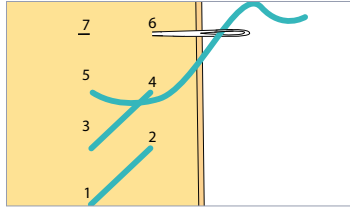
Once you've finished your stitching, you must finish off your thread securely to ensure your stitches don't then come undone. You can work a double stitch to secure the thread as at the beginning of your stitching, or simply create a knot. First take the needle through to the wrong side of the fabric. Catch a tiny thread of the fabric on the wrong side then pull the needle through it to form a small loop then thread your needle through it. Pull the needle and a small knot will be made. Work a small stitch over this to secure.





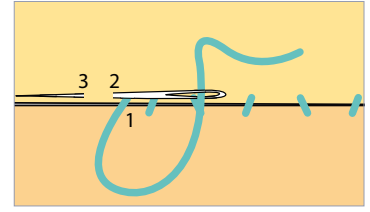
BASICTACKING

Used to temporarily hold two pieces of fabric together. Start with a knot then use a single thread to make straight stitches, evenly spaced. These stitches are easy to remove.



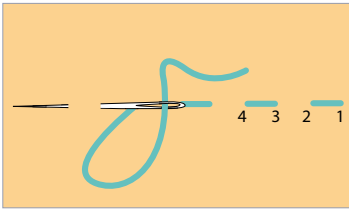
DIAGONAL TACK

Worked horizontally and parallel to form diagonal stitches. It is used to hold the fabric layers together securely, as the diagonal stitches will stop the fabric shifting.



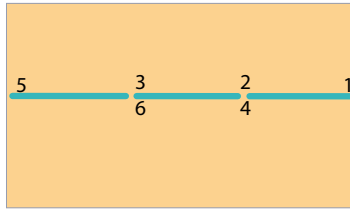
SLIP STITCH

Bring the needle up at 1 on the top fabric then back in at 2 and out at 3 on the base fabric, repeat all along. Make this stitch as small as possible so it can't be seen from the front.



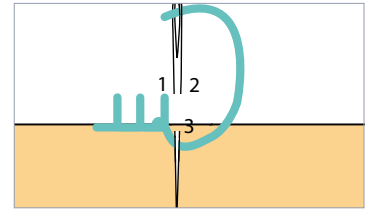
RUNNING STITCH

This stitch is similar to tacking and is used for decorating a finished project or for gathering fabric. Bring your needle up and down through the fabric to create regular stitches.



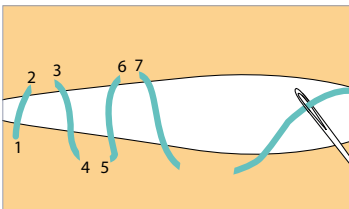
BACKSTITCH

This stitch is ideal for working any small fiddly parts of seams that you can't reach with your sewing machine. Bring the needle up at 1, down at 2, up again at 3 and so on.



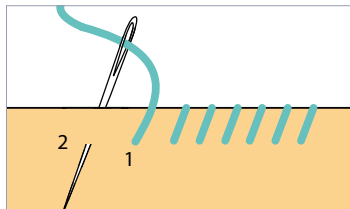
BLANKET STITCH

Bring the needle out a short distance from the edge of the fabric at 1, back in at 2 and out at 3 with the thread underneath the needle. Pull it through to form a loop.



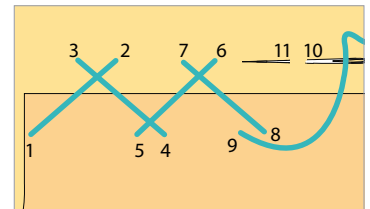
LADDER STITCH

Used to join and close two turned under edges invisibly. Bring the needle up at 1 on one side of the seam, then in at 2 on the opposite side and out at 3 and so on.



WHIP STITCH

With the fabrics right sides together, bring your needle out at 1 on the front of the fabric, over to the back then through and out at 2. Continue in this way to work small stitches.



HERRINGBONE STITCH

This stitch is perfect for hems or sewing down seam allowances. Bring the needle out at 1 on the hem, in at 2, out at 3 and so on, keeping your stitches evenly spaced.

ADDING THE EMBROIDERY

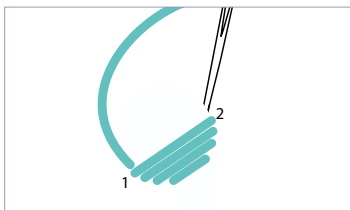
Adding embroidered features, decoration, and details to a toy will give it personality and make it truly unique. Here we take you through a few tips, techniques, and stitches you can use to add noses, eyes, and more to your toys.

GETTING STARTED

There are many different threads you can use but stranded cotton is the most common. Each length of thread has six strands so you can use different numbers of strands depending on how thick you want your stitches to be.

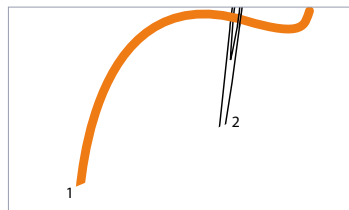
A waste knot is the simplest way to get started. Knot one end of your thread and take it down through the front of your fabric, about 2.5cm (1in) from your starting point. Bring it back up to make your first stitch. Begin stitching your design, making sure you stitch over your starting thread. Once your starting thread is secure, simply snip off the knot. To secure the thread when you've finished stitching, weave it through the back of your stitches.

The other option is to use the loop method. If you're working with two strands you can use this neat starting method. Cut a single length of thread that is double the length you want to stitch with and fold it in half to create a loop at one end. Thread your needle with the two tail ends and then bring your needle up to the front of your fabric, leaving a small loop of thread on the reverse. Make your first stitch and pass the needle through the loop on the reverse. Pull to secure the thread.



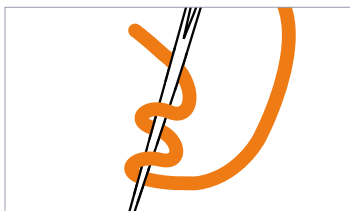
SATIN STITCH

This is a simple filling stitch and is ideal for embroidering noses or eyes. Bring the needle up at 1 on one side and then take it back down at 2 on the other side. Continue working, ensuring the stitches touch.



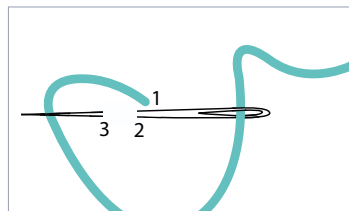
STRAIGHT STITCH

This stitch is great for toy's mouths and can be worked to any length, but take care it doesn't sag across the fabric. Bring the needle up at 1 at the start and then down again at 2 to finish.



FRENCH KNOT

Bring the thread through the fabric. Twist the needle around the thread twice. Insert the point of the needle back into the fabric. Slide the knot down the needle to the surface of the fabric.



