

Mini Elf Christmas Stocking Ornament Instructions

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The felt Mini Stocking Ornament completed stocking makes a great gift or memento for the tree. Although this sock isn't large enough for a gift card, you can insert a tiny toy, cash, or a small gift. It measures approximately 3.35" x 3.9" (82x 86mm) when finished and stitches up quickly on felt in the 4x4" hoop (100x100mm).



You will need

- Two 4.5" squares of felt in a color of your choice (I have used red)
- Lightweight stabilizer or Glad Press & Seal wrap
- String or a hook for hanging
- A small sparkle pom-pom, about $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter
- A miniature toy or gift to tuck inside; the design comes with a mini toy of your choice

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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 colored felt approximately 4.5x4.5" in size and center it in the hoop. If you are using Press N Seal, you can simply press the felt against the sticky surface. If you are using a lightweight stabilizer, lightly spray the felt piece with temporary adhesive and press it into position.



2. Place the hoop in the machine and stitch the design front on the felt, up to but not including the final color (the decorative stocking border). If you are personalizing the stocking with a name and/or date, stitch those now.



3. Remove the hoop from the machine, but do not unhoop the design. Your sock should look similar to the picture, excluding any personalization you may have added.



5. Turn the hoop face down. Take a second piece of felt and lay it on the back of the hoop so that it completely covers the stitching. Tape the corners down using masking tape.



6. Change the bobbin thread to an appropriate color for the final line of stitching. I am using yellow-gold to coordinate with the color of my sock, but you will want to select the thread color to match the sock you are stitching.



7. Once the bobbin has been changed, carefully replace the hoop in the machine and stitch the final color, which secures the back of the sock to the front and 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. The felt, fabric, and stabilizer are all trimmed away in this step.

Cut just inside the outer line of stitching, leaving a narrow border of felt around the decorative stitching. You may find it easier to cut one layer at a time, trimming the front first and then the back.

Cut as carefully as you can, as this will be the outside edge of the stocking.



9. Using a skewer or stylus, or just the point of a small scissors, poke a hole through the stitched eyelet for a hook or a string.



10. To finish, attach a small sparkle pompon to the point of the toe. If you like, you can stitch it in position, but I have used tacky glue to attach the pompon. Set the sock aside to allow the glue to set before hanging it.



11. The finished stocking ornament, ready to hang on the tree. You can tuck in a tiny toy or other small gift.



The tiny toys on the site are sized for these stockings. The Tiny Elf toy just fits.

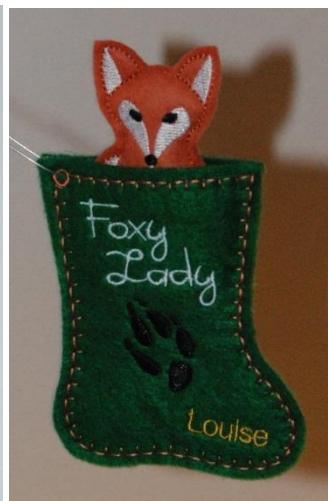
A Gallery of Mini Stocking Ornaments

Top row: A geocaching stocking in a friend's favorite color and a personalized sock for a friend who loves foxes.

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: A classic version featuring Santa's belt.



How to add personalizations

If you are making the stockings for gifts, you may wish to personalize them with name and date, or even add a small motif. If you are using embroidery software, this is a relatively easy process: simply open the design file in your software and, using one of the installed alphabets, spell out the name or slogan you need and size it to fit the stocking. Separate the various stitch objects in the design, and insert the name in the queue ahead of the final stitch color. Save your design with a new name, and stitch as per the instructions.

If you are adding the personalization at the machine itself, create the name or slogan as usual, sizing it to fit the stocking outline. Stitch the sock up to but not including the final stitch. Advance the machine past the end of the design to the name object and stitch that. Pause the machine and back up again to the beginning of the final color. Complete the stocking as directed above.

You can change the motif using a similar process: use your software to replace the given motif with another and place it in the queue ahead of the final line of stitching. To add it in the machine, stitch the first two colors, advance the machine past the existing motif to the new one, stitch that, then back up again to the beginning of the final color and complete the stocking as directed.