

Mini Stocking Ornament – Swirls & Stripes

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The Swirls Mini Stocking Ornament makes a great gift or memento for the tree and comes in several variations (Stars Swirl, Holly Swirl, Beach Swirl, and Hearts & Swirls).



The finished sock ornament measures approximately 3.3" x 3.9" (82x 86mm) when finished and stitches up quickly on felt in the 4x4" hoop (100x100mm). All variations stitch out in under 5 minutes each.

Although this sock isn't large enough for a gift card, you can insert a tiny toy, cash, or a small gift; the design comes with a mini toy of your choice.

For each ornament, you will need:

- Two 4.5" squares of felt in a colour of your choice (I have used white in the sample stitch-out);
- Lightweight stabilizer or featherweight interfacing;
- String or a hook for hanging
- A miniature toy or gift to tuck inside



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Instructions

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1. Hoop a single layer of very lightweight stabilizer in the 4x4" hoop. Regular cut-away tends to be too heavy for this project, so you might rather select a lightweight interfacing intended for dressmaking. Tulle or organza can also work as stabilizer for the mini stockings.



In the photos I am using exhausted fabric softener (two sheets stitched together will fit my 4x4" hoop). I find it has just the right heft for the mini stockings.

The main thing is to avoid heavier cut-away or tear-away stabilizers, because they are too stiff. The finished stocking needs to be pliable, so that a toy or tiny gift can be inserted when it's finished.

2. With temporary adhesive, lightly spray a piece of coloured felt approximately 4.5"x 4.5" in size; centre it in the hoop. (I am using white felt for the sample stitch-out).



3. Place the hoop in the machine and stitch the design front on the felt, up to but not including the final colour (the decorative stocking border). The photos show the Stars & Stripe version, but all variations are made in the same manner.



4. Remove the hoop from the machine, but do not unhoop the design. Your sock should look similar to the picture, depending on the variation you are making and colours you have selected.



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 colour for the final line of stitching. I am using blue for contrast on this white stocking, but you can select whatever colour is appropriate.



7. Once the bobbin has been changed, carefully replace the hoop in the machine and stitch the final colour, which secures the back of the stocking to the front and leaves the top of the sock open. When the final colour 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 stocking outline. 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 just the point of a small scissors, poke a tiny hole through the stitched eyelet for a hook or a string.



10. The finished stocking ornaments, 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 to fit into these stockings, and this adorable eagle just fits.



Other designs in the Swirls & Stripes series:



A Gallery of Mini Stocking