CHAIN STITCH

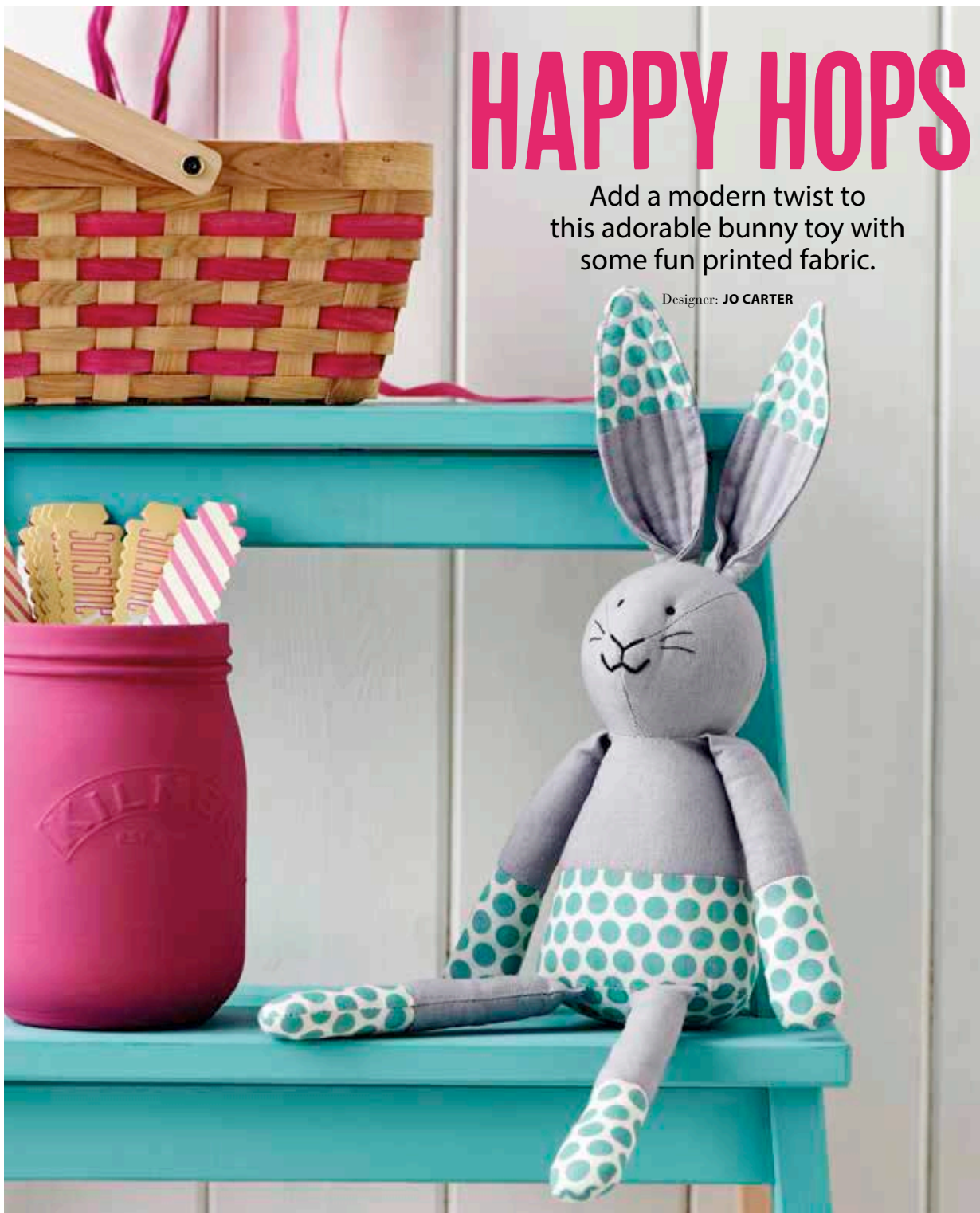
Bring the needle up at 1 then back in again at 2. Bring the needle up again at 3, making sure that the thread is lying under the needle. Pull the needle through the fabric to form a neat loop.

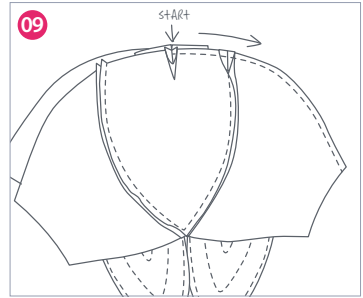
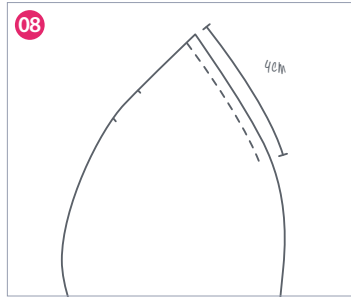
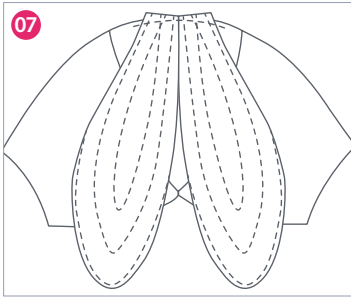
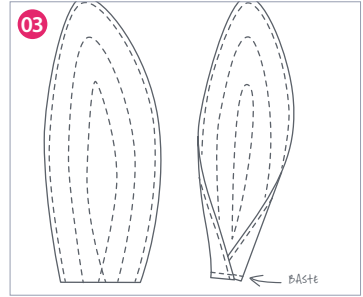
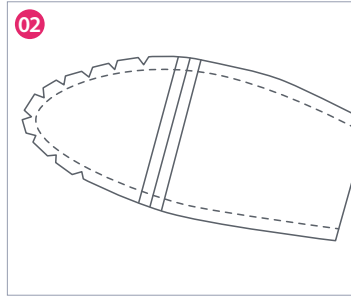
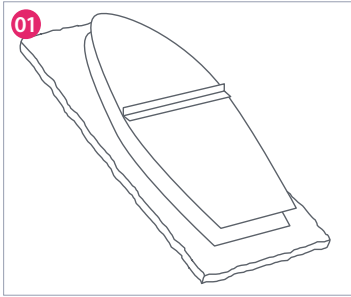


HAPPY HOPS

Add a modern twist to this adorable bunny toy with some fun printed fabric.

Designer: **JO CARTER**





YOU WILL NEED

- Fabric A (plain): 40x40cm (16x16in)
- Fabric B (print): 30x30cm (12x12in)
- Fabric C: 9x9cm (4x4in) for tail
- Stranded cotton in dark brown
- Polyester toy filling
- Thin batting: 28x16cm (11x7in)

FINISHED SIZE

- 43cm (17in) from foot to ear tip.

FABRICS USED

- Fabric A: Essex Linen in Grey, robertkaufman.com
- Fabric B: Dottie in Pool on Cream from Mod Basics, Birch Organic Fabrics, birchfabrics.com

NOTES

- Download the templates from gathered.how/sewing-toys

CUTTING OUT

Step one From fabric A cut:

- Upper body:** one
- Upper limbs:** four
- Lower front ear:** one pair
- Two back ear:** one pair
- Middle face:** one
- Side face:** one pair
- Back head:** one pair

Step two From fabric B cut:

- Lower body:** one
 - Lower limbs:** four
 - Base:** one
 - Upper front ear:** one pair
- Step three** From fabric C cut:
- Tail piece:** one

PREPARE THE EARS

Step one With right sides (RS) together, sew one upper front ear piece to one lower front ear piece along the straight edge – use the marks on each piece to match up. Place the complete front ear

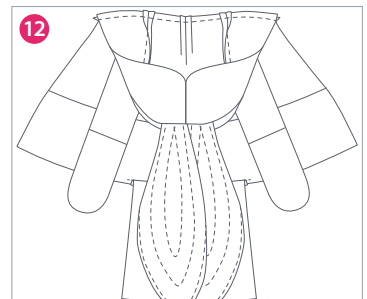
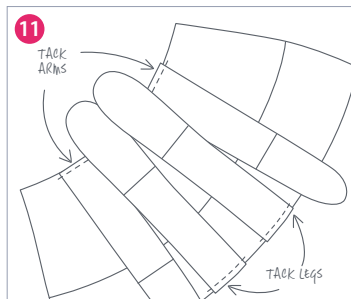
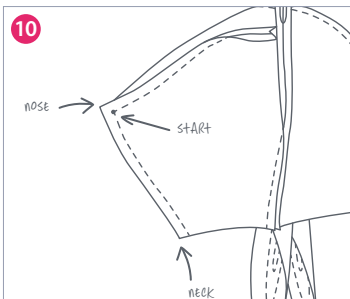
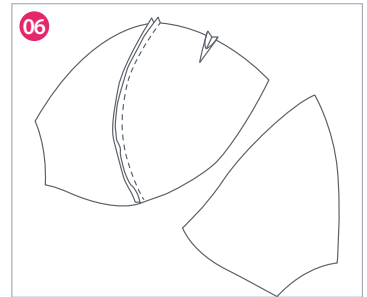
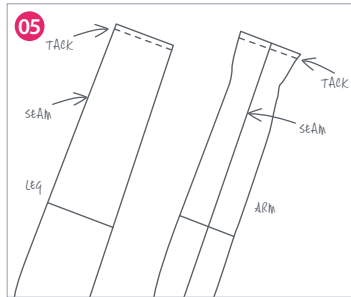
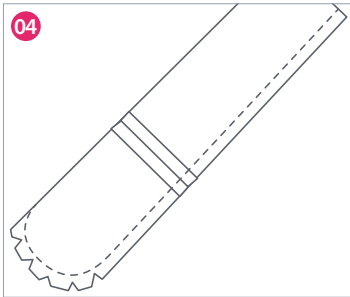
RS together with a back ear piece, and put this on top of a piece of batting – cut the batting slightly larger overall than the ear. **01**

Step two Sew around the outer edge of the ear, sandwiching all three layers together. Trim away the excess batting from around the ear and make several 'V' shaped notches in the seam allowance around the curves at the tip of the ear. **02**

Step three Turn right sides out and repeat for the other ear.

