

How to Make an Embroidered Christmas Stocking

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Embroider a Christmas stocking for someone you love! Use the template provided at the end of this document , or choose one of your own, and follow these instructions for placing the embroidery.

The attached template makes a finished stocking approximately 18" from the bottom of the hanging loop to the tip of the toe, with a top opening approximately 8" wide. This is a good size – large enough to hold lots of loot, but not so large that it's a strain for Santa to fill it.



You will need

- *Outer stocking fabric, approx. 20x22", or to fit your chosen pattern*
- *Lightweight iron-on stabilizer (optional)*
- *Lining fabric, approx. 20x22, or to fit your chosen pattern*
- *Cord for hanging loop, approx. 8"*
- *Light weight cut-away stabilizer*
- *Embroidery design(s) of your choice, in size to fit your largest hoop*
- *Printed templates of your designs*

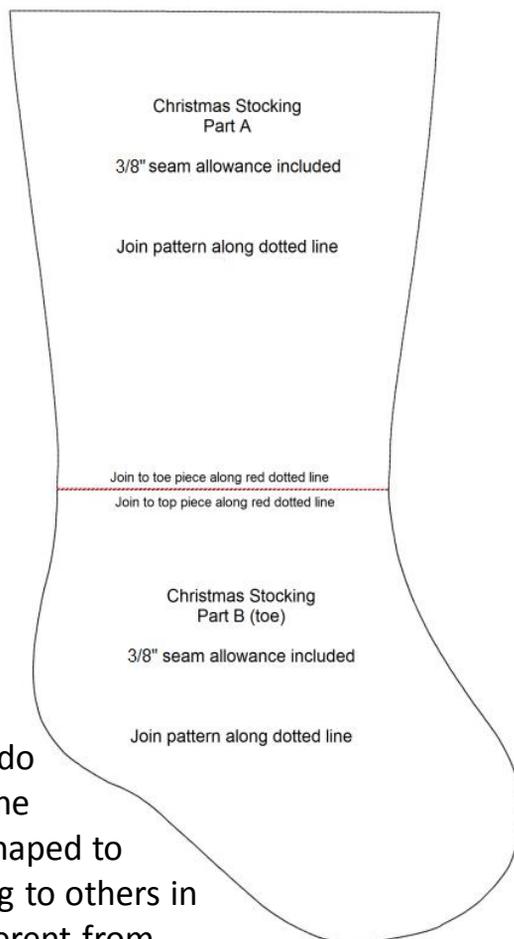
How to Make an Embroidered Christmas Stocking: Instructions

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1. Begin by printing out the stocking template given at the end of these instructions, or use one of your own choosing. If you are using the attached template, join the two pieces along the dashed line and cut out the shape.

Seam allowances of approximately 3/8" are included.

This is the pattern I use for most of the stockings I make, although I do vary the shape a bit on occasion. The sample shown in the photos was shaped to coordinate with stockings belonging to others in the baby's family, so it's a little different from this one, but the procedure for construction is the same for both.



When printing the template, be sure not to scale the image. Instead pick the "print full size" option. It will print in two pieces, which should be joined along the red dashed line. If you want a larger stocking, simply add a border around the edge to the thickness you need.

2. Cut out the paper template. (I've traced my paper pattern onto cardboard because I plan to make more stockings in the future). Trace around the cut-out pattern onto your fabric.

I generally use a medium weight fabric to make stockings. **If you are using a lighter weight fabric, you may wish to apply iron-on interfacing to the body of the stocking before proceeding with the embroidery.**



Remember to reverse the pattern to trace the back of the stocking. Cut out both front and back.

3. To help you position the embroidery on the sock front, you will need a printed image of your chosen design(s). You can print a full-sized image from your embroidery software. Here's mine.

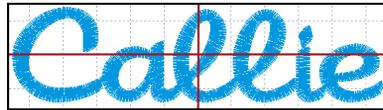
Just for the print-out, I've changed the white elements to light blue and light green so they'll show up on the white paper, and I have drawn solid crossed lines to indicate the center of the design.



4. I added the snowflakes to the design before printing the template, and I've trimmed the image close to the design.

I have also made a template of the name and cut that out as well. Note that both designs have printed crosshairs to aid me in lining them up in the hoop.

I don't have a hoop large enough to stitch both the design and the name at once, so I'll need to do two hoopings.



5. Lay the cut-outs on the stocking front and arrange them where you want the embroidery. When you're satisfied with the arrangement, pin the cut-outs in place on the stocking front .

