

Felt Gingerbread Man Ornament

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This Gingerbread Man ornament stitches in about 7 minutes and can be completed right in the 4" hoop, except for a line of stitching by hand or machine to close him up after stuffing.

He is approximately 3.6" tall when completed – the perfect size for a lightweight tree ornament.

He also comes in a pandemic version, complete with mask.

You will need

- *Two 3.5x 4.5" pieces of tan or light brown felt*
- *A small amount of polyester fiber stuffing*
- *String or narrow ribbon for hanging loop, about 6"*
- *Lightweight stabilizer or plastic bag*



Felt Gingerbread Man Instructions

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1. Hoop a single layer of very lightweight stabilizer or Glad Press N Seal in a 4x4" hoop. As an alternative, you could choose plain cling wrap, washaway stabilizer, or exhausted dryer sheets. Whichever you choose, make sure it is snug in the hoop.



You really want the lightest thing you can find to stabilize so the ornament will be pliable enough that it can be lightly stuffed when it's finished. Regular tear-away or cut-away stabilizers tend to be too heavy and stiffen it too much, so I usually go for something lighter.

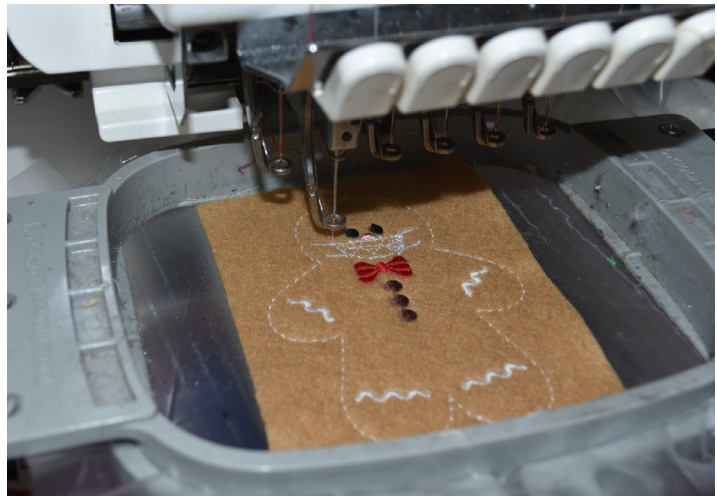


I have had very good luck with a variety of options, including exhausted dryer sheets or the plastic from clear lightweight bags, which is readily available and free. If you prefer not to use any of these substitutes, choose a lightweight tulle or organza, a light wash-away stabilizer, which tends to be more pliable than cutaway, or a lightweight interfacing that can be trimmed away after stitching is complete.

2. Lightly spray one piece of the tan felt with temporary fabric adhesive spray and center it in the hoop. (If you're using Press n Seal, you can simply press the felt against the sticky surface).



3. Place the hoop in the machine and stitch everything except the final color. Remove the hoop from the machine but do not unhoop the design.



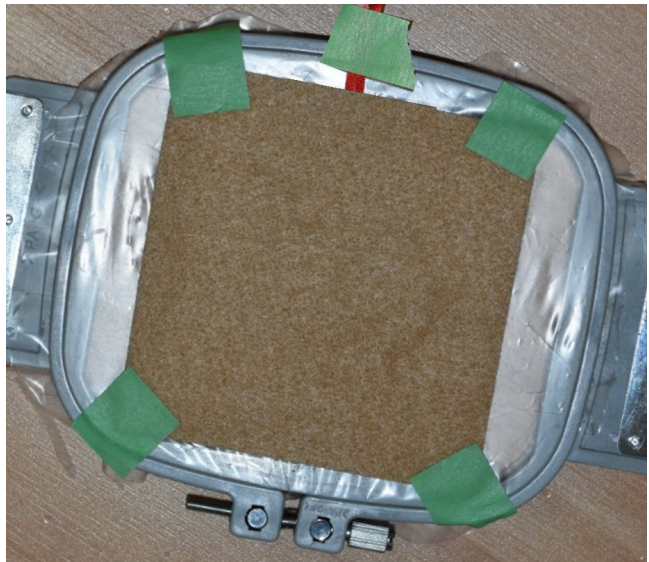
I'm stitching the masked version in the example, but the instructions are the same for both.



4. Turn the hoop face down. You will be able to clearly see the stitched design.



5. Place the remaining piece of tan felt over the back so that none of the stitching can be seen. Tape the corners with masking tape to hold it in position.



6. Change the bobbin color to light brown for the body outline. Return the hoop to the machine and stitch the final color.



7. Remove the hoop from the machine.
Unhoop the design.



8. Using sharp scissors, trim neatly around the edges of the design, just inside the outline. This will leave a border of about 1/8" around the edge of the Ginger. Leave the top of the head untrimmed for now, as shown in the photo.

Work carefully, making as smooth a cut as you can, since this will be the outer edge of your ornament.



You might find it easier to cut through one layer at a time. If so, trim the front first, then the back.

8. The next step is to stuff Ginger with just enough polyester fiber to give him shape. I use the blunt end of a chopstick as a stuffing tool.



Use small bits of polyester stuffing (about the size of a quarter). Work stuffing into the Ginger with the chopstick. Fill the lower legs, then the arms, belly, and head.



9. Cut a piece of cord or narrow ribbon about 7" long to form a hanger. When the body of the toy has been filled, tuck the ends of the cord into the top of the head before sewing it closed.



10. Because I prefer to hang my tree ornaments using a hook rather than a string, I will be using a short loop of thin wire instead of a cord.



11. With the cord or wire in position, close the top of the head with a line of stitching by hand or machine, using invisible (nylon) thread and following along the stitched guideline. A zipper foot makes it easier to see what you're doing. Operate the machine by hand as you work around the wire.



12. Finally, trim the remaining waste away, leaving a border about 1/8" around the top of the head, and taking care not to cut through the cord or damage your scissors on the wire loop.



13. Your Gingerbread Man ornament is now complete and ready to hang. He looks good with or without the mask!



NOTE: *If you like, you can add a date (year) to the back of your Ginger ornament. Turn the page to find out how.*



Optional Step to Add a Date to Your Ornament

Add an embroidered date to your ornament using the year design that's included in the file. It is positioned to stitch in the correct spot if it is loaded into your machine as it is given. You will need to stitch the date to the back felt piece before making up the ornament.

15. Hoop the lightweight stabilizer and a piece of felt as described in Steps 1-2, but instead of stitching the ornament itself, stitch just the date instead.



16. Unhoop the design and trim away the stabilizer. Set this piece aside while you stitch the front of the ornament (Steps 1-4).

17. When you get to Step #5, use the dated felt piece to make the back. Line it up carefully so that the date is centred approximately at the level of the bowtie, and tape in place.



Complete the rest of the ornament following the directions. If correctly positioned, the date will appear across the back of Ginger's shoulders.