Step four With a cool iron, gently press the ears and then quilt them following the curve of the ear. Work from the outside in, using a colour that matches fabric A.

Step five Fold the sides of the ear into the centre so that they overlap slightly – position with the outer, more curved side underneath, as pictured. Tack the folds in place. **03**



PREPARE THE ARMS AND LEGS

Step one With RS together, sew a lower limb piece to an upper limb piece along the straight edge. Fold the limb lengthways with RS together. Sew along the side and around the bottom. Clip 'V' shaped notches in the seam allowance around the curve. **04**

Step two Turn RS out and stuff, leaving the top 2cm (3/4in) empty. Repeat to make three more limbs.

Step three Hand tack the top of two of the limbs closed following the original fold so the seam is at one side (these are legs).

Step four Hand tack the other two limbs closed with the seam running centrally down the limb (these are the arms). **05**

PREPARE THE FACE AND HEAD

Step one With RS together, sew closed the dart at top of the middle face piece. Sew a side face piece to one side of the

middle face, RS together, starting at the nose and sewing up to the top back of face. Repeat for the other side. **06**

Step two Tack one ear in place on the RS of the middle face, between the dart and the marker, ensuring that it is facing the correct way. Repeat for the second ear. **07**

Step three With RS together, place the two back head pieces together. Starting from the top, sew a 4cm (1 1/2in) long seam down the back, to hold together. Finger press the seam open. **08**

Step four Match the seam of the back head with the dart at the top of the middle face piece, with RS together, and pin in place. Stitch the face to the back head in two parts, starting at the top each time and working downwards to the neck. **09**

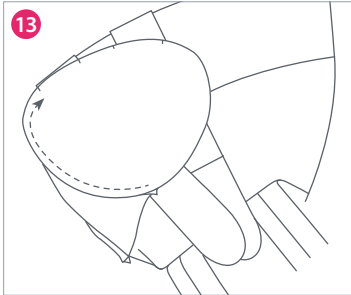
Step five Pin then sew the side face pieces together at the bottom of the face – this is the 'neck to nose' seam. **10**

ASSEMBLE THE BODY

Step one With RS together, sew the upper body to the lower body, matching up the central markers to keep the seam on course. Tack the arms in place between the markers on the upper body, ensuring that the arm seam is against the RS of the body so it is on the underside of the arm and less visible on the finished rabbit. Then tack the legs in place on the lower body, preferably with the seams facing each other. **11**

Step two With RS together and beginning at one side, sew the head to the body, ensuring that the seam in the lower face lines up with the marker on the upper body. **12**

Step three Next, we will attach the base. This is an awkward piece to attach because of the curve and the legs so we recommend that you tack it on by hand first before machine sewing it in place.



With RS together, beginning at the back of the rabbit, sew the base around the bottom of the body. **13**

Step four With the rabbit still inside out, push the ears into the front of the face and move the limbs to the front of the body and out of the way. Return now to the short seam made earlier to join the back head pieces and this time, close the back of the head entirely by continuing this seam down to the bottom of the head. Also sew the lower body piece together, leaving only the upper back of the body open. **14**

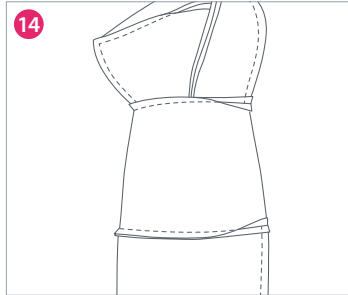
Step five Turn the rabbit RS out and stuff with polyester filling.

EMBROIDER THE FACE

Step one Using dark brown stranded cotton and following the rabbit's snout seams, stitch a nose and mouth onto the face. To reduce puckering in the fabric around the nose as it is stitched, push the stuffing tightly into the snout area from the open back of the rabbit so the fabric is nice and taut as the nose is being embroidered.

Step two Sew eyes onto the face as seen in the main image and then with a single strand of stranded cotton, sew two whiskers on either side of the nose.

Step three Stitch the back of the rabbit closed using small whipstitches. Ensure the ends are finished securely.



ADD THE TAIL

Step one Place the tail piece RS up on top of a piece of batting slightly larger overall than the tail itself.

Step two Quilt lines up and down over the tail, then stitch from side to side to form a grid.

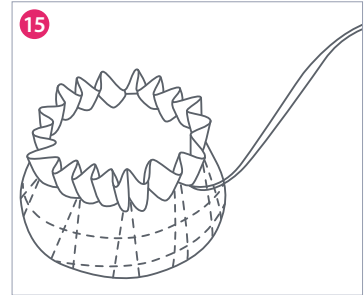
Step three Trim away the excess batting from around the tail.

Step four Sew a running stitch by hand around the outside of the tail piece, 6mm (¼in) from the edge. Pull the thread so the edges of the tail gather to form a cup shape. **15**

Step five Add filling into the centre and pull the thread more, folding the raw edges into the centre as it draws up.

Step six Draw up the tail as tight as possible, then secure the thread and sew the tail in place on the back of the rabbit, just above the base.

Step seven Stitch all around the tail so that it's held firmly in place. Secure the thread and snip the excess thread away.



TIP:

Make a fluffy pom-pom for the bunny's tail!

DRAGON TALES

Forget fire-breathing and
castle-guarding – this friendly
dragon just wants to play!

Designer: **JO CARTER**



YOU WILL NEED

- Fabric A: 50x75cm (20x30in), plush for main body
- Fabric B: 38x38cm (15x15in), plush for tummy, ear, chin, and foot
- Felt: 24x24cm (10x10in), for nostrils, claws, and spikes
- Pair of 10mm (3/8in) black plastic safety eyes
- Stranded cotton: black
- Polyester toy filling
- Matching thread
- Basic sewing kit

FABRICS USED

Fabric A: Smooth Cuddle 3 in Jade.

Fabric B: Smooth Cuddle 3 in Ivory.

From plushaddict.co.uk

FINISHED SIZE

Approx 42cm (16½in) tall.

NOTES

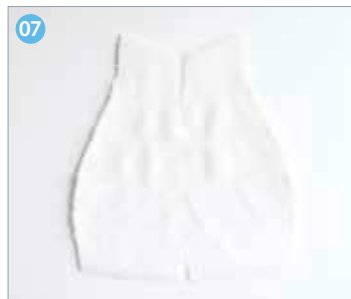
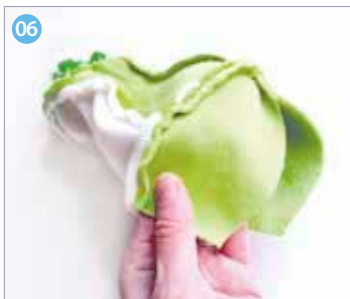
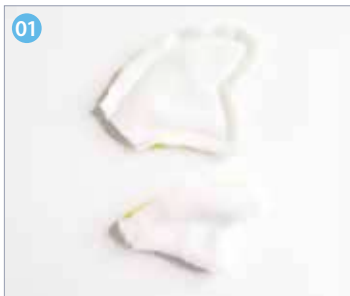
- Download the templates from gathered.how/sewing-toys
- Seam allowance is 5mm (¼in).
- The limbs, ears and wings are sewn directly into seams, sew over the joins twice to secure.

CUTTING OUT

Step one Trace and cut out all of the template pieces. The arrows indicate direction of the faux fur or pattern.

Step two When the pattern specifies to cut two or more of a template, after marking out half of the pieces required, turn the template over to mark out the remaining half so that the pieces are cut as mirror images.

Step three Using a water erasable pen or pencil draw out the pattern pieces onto the wrong side (WS) of the fabric and cut out the following from fabric A:



- Face:** two
- Ear:** two
- Back head:** two
- Back body:** two
- Arm:** four
- Leg:** two
- Wing:** four
- Base:** one
- Step four** From fabric B cut:
 - Ear:** two
 - Chin:** one
 - Tummy:** one
 - Foot:** two
 - Step five** From the felt cut:
 - Nostril:** two
 - Claws:** four
 - Upper spikes:** one
 - Lower spikes:** two

MAKING THE EARS

Step one Place one fabric A and one fabric B ear piece right sides (RS) facing and sew together, leaving the straight

edge open.