I've placed and pinned both the fox motif and the name to the stocking front so I can be sure of the relative positioning. This way they will both sew exactly where I want them, although I'll stitch only the fox design in the first hooping.



6. Hoop lightweight cutaway stabilizer in a hoop large enough to fit the design you are stitching. (I use a 5" size design for most of my Christmas stockings, so normally use a 5x7" hoop, but since I've added the snowflakes, I need the larger hoop).



7. Lightly spray temporary adhesive on the hooped stabilizer and position the stocking front in the hoop, lining up the crosshairs on the printed template with the



registration marks on the hoop. For the sake of clarity, I have drawn yellow dashed lines on the image so you can see that the design is exactly centered in the hoop.

You may wish to further secure the fabric by pinning it to the stabilizer, as I have done. Be sure to locate the pins well out of the way of the stitching area.

8. Once you have secured the stocking front in the hoop, remove the paper template and place the hoop into the machine. Sew the first motif all the way to the end.



9. Remove the hoop from the machine and unhoop the design.

The paper print-out of the name is still pinned to the stocking front; I'll re-hoop to stitch it next.



10. I have changed to the 5x7" hoop to sew the name, and have centered the design in the hoop using the same method described above. Secure the fabric with temporary spray adhesive and pins, then remove the template. Insert the hoop in the machine and sew the name. Remove from the machine and unhoop.



11. After unhooping, trim the excess stabilizer from around the stitched designs.

If you are adding the date or a small motif to the toe, hoop the stocking one more time and add the remaining details. I've added the date and a small holly motif to the toe.

Here is the finished embroidery; the stocking can now be assembled.



The next step is to prepare the lining and the hanging loop.

12. Cut the lining from a topweight fabric; I'm using a Christmas holly print on percale.

Cut the lining a little shorter than the body of the stocking, along the line indicated on the template.



13. Prepare a hanging loop. If you like, you can simply cut a hanging loop from a length of paracord or braid approximately 8-9" long. I prefer to make a loop from self-fabric, as I have done here. To do this, cut a strip of fabric approximately 2" wide, fold as shown and iron flat. Topstitch along both edges.



My finished loop is approximately ½" wide. The loop will be attached to the top of the stocking at the back seam.

Before we proceed, a note on lining and assembling the stocking

In typical construction, the stocking and lining are made up as two separate pouches, which are stitched together around the open top edge and then turned right side out through an opening in the seam of the lining. The opening is then stitched closed and the lining is tucked into the inside of the stocking. This is the simplest method for making a lined stocking, and the one used for almost all written instructions and in most youtube videos on the subject, but it isn't the method shown in the remainder of these instructions.

The typical two-pouch method with tuck-in lining leaves the lining loose inside the stocking, and because it isn't anchored in place on the inside, it will pull out when items are withdrawn during use.

The method I'm demonstrating takes an additional step to anchor the lining to the inside of the stocking, and is a little more complicated to explain.

However, with my method, which I haven't seen demonstrated elsewhere, the lining will always stay put and the stocking will hold its shape better through repeated use. This feature is important if you intend the stocking to become an heirloom, as I do.

That said, let's continue with the instructions. You may wish to read all the way through before continuing.

14. Place the stocking front and back together, right sides facing, and matching all edges. Sew a $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam from the top of the stocking down about 2", on both sides of the stocking (marked by a purple notch on the pattern piece). Repeat for the lining.



15. Stocking and lining pieces stitched for approximately 2" along each seam. I have used black thread for contrast so you can see the stitching more clearly.



16. Press the stitched seamlines open on both stocking body and lining, so that they lie flat.



17. Attach the hanging loop to the body of the stocking. Fold the loop in half and pin to the right side of the stocking, just at the upper back seamline, with all raw edges matching. The loop should extend downward toward the body of the stocking. Stitch across the base of the loop to hold it in place, then remove the pins.



18. With the stocking tube wrong side out and the lining tube right side out, slip the lining piece inside the stocking body piece. The right sides of the fabric should face each other.



19. Line up the seam lines, double checking that you've matched back seam to back seam, and front seam to front seam. Pin.



20. With lining uppermost under the needle, stitch the stocking body and lining together all the way around, using a seam allowance of approximately 3/8" and catching the hanging loop in your stitching.



21. You now have a long tube consisting of stocking and lining that's open at both ends. Open out the stocking and press the seam allowance toward the lining.



22. Topstitch along the top of the lining, catching the seam allowance in your stitching. You may find it easier to do this stitching on a free arm machine if you have one, although you can use a flatbed machine (next photo).



