

Mini Applique Stocking Ornament Instructions

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The Mini Applique Stocking features a fabric front and blanket stitch border, with room to personalize with a name or motif.

I've used a plaid fabric and the Gaelic greeting "Nollaig Chreidheil" (Merry Christmas), but you can of course use any print and personalization.

The completed stocking measures approximately 3.3" x 3.9" (82x 86mm) when finished and stitches up quickly on felt in the 4x4" hoop (100x100mm).



You will need

- *One square of lightweight fabric approx. 3x4" (I have used plaid)*
- *Two 3.5x4.5" pieces of felt in a coordinating color (I have used red)*
- *Lightweight stabilizer or Glad Press & Seal wrap*
- *Tacky glue or fray-check glue for sealing the fabric edges*

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1. Hoop a single layer of very lightweight stabilizer in the 4x4" hoop. Here I have hooped exhausted fabric softener (two sheets stitched together will fit my hoop). I find it has just the right heft for the mini stockings.



If you prefer, you can also use Glad Press N Seal or even regular cling wrap. Whichever you choose, make sure it is snug in the hoop.



Note: *Not all machines will tolerate the cling wrap used in this way (for example, mine does, but my sister's doesn't).*

A lightweight organza or even tulle will also work. Don't use a heavier tear-away or cut-away, though, because these will stiffen the sock too much. It needs to be pliable enough so that a toy or tiny gift can be inserted when it's finished.

1. Select a piece of print fabric approximately 4.5x4.5" in size, and a piece of felt in a coordinating color. Spray the felt with temporary adhesive and stick it to the back of the fabric piece.



2. Center the prepared fabric/felt square on the hooped stabilizer. If you are using Press N Seal, you can simply press the felt against the sticky surface. If you are using another stabilizer, lightly spray with temporary adhesive and press it into position.



3. Place the hoop in the machine and stitch all but the final color. If you are adding personalization, as I did here, do it now. Then pause the machine and remove the hoop.



Do not unhoop the design.

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



5. Lay the second piece of felt and over the back of the hoop so that it completely covers the stitching. Tape it in position with masking tape at the corners. Don't use spray adhesive for this step.



6. Change the bobbin thread to an appropriate contrasting color for the final line of stitching. I am using red thread for the blanket stitch outline.



7. Once the bobbin has been changed, carefully replace the hoop in the machine and stitch the final color, an outline stitch that leaves the top of the sock open. When the final color has stitched, take the hoop from the machine and unhoop the design.



8. With sharp scissors, trim around the edges of the design, leaving a border of about ¼". The felt, fabric, and stabilizer are all trimmed away in this step. You may find it easier to cut one layer at a time, trimming the front first and then the back.



10. To reduce the likelihood of the fabric fraying, trim around the outer edge of the stocking using pinking shears. Cut as carefully as you can, as this will be the outside edge of the stocking.



10. Using a stylus or just the point of a small scissors, poke a hole through the stitched eyelet to take a hanging string or hook.

Place a mini toy inside the stocking. The little Scottie Dog is a perfect choice to go with this plaid stocking with its Scots Gaelic greeting.



A Gallery of Mini Stocking Ornaments

Top row: A geocaching stocking in a friend's favorite color and a sports team logo personalized for the recipient.

Middle row: A tartan sock made by fusing a fabric scrap to the front felt piece before starting to stitch, and a stocking with plain front that has been decorated with sequins.

Bottom row: The personalized plaid and vintage snowman socks are small-scale replicas of the real stockings that my sisters had when they were children.

Below: Harry's Griffindor stocking contains an owl toy.