Step two Clip the seam allowance at the internal corner and turn RS out.

Step three Transfer the stitch line marking from the template onto the ear and sew along it.

Step four Tack the open edge closed.

Step five Repeat this to make the other ear in the same way. ⁰¹

MAKING THE NOSTRILS

Step one With RS together, align the triangular opening in a nostril piece with the same shaped opening on a face piece and sew together around the sides of the triangle.

Step two Clip into the seam allowance at each of the internal corners.

Step three Bring the nostril through to the wrong side (WS) of the face and bring the sides of the nostril together and sew together along the top and angled side.



Step four Sew the bottom of the opening in the face together. Repeat on the other side of the face. ⁰²

MAKING THE FACE

Step one Sew the two face pieces RS together along the top.

Step two Bring the bottom ends of the nostrils together and sew to join them with a seam allowance of 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) so that they cannot be turned out to the RS of the face. ⁰³

Step three Sew the chin to the bottom of the face with RS together, clipping the seam allowance on the face to make this easier.

Step four Close the dart in the bottom centre of the chin. ⁰⁴

ATTACHING THE EARS

Step one With the front of an ear against the RS of the face and ensuring that it is the right way up, tack in place

where marked.

Step two Repeat for the other ear. ⁰⁵

MAKING THE HEAD

Step one Place the back head pieces RS facing and sew together along the back from the top down as far as the marker for the start of the upper spikes.

Step two With RS together, line up the seam joining the back head pieces with the central seam at the top of the face and from this point sew them together along one side.

Step three Return to the top centre point again and this time sew the remaining side of the face and the head together. ⁰⁶

MAKING THE ARMS

Step one Centre a claw piece on the RS of an arm piece between the markers and tack.

Step two Place a mirror-image arm

piece RS facing on top and sew together, leaving the top end open.

Step three Stuff the arm, leaving the top 2cm ($\frac{3}{4}$ in) empty, and then tack the end closed.

Step four Repeat this to make the other arm in the same way.

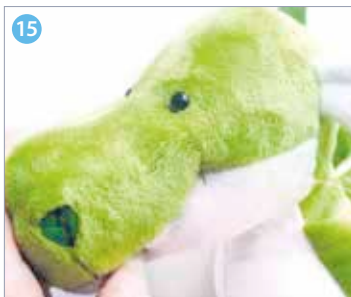
ATTACHING THE ARMS AND HEAD

Step one Transfer the stitch line markings from the template onto the wrong side (WS) of the tummy piece and stitch along them. ⁰⁷

Step two With the front of an arm against the RS of the tummy, tack in place where marked.

Step three With RS together, sew the corresponding back body piece to the side of the tummy, sandwiching the arm fully in place. Then repeat for the other side. ⁰⁸

Step four Sew the head to the top of the body with RS together. ⁰⁹



MAKING THE LEGS

Step one Centre a claw on the RS of a foot between the markers and tack in place. With RS together and starting at the back, sew the foot around the bottom of a leg. Sew the back of the leg together and turn RS out. ¹⁰

Step two Stuff the leg, leaving the top 2cm (¾in) empty, and then bring the top of the leg together so that the seam runs down the centre back of the leg and tack closed.

MAKING THE WINGS

Step one Stitch two mirror-image wing pieces RS together, leaving the straight edge open.

Step two Clip the seam allowance at the corners and turn RS out.

Step three Transfer the stitch line markings from the template and sew along them, following the direction of the fur if applicable. ¹¹

ASSEMBLING THE BODY

Step one With one wing on top of the other, position them where marked on one of the back body pieces and tack them in place.

Step two Tack the upper and lower spikes in place above and below the wings respectively.

Step three Tack the legs to the bottom of the tummy piece. ¹²

Step four With RS facing, partially sew the base to the body, starting at the back of the base and marker on one side of the back body. Stitch around and across the tummy and back onto the remaining back body for approximately 2cm (¾in) and then finishing so a turning gap will be left along the base. ¹³

Step five Make small holes for the eyes in the face pieces where marked then fit them in place according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Step six Sew the back of the dragon

together before turning RS out. ¹⁴
Step seven Stuff the dragon body.

ADDING THE DETAILS

Step one Sew some internal shaping between the eyes and mouth by bringing the needle out at the corner of the mouth, then taking the needle up through the face to the eye above, back down to the mouth again and then back up through the eye. ¹⁵

Step two Pull lightly on the thread to draw the eye and mouth together slightly. Secure the thread, take the needle back into the head and out again at any point and snip the excess. Repeat for the other side of the face.

Step three Using black stranded cotton, sew a mouth following the seam between the face and chin section. ¹⁶

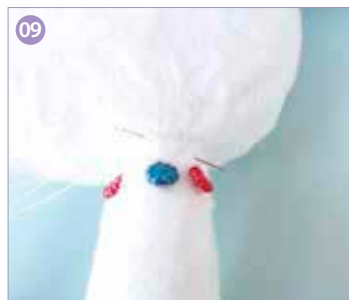
Step four Readjust any disturbed stuffing and sew the opening closed using ladder stitch.

A TOUCH OF MAGIC

This unicorn is the perfect fleecy friend for fairytale adventures!
Make yours in pretty pastels.

Designer: **LUCY WARD**





YOU WILL NEED

- White smooth cuddle fleece: 63x52cm (25x20½in)
- Pink smooth cuddle fleece: 40x 32cm (16x13in)
- Blue smooth cuddle fleece: 26x18cm (10x7in)
- Purple smooth cuddle fleece: 28x13cm (11x5in)
- Pink satin: 22x10cm (8¾x4in)
- Black and pink stranded cotton
- Polyester toy filling
- Basic sewing kit

FINISHED SIZE

- Approximately 35cm (13¾in) tall.

NOTES

- Download the templates from gathered.how/sewing-toys
- Fabric measurements are WxH.
- Cut pattern pieces so that the

stretch is on the width. The nap on the fabrics should run downwards, except for the ears and mane, which should run upwards.

- Use 6mm (¼in) seam allowances unless indicated.
- Fasten off at the beginning and end of stitching.

CUTTING OUT

Step one Print and cut out the templates.

Step two Pin the pattern pieces onto the fabric wrong side (WS) and draw around them. Cut out, then transfer markings to the fabric WS.

Step three From the white cuddle fleece, cut:

Body: one pair

Outer ears: one pair

Legs: four pairs

Step four From the pink smooth cuddle

fleece, cut:

Wings: two pairs

Inner ears: one pair

Mane scallops: two medium pairs and one large pair

Tail strip: two pairs

Step five From the blue smooth cuddle fleece, cut:

Mane scallops: two small pairs and two large pairs

Tail strip: one pair

Step six From the purple smooth cuddle fleece, cut:

Hooves: four pairs

Step seven From the pink satin, cut:

Horn: one

MAKING THE LEGS

Step one Pin a hoof to the end of a leg, with right sides (RS) facing. Pin, tack and sew. ⁰¹

Step two Trim the seam and remove the tacking stitches. Repeat for the



remaining three legs.

Step three Pin then tack each leg piece RS together and matching up the seams where the legs join the hooves. Sew, leaving the top short ends open. Remove tacking, trim the seams and turn RS out.

Step four Using a wooden stick or similar, stuff each leg firmly. Pay attention to poking the stuffing into the corners of the hooves. Leave a 1cm (½in) area unstuffed at the top and turn the raw edge under. Tack if you wish to keep the turn in place. Set the legs aside for now.

MAKING THE MANE

Step one Pin all mane scallop pairs RS together. Sew along the curved edge, leaving the straight edge open. Trim the seams and clip small notches in the curves. Turn RS out. ⁰²

Step two Arrange the mane pieces in

a line, with the smallest at the ends and the largest towards the middle. Layer them from left to right, so that each scallop overlaps the next by 1cm (½in).

Step three To attach the scallops together into one joined section, pin them together, then make a small running stitch through both layers of the fabric along the very bottom edge of each scallop. Set the piece aside. ⁰³

MAKING THE EARS

Step one Pin an outer and inner ear piece RS together and sew, leaving the short straight edge open. Trim the seams, clip the curves and turn RS out. Repeat for the other ear.