23. Here I'm using a flatbed machine to do the topstitching along the lining seam.

I do all my sewing on a flat bed, and unless I have a free arm machine already set up, I wouldn't bother to drag it out just for this task.



24. Once the topstitching is complete, turn the tube wrong side out. Stitch along the back seam of the stocking body from the end of the earlier stitching to a point just above the where the heel begins (marked by a purple notch on the pattern)



25. Open the stocking/lining piece flat, right sides facing, and match all edges carefully. Pin all around to hold the edges together.



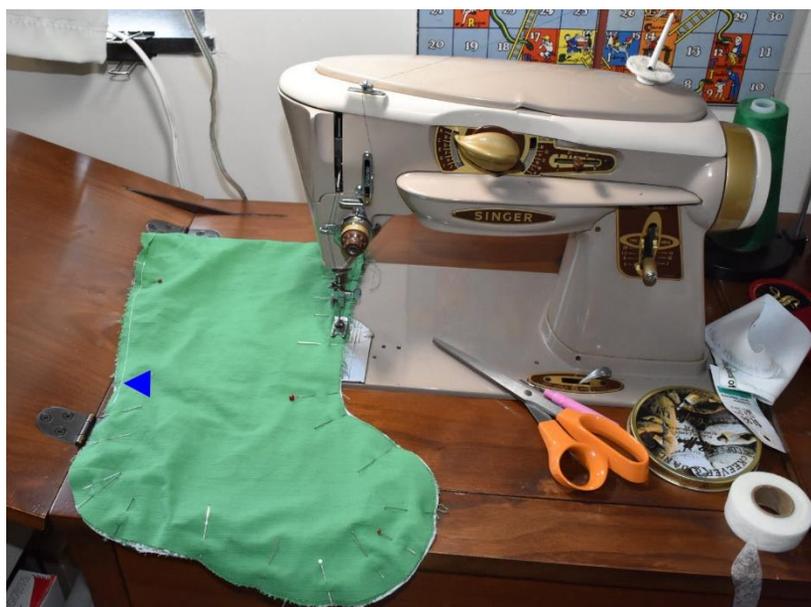
26. Fold the pinned lining toward the front of the stocking, covering the embroidery, and carefully line up the edges around the toe and heel.



27. Pin through all four layers to keep the edges aligned, removing the previous pins as you work your way around, and keeping all the edges aligned.



28. Once all four layers are securely pinned, stitch around the stocking from the 2" mark on the front seam, all around the toe and heel, to meet the previous line of stitching at approximately the point indicated by the blue arrowhead in the photo. (My vintage machine easily sews over pins, but you may wish to remove them as you sew.)



29. You can see in the photo below where the stitching ends. This procedure leaves an opening in the lining only, so that the stocking can be turned right side out. Remove all pins.



30. Pink around the outer curved edges (toe and heel) and clip into the inner curves, being careful not to cut through the stitching.



31. Locate the opening on the back seam of the lining piece. You should be able to see both right sides of the lining in the gap.

Turn the stocking through this opening, making sure that the right side of the lining is emerging. Begin with the toe and push it through the opening; gently coax the rest of the stocking through.



32. When turned, the stocking will be lining side out.



33. Neatly hand stitch the opening closed before flipping the stocking right side out.

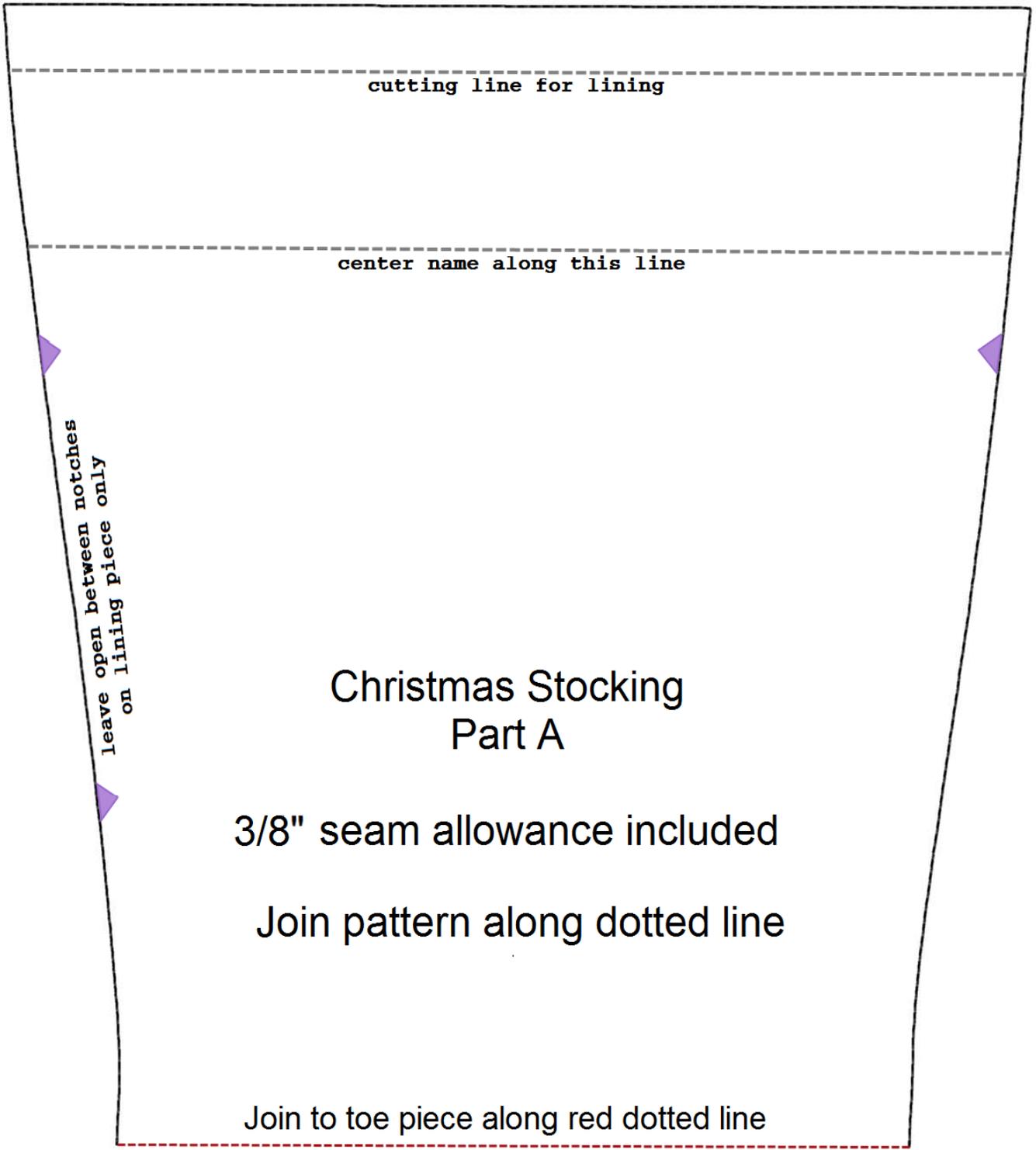


34. Turn the stocking right side out and lightly press around the edges. Avoid pressing directly on the embroidery; if you need to press the middle of the stocking, do so from the back, or use a pressing cloth.



32. The finished stocking is ready to hang. There are no raw edges, and the lining will stay put no matter how many things Santa tucks inside. See some variations of the basic stocking, all made using this method, at the end of this document following the template.





cutting line for lining

center name along this line

leave open between notches
on lining piece only

Christmas Stocking Part A

3/8" seam allowance included

Join pattern along dotted line

Join to toe piece along red dotted line



Join to top piece along red dotted line

**Christmas Stocking
Part B (toe)**

3/8" seam allowance included

Join pattern along dotted line

Variations to the Basic Stocking



A red Santa wouldn't show up very well on the red background of this stocking, so I inserted a panel of white fabric into the middle. Stitch the design on the insert first, then stitch it in place between two colored panels and assemble the stocking as per the directions.



I color-blocked the fabric before cutting out the front of this Hogwarts-themed sock, then added a black name band. The applique crest covers any imperfections in matching the blocks of color, and a modified toe shape helps balance the four colors.



A family crest (left) makes a regal looking stocking. The white cuff is ribknit, so I placed the owner's name on the toe.

Snoopy (right) shows up better on light blue than on the busy Peanuts print; I used a comic font to add the phrase below the panel.





To reproduce this vintage family design from the 1950s, I digitized a version of the chain-stitched snowman.

This appliqued crest makes a lovely feature design for a personalized stocking (right). I used family tartan on red wool for a heraldic effect, but any print appropriate to the interests or affiliations of the recipient will work.



Another color-blocked stocking in the colors of geocaching (below left).



The vintage-style snowman applique (right) is the same design used on the baby's grandfather's stocking from the 1950s. I finished it off with a white band at top.