Step two Oversew the open ends of each ear to close them, then fold each ear in half inwards, vertically down the middle to form the 3D shape. Now sew a couple of hand stitches at the bottom to secure the fold and then set aside. ⁰⁴

MAKING THE WINGS

Step one Pin, tack and sew each wing piece, RS together. Trim the seams and clip notches, especially in the deep V areas. Turn RS out.

Step two Make a small horizontal running stitch through both layers of fabric, along the length of each wing, to form three 'tubes'.

Step three Place stuffing into these 'tubes', pushing firmly with the stick into the seams. Do not overstuff and leave at least 1.5cm (¾in) at the open end unstuffed, so that the wing can be sewn into the seam of the body. ⁰⁵

Step four Oversew the open ends of each wing, so that the stuffing remains in place.

MAKING THE TAIL

Step one Pin a pink tail strip RS together with a blue tail strip along the long edges. Then pin the other pink strip to

the opposite side of the blue piece. Tack and sew. Repeat to create the other side of the tail. ⁰⁶

Step two Trace the tail template onto the WS of one of the assembled strips. Pin the top strip onto the bottom strip, RS together, matching up the seams. Sew along the drawn line, leaving the short end open. Once sewn, cut out, leaving a 6mm (¼in) seam around it. ⁰⁷

Step three Trim the seams, then turn RS out. Stuff firmly. Turn under the raw edge of the tail by 1cm (½in). Set aside.

INSERTING THE EARS AND WINGS

Step one Push an ear through the slit in the body piece, taking it from the RS through to the WS. Pin and tack in place. Sew with several lines of stitching to ensure the ears are secure. ⁰⁸

Step two From the RS of the body, push the wing through the slit and pin it in place. Sew over several times to create a strong seam. Trim the excess fabric from the seam.

MAKING THE BODY AND THE MANE

Step one Insert the mane into the body between the marks, facing inwards. Pin along its length. Continue to pin around the body. Remember to leave the opening at the back for turning and stuffing. Tack the mane in place all around, checking that the mane is properly positioned in the seam.

Step two Sew, then trim all seams and clip notches into the seam before turning the body RS out.

Step three Stuff the head and body, using the stick to help. Close the gap with ladder stitch.

ATTACHING THE LEGS AND TAIL

Step one Using extra long pins, position the legs on the body. Each leg should

sit just to the side of the body's bottom centre seam. Pin all legs, to check the unicorn can stand! Ladder stitch each leg in place, sewing around twice to ensure the legs are secure. ⁰⁹

Step two Pin the tail high on the body, midway over the centre seam. Ladder stitch in place, again sewing around twice for security. ¹⁰

MAKING THE HORN

Step one Fold the Horn piece lengthwise down the centre, RS together. Pin and sew down these long side lengths. Trim the seam and turn RS out. Stuff, poking the stuffing to the tip of the horn. Leave a 1cm (¾in) gap unstuffed at the open end so that you can turn it under to hide the raw edges.

Step two Place the horn 1cm (¾in) in front of the mane and across the centre head seam. Pin in place, then ladder stitch all around. ¹¹

MAKING THE EYES AND NOSE

Step one Mark where position you would like the eyes to sit. Use four strands of black stranded cotton and sew a backstitch in a slight arc. ¹²

Step two Make three straight stitches to create eyelashes towards the back of the eye. Repeat on the other side. Ensure the eyes are level.

Step three Sew a small satin stitch into a circle for the nose, using four strands of pink stranded cotton. Mark out with pins first to check the circles on each side are level.



PENCIL PALS

Stitch up your own set of cute and cheerful colouring pencils in bright rainbow shades.

Designer: **JO CARTER**



YOU WILL NEED

- Pink solid fabric: 32x10cm (12½x4in), for the eraser
- Grey solid fabric: 21.5x4cm (8½x1½in), for the ferrule
- Bright solid fabric: 28x14cm (11x5½in), for the pencil body and lead tip
- Beige solid fabric: 18x10cm (7x4in), for the sharpened tip
- Batting: 25x20cm (10x8in)
- Fusible web: 6x5cm (2½x2in)
- Polyester toy filling
- Stranded cotton: black
- Pair of 6mm black plastic safety eyes
- Water erasable pen or pencil
- Basic sewing kit

NOTES

- Each pencil is approximately 25x25cm (10x10in).
- Seam allowance is 6mm (¼in).
- Download the templates from gathered.how/sewing-toys

CUTTING OUT

Step one Download, print, and cut out all of the pattern pieces. The templates include seam allowances where necessary and the arrows indicate the pile or print direction for marking and cutting out. The notches are used to match pieces when stitching together, so mark these too.

Step two Using a water erasable pen or pencil draw out the pattern pieces onto the wrong side (WS) of the fabric and cut out as follows.

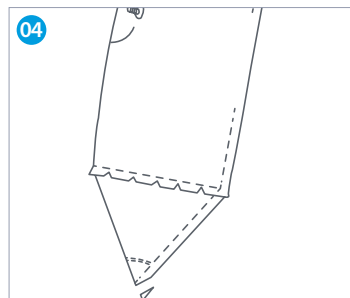
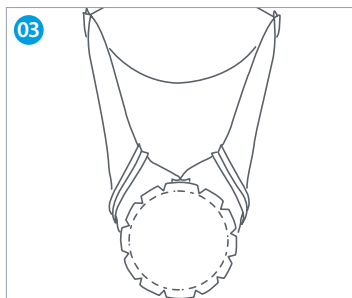
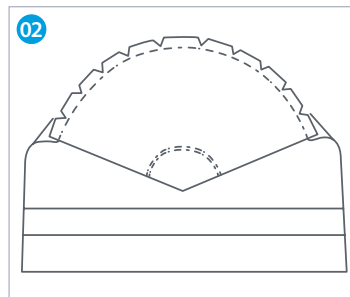
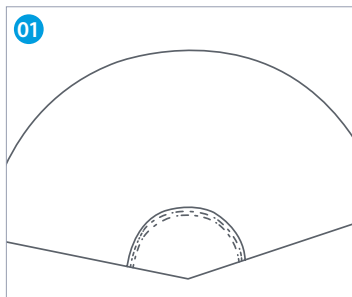
Step three From the pink fabric cut:

Eraser top: one

Eraser side: 21.5x4.5cm (8½x1¾in)

Step four From the silver grey fabric cut:

The ferrule (the metal bracelet that



holds the eraser): 21.5x4.5cm (8½x1¾in)

Step five From the bright fabric cut:

Pencil body: 21.5x14cm (8½x5½in)

Step six From the beige fabric cut:

Sharpened tip: one

MAKING THE TIP

Step one Trace the lead tip template onto the paper side of the fusible web and cut out roughly.

Step two Now carefully fuse to the WS of a remaining piece of the bright solid fabric and then cut out neatly on the drawn line.

Step three Place the sharpened tip shape right side (RS) up. Remove the backing paper from the lead tip shape and position it at the bottom of the sharpened tip. Fuse in place. Using coordinating thread, sew two lines of straight stitch around the curve of the lead tip, close to the edge. **01**

MAKING THE PENCIL BODY

Step one Join the ferrule rectangle piece to the top edge of the pencil body rectangle. Press the seam towards the ferrule.

Step two Take the batting rectangle and place the unit made in step one centrally and right side up on top. Quilt as desired. Carefully trim away any excess batting.

Step three Join the eraser side rectangle piece to the top edge of the ferrule.

EMBROIDERING THE FACE

Step one Measure the horizontal centre of the pencil body and then measure 11.5cm (4½in) up from this point from the bottom edge. Measure and mark points 1.25cm (½in) each side of this point. These are the positions for the eyes, which should be 3cm (1¼in) apart.

Step two At each eye mark, make a hole through which you can insert the eye – you'll want to keep this hole as small as possible. Then fit the two eyes in place according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Step three Mark a smiling mouth below the eyes using an erasable pen or pencil. Embroider your marked line using black stranded cotton.

ATTACHING THE TIP AND END

Step one Take the sharpened tip piece and place the curved edge RS together with the bottom edge of the pencil body. Sew these pieces together and then clip V-shaped notches into the seam allowance. **02**

Step two Take the eraser top shape and place it RS together with the top edge of the eraser side, bringing the top corners of the eraser side together to make a circle.

Step three Sew together and then clip V-shaped notches into the seam allowance. **03**

FINISHING THE PENCIL

Step one RS together, bring the side edges of the pencil together. Sew together, sewing from the tip upwards and then from the eraser downwards, leaving an opening of approximately 7.5cm (3in) in the pencil body piece. Clip the seam allowance at the lead tip to remove some of the bulk. **04**

Step two Turn the pencil RS out through the turning gap left in the pencil body.

Step three Stuff with polyester toy filling, making sure to get the filling down into the tip. Slipstitch the turning gap closed to finish.

Step four Repeat with different fabrics to make a colourful set!



TIGER TEA PARTY

Bring a party vibe to playtime with an appliqué tiger cushion complete with a pom-pom hat.

Designer: **ANNA ALICIA**





TIGER CUSHION



YOU WILL NEED

- Main fabric: 45x70cm (18x28in)
- Lining fabric: 45x70cm (18x28in)
- Appliqué fabric: 10x15cm (4x6in) in: peachy pink (ears and nose); orange (upper nose); mint green (eyes); and brown (stripes)
- Contrast fabric: 15x15cm (6x6in), for the hat
- Iron-on interfacing: 25x25cm (10x10in)
- Bias binding: 16cm (6½in) x 2.5cm (1in) width
- Pom-pom trim: 20cm (8in) x approximately 1.5cm (¾in) pom-pom width
- Black cord or yarn: 40cm (16in)
- Toy stuffing: 250g bag
- Matching thread

NOTES

Download the templates from gathered.how/sewing-toys

CUTTING OUT

- Step one** From the orange fabric cut:
- Upper nose:** one
- Step two** From the peachy pink fabric cut:
- Nose:** one
 - Inner ear:** two
- Step three** From the brown fabric cut:
- Central stripe:** two
 - Outer stripe:** four
- Step four** From the mint fabric cut:
- Eyes:** two
- Step five** From the contrast fabric cut:
- Hat:** one
- Step six** From the main fabric cut:
- Cushion front and back:** two
 - Outer ear:** four
- Step seven** From the lining fabric cut:
- Cushion lining:** two

ADDING THE APPLIQUÉ

Step one Lay the nose pieces, inner ear pieces, stripe pieces, and eye pieces

face-up on the iron-on interfacing (with shiny side of the interfacing facing up) and pin into place. ⁰¹

Step two Cut around the shapes then press to fuse – this will stop them from fraying too much around the cut edges.

Step three Pin the inner ear pieces to two of the outer ear pieces, with the wrong side (WS) of the inner ear piece facing the right side (RS) of the outer ear pieces so that the bottom edges line up.

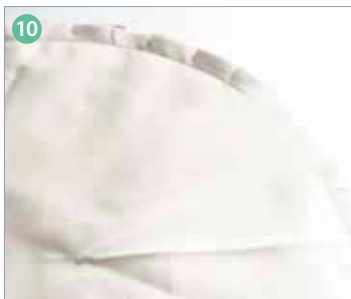
Step four Sew around the curved edge of the inner ear pieces with a wide zigzag stitch to secure. ⁰²

Step five Lay out the sewn ear piece face-up, then lay the other outer ear pieces on top, face-down.

Step six Pin then sew around the curved edges with a 1cm (¾in) seam allowance, leaving the bottom edge open. Turn the ears RS out and press. ⁰³

Step seven Fold the bottom corners of the assembled ear pieces in towards the

TIGER CUSHION



middle of the bottom edge, so they are about 1.5cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) apart. Pin the folds in place and then zigzag stitch along the bottom edge of each ear to hold the folded corners in place.

Step eight Lay one of the cushion pieces out with the point at the top. Place the appliqué pieces (apart from the ears) RS up on top, referring to the finished image for placement, and pin in place. The top of the orange nose piece should tuck about 5mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ in) underneath the bottom edge of the hat.

Step nine Fold the bias binding in half WS together so the long edges meet and shape it around the bottom edge of the hat piece. Pin in place. ⁰⁴

Step ten Sew around the edges of the nose, eyes, and stripe pieces with a wide zigzag stitch, unpinning and folding the bottom edge of the hat out of way while you sew the nose in place. ⁰⁵

Step eleven Fold the hat's edge

back down and add pom-pom trim underneath the binding.

Step twelve Sew along the binding on the hat with a wide zigzag stitch – this will hold the pom-pom trim in place and finish the edge of the hat. ⁰⁶

ADDING THE EYES AND MOUTH

Step one Use a couching stitch to sew the black cord/yarn in place to create the mouth. ⁰⁷

Step two Use a single long stitch in the cord or yarn for each of the three lashes, just above each eye. ⁰⁸

ASSEMBLING THE CUSHION

Step one Place a lining piece together with the outer face piece with WS facing. Pin the ears in place a couple of centimetres from each side of the hat, face-down and pointing inwards, with their bottom edges in line with the edge of the face panel. ⁰⁹

Step two Lay the back outer piece on the front outer piece RS together, and finally place the lining piece on top. Pin in place all the way around.

Step three Sew using a 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) seam allowance, leaving a 6cm ($2\frac{3}{8}$ in) turning gap. Snip into the seam allowance around the curved edge. ¹⁰

Step four Turn RS out and stuff the cushion with toy stuffing. Pin and then hand sew the gap closed. ¹¹

Step five Securely hand sew a pom-pom, cut from the trim, to the hat tip. ¹²

TIP:

Edit the templates slightly to make a party bear or cat!

PIN-UP



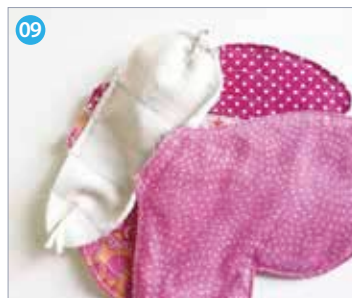
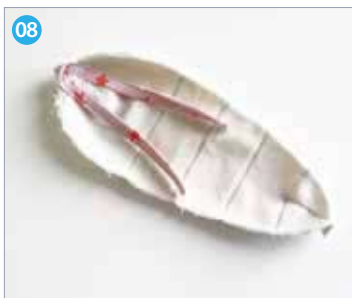
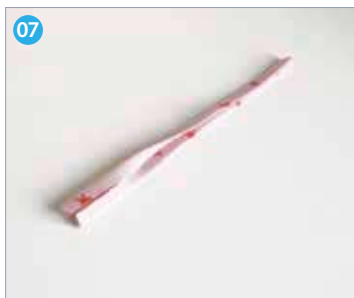
Who knew robots could be so cute? Sew a pair of robot pals with a free pattern and tutorial from Jo Carter. Search for 'Robot toy' at gathered.how

IN A FLUTTER

Grab your brightest fabrics and make some cute butterfly buddies – this is a great one for using up fabric scraps!

Designer: **JO CARTER**





YOU WILL NEED

- Plush fabric: 20x20cm (8x8in)
- Cotton print fabric A: 20x20cm (8x8in)
- Cotton print fabric B: 20x20cm (8x8in)
- Cotton print fabric C: 15x25cm (6x10in)
- Cotton print fabric D: 40x25cm (16x10in)
- Pair of 6mm black plastic safety eyes
- Wadding: two pieces 18x23cm (7x9in)
- Polyester toy filling
- Stranded cotton in black

FINISHED SIZE

Approximately 28cm (11in) wide.

NOTES

- Download the templates from gathered.how/sewing-toys

- Use a 5mm (1/4in) seam allowance throughout, unless otherwise stated.

CUTTING OUT

Step one Trace all of the template pieces onto paper and cut them out.

The templates include seam allowances, where necessary, and the arrows indicate the print direction for marking and cutting out. The notches are used to match pieces when stitching together, so mark these too.

Step two Using a water erasable pen or pencil, draw out the pattern pieces onto the wrong side (WS) of the fabric.

When the pattern specifies to cut two, after marking out half of the pieces required, the template needs to be turned over to mark out the remaining half so that the pieces are cut as mirror images. This is particularly important

with plush fabrics so the pile lies in the correct direction. Next, cut out the following pieces:

Step three From the plush fabric:

Front body: one

Back body: two

Step four From the cotton print fabric A:

Top front wing: two

Step five From the cotton print fabric B:

Middle front wing: two

Antennae: 2.5x20cm (1x8in) strip

Step six From the cotton print fabric C:

Bottom front wing: two

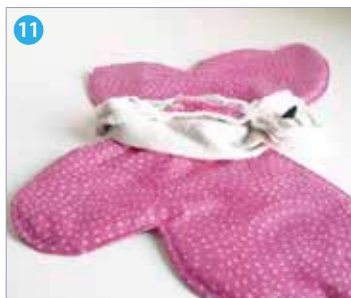
Step seven From the cotton print fabric D:

Back wing: two

ASSEMBLING THE FRONT WINGS

Step one Place one top front wing right sides (RS) facing with one middle front wing and stitch together along the straight edge.

Step two Place the corresponding



bottom front wing RS facing with the middle front wing and stitch together along the straight edge. Press the seams open.

Step three Repeat this to make the other front wing using the other three front wing pieces. ⁰¹

QUILTING THE WINGS

Step one Place one assembled front wing on top of a piece of wadding that is larger overall than the wing and quilt by stitching through both layers in your chosen pattern.

Step two Carefully trim away the excess wadding from around the sides of the wing.

Step three Repeat this to quilt the other front wing in the same way. ⁰²

ATTACHING THE BACK WINGS

Step one Stitch together a quilted front wing with a mirror-image back wing

piece RS facing, leaving the straight edge open.

Step two Clip the seam allowance at the two internal corners where the top and bottom meet the middle front wing piece, taking care to avoid any stitching. Clip V-shaped notches in the seam allowance around curves. ⁰³

Step three Turn the wing RS out then lightly press it with a warm iron and topstitch around the edge. ⁰⁴

Step four Repeat this process to make the other wing.

PREPARING THE BODY PIECES

Step one Mark horizontal lines 2.5cm (1in) apart across the WS of the front body starting at the markers and working downwards.

Step two Sew along these lines to create the appearance of segments for the body. ⁰⁵

Step three Sew the back body pieces

together RS facing along the back from the top down for 3cm (1¼in) to join the pieces. ⁰⁶

MAKING THE ANTENNAE

Step one Fold the antennae fabric strip in half lengthways with WS together and press.

Step two Open out again, then fold each long edge in to meet the central fold and press.

Step three Re-fold in half again and press along the centre so that the strip is now a quarter width of the original antennae piece. ⁰⁷

Step four Using a short stitch length, sew the strip together down the length of the open edge.

ATTACHING THE ANTENNAE

Step one With RS together, sew the dart closed at the top of the front body and then the dart at the bottom.

Step two Place the antennae piece lying horizontally with the seam side at the bottom, then fold in half, bringing the ends upwards to meet at the top (the seam should face outward on both sides) without turning either side over. Press to secure the fold.

Step three Position the folded end of the antennae on the RS of the front body at the dart at the top (the butterfly's head) and tack in place. **08**

ATTACHING THE WINGS

Step one With the front of a wing against the RS of the front body, position the open end of the wing so it overlaps the edge of the body by 5mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ in). The marker should line up with the point so that the top front wing will meet the finished body. This is the seam allowance width back from the edge of the body.

Step two Tack the wing in place, then repeat with the other wing on the other side. **09**

Step three Open the wings out and check that they line up with one another. Adjust their positions so they align if necessary.

JOINING THE BODY

Step one With RS of the pieces together, line up the dart at the top of the front body with the seam joining the back body pieces. Working from this central top point, sew the front body to the back body along one side, making sure the wing is out of the way in-between the back body pieces during sewing.

Step two As the antennae are sewn directly into the seam it is advisable to sew over the joins twice to make sure they are well secured and to reduce the likelihood of them accidentally



being pulled out.

Step three Sew the other side of the front body to the back body in the same way. **10**

Step four Make small holes in the side face pieces where the eyes are marked (the smallest holes possible) and insert the shank of an eye in each hole. Fit the eyes in place according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Step five With the body still WS out, bring the raw ends of the wings that protrude past the seam allowance inside the body and sew together with a 5mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ in) seam allowance, taking care not to catch any other fabric in the seam. This will create internal shaping which pulls the wings into the body. **11**

FINISHING OFF

Step one Turn the butterfly RS out and stuff the body using your fingers or a chopstick/knitting needle.

Step two Embroider a smile using black stranded cotton on the face. **12**

Step three Neatly hand sew the back of the body together using ladder stitch or similar.

TIP:

Turn multiple butterflies into a mobile or a garland!

PUPPY LOVE

Sew a playful pair of pups! Why not customise your plush colours to match your own furry friend?

Designer: **JO CARTER**



YOU WILL NEED

- Plush fabric, light brown: 50x75cm (20x30in)
- Plush fabric, brown: 40x40cm (16x16in)
- Plush fabric (for nose), black: 8x8cm (3½x3½in) square
- Printed cotton fabric (for collar): 25x6cm (10x3in)
- Light-/medium-weight interfacing: 25x6cm (10x3in)
- Pair of 12mm black plastic safety eyes
- Polyester toy filling
- Stranded cotton: black
- Basic sewing kit

FABRICS USED

- Smooth Cuddle 3, Beige
- Smooth Cuddle 3, Caramel
- Cuddlesoft, Black

FINISHED SIZE

- Approx 28cm (11in) from nose to back of body.

NOTES

- Download the templates from gathered.how/sewing-toys

CUTTING OUT

Step one Trace and cut out all of the template pieces. The templates include the seam allowances where necessary and the arrows indicate the print direction for marking and cutting out. The notches are used to match pieces when stitching together, so mark these too. When the pattern specifies to cut two or more of a template, after marking out half of the pieces required, the template needs to be turned over to mark out the remaining half so that the pieces are cut as mirror images.



Step two Using a water erasable pen or pencil, draw out the pattern pieces onto the wrong side (WS) of the fabric and cut out as below.

Step three From the light brown plush cut:

- Middle face:** one
- Side face:** two
- Chin:** one
- Back head:** two
- Side body:** two
- Base:** one
- Leg:** two

Step four From the brown plush cut:

- Under ear:** two. Note: it's easier to leave the diamond-shaped dart uncut as long as it is marked on the piece.

- Top ear:** two
- Body 'spot':** two
- Leg:** two
- Tail:** two

Step five From the black plush cut:

- Nose:** one

Step six From the printed cotton cut:

- Collar:** one

Step seven From the interfacing cut:

- Collar:** one

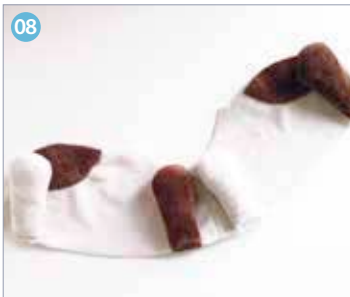
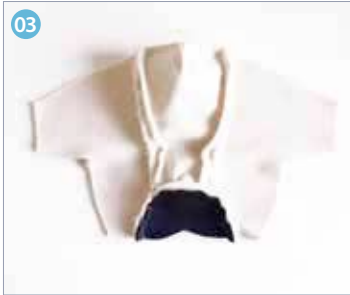
MAKING THE EARS

As the legs, ears, and tail are sewn directly into seams it is advisable to sew over the joins a couple of times. This will make sure they are well secured and reduce the likelihood of them being pulled out.

Step one With right sides (RS) together, select an under ear piece and fold the diamond shaped dart over horizontally and sew it together to shape.

Step two Place the under ear piece on top of its corresponding top ear and sew together around the sides, leaving the top end open.

Step three Turn RS out and tack the open end closed. Repeat to make the other ear. **01**



MAKING THE HEAD

Step one With RS together, close the dart in the top of the middle face.

Step two With RS together, sew a side face piece to its corresponding side of the middle face from the nose end up to the top of the head. Repeat this to attach the other side face piece in the same way. ⁰²

Step three With RS together, sew the nose around the bottom of the face. ⁰³

Step four With RS together, sew the chin piece around the bottom front of the face, pausing at the side corners with the needle down through the fabric. Lift the presser foot and clip the corner on the side face only and pivot the fabrics into position to continue sewing the rest of the chin. ⁰⁴

Step five With the underside of the ear against the RS of the face, tack the ears into position where marked. ⁰⁵

Step six Close the dart in the centre of

the chin, tapering the end. Make the smallest holes possible to allow the shank of the eye through in the side face pieces where marked. Fit the eyes in place according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Step seven Place the back head pieces RS facing and sew together from the top down along the back of the head for roughly 5cm (2in) just to join them.

Step eight With RS together, line up the dart at the top of the face with the central seam in the back head and from this top point sew the face and back head together down one side. Return to the top point and sew the remaining side together. Sewing the seam in two parts in this way is easier and helps to ensure a more even finish. ⁰⁶

MAKING THE LEGS

Step one Fold one leg over with RS facing and sew together down the side

and around the bottom, tapering the end of the seam.

Step two Turn RS out and stuff, leaving the top 2cm (¾in) empty, and tack the end closed. Repeat to make the remaining legs.

MAKING THE TAIL

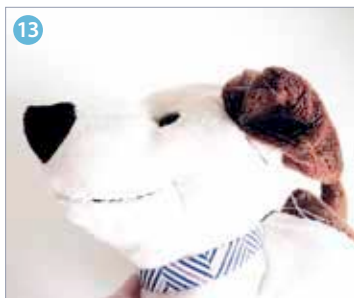
Step one Place the tail pieces RS facing then sew together, leaving the bottom end open.

Step two Clip the seam allowance at the tip of the tail and turn RS out. Lightly stuff and tack the end closed.

MAKING THE BACK SPOT

Step one With RS together, sew a back spot to its corresponding side body piece. There are markers on both the spot and the body piece to ensure you place them correctly.

Step two Repeat this to attach the other spot on the other side body piece. ⁰⁷



MAKING THE BODY

Step one Place the side body pieces RS together and sew them along the front.

Step two With the stuffed legs against the RS of the body, tack them in position, alternating the colours and with the seamed sides facing the back of the body. ⁰⁸

Step three With RS together, line up the front centre marker on the base with the front seam joining the side body pieces, and from this point sew one side of the base to one side of the body.

Step four Return to the front centre point and sew the other side of the base to the body. ⁰⁹

SEWING THE HEAD TO THE BODY

Step one With RS together, sew the head to the body, taking care to line up the seams and markers.

Step two Tack the tail to the RS of one of the back spots in-between the

markers, making sure that the tail is facing the right way. ¹⁰

Step three With RS together, sew the back of the head together fully and the back of the body so that the tail is fixed in the seam.

Step four Leave an 8cm (3in) opening in the back of the body. ¹¹

ADDING THE FEATURES

Step one Turn the dog RS out and stuff the head and part of the body.

Step two Sew some shaping though the face to give more of a smile and 'cheek' by bringing the needle out at the corner of the mouth, securing the thread with a few small stitches and then taking the needle up to the eye above and back down again. Take care not to make the shaping stitches too small as they may pull and damage the fabric to the corner of the mouth.

Step three Pull lightly on the thread to

bring the eye down a little and the mouth up, giving the face a little more character, and repeat to make sure the shaping holds.

Step four To secure the thread, take the needle back into the head and out again at any point and then snip away the excess.

Step five Repeat this to make the shaping stitches on the other side of the face.

Step six Sew shaping stitches between the eyes in the same way. ¹²

Step seven Embroider a mouth onto the face following the seam line, and a line from the centre of the mouth to the bottom of the nose, using black stranded cotton.

Step eight Sew the underside of the ears to the face to hold them in position. ¹³

MAKING THE COLLAR

Step one Press the glue side of the interfacing to the wrong side (WS) of the collar to hold it firmly in place.

Step two With WS together, fold the collar in half lengthways and press.

Step three Open the collar out and press each side in to meet the centre fold and then refold along the centre again and press.

Step four Open the collar out again and with RS together, sew the short ends together to form a circle. ¹⁴

Step five Finger press the seam open and fold the collar back up along the pressed folds.

Step six Sew the open edge together close to the edge to seal.

Step seven Fit the collar around the dog's neck, readjust the stuffing inside the dog if necessary.

Step eight Sew the opening closed using ladder stitch.



FRIENDLY FOX

Quickly sew up a cute quilted softy. This charming fox is the perfect cuddle companion for a little one!

Designer: **JO CARTER**

YOU WILL NEED

- Orange fabric: 36x46cm (14x18in)
- White fabric: 18cm (7in) square
- Batting: 56x38cm (22x15in)
- Polyester toy filling
- Stranded cotton: black
- Water erasable pen or pencil
- Basic sewing kit

FINISHED SIZE

- Approximately 23x23cm (9x9in).

NOTES

- Download the templates from gathered.how/sewing-toys
- Use a 5mm (1/4in) seam allowance.

CUTTING OUT

Step one Download, print and cut out the template pieces. Arrows on the pattern pieces indicate pattern/pile direction for marking and cutting out.

Step two Using a water erasable pen, draw around the templates onto the wrong side (WS) of the fabric and cut out as follows:

Step three From the orange fabric:

Front body: one

Back body: one pair

Upper face: one

Ear: one pair

Lower tail: one

Step four From the white fabric:

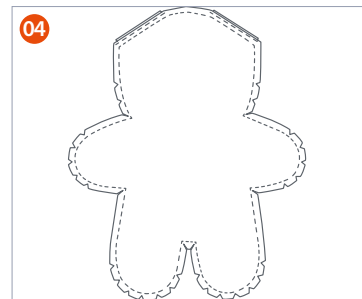
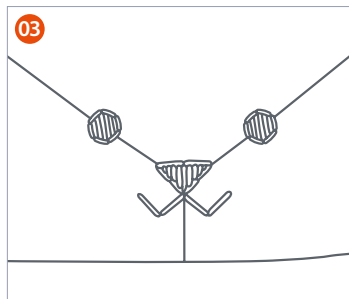
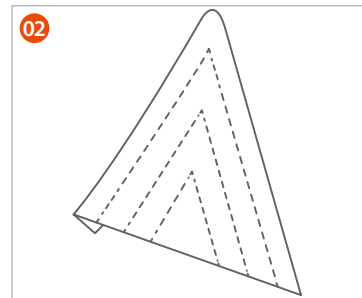
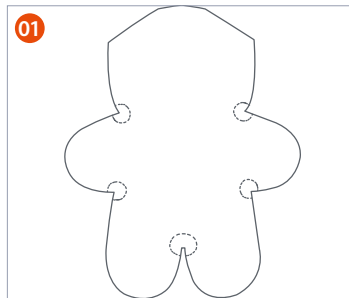
Lower face: one pair

Ear: one pair

Tail tip: one

MAKING THE FOX

Step one With right sides (RS) of the fabric facing, sew a lower face to the corresponding side of the upper face. Repeat for the other side.



Step two Sew the two lower face pieces together where they meet in the middle of the face and then finger press this seam open.

Step three Sew the face to the top of the front body RS together and press the seam open.

Step four Quilt the body pieces with straight vertical lines, avoiding the areas circled in the illustration. **01**

Step five Place an outer and inner ear RS together then place both on top of a piece of larger batting. Sew all three layers together 5mm (1/4in) in from the raw fabric edge then trim excess batting away. Clip the seam allowance at the ear tip. Repeat to make the other ear. Turn RS and quilt as desired. **02**

Step six RS together, sew the tail tip to the lower tail. Then place on a larger piece of batting and quilt as desired, clip the seam allowance at the tail tip before turning RS out.

Step seven Using an erasable pen or pencil, draw out the eyes, nose, and mouth. Embroider the facial features using black stranded cotton. **03**

CONSTRUCTING THE FOX

Step one With the white fronts of the ears against the RS of the upper face, tack the ears in place between the marker and the edge of the upper face just inside the seam allowance.

Step two Sew the back body pieces RS together with the tail sandwiched between in its position. Leave a turning gap in the upper back.

Step three Place the front body and back body RS together and sew all the way around.

Step four Clip into the internal corners and cut notches around the arm and leg curves. **04**

Step five Turn RS out, stuff, and then close the gap by hand.



Make a parliament of wise owls with a tutorial from Jo Carter! Find the free pattern by searching for 'Owl softies' at gathered.how. They're a hoot!



Simply Sewing

FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC

WWW.GATHERED.HOW/SIMPLYSEWING

[facebook.com/simplysewingmagazine](https://www.facebook.com/simplysewingmagazine) twitter.com/simplysewing_

[pinterest.com/simplysewingmag](https://www.pinterest.com/simplysewingmag) [instagram.com/simplysewingmag](https://www.instagram.com/simplysewingmag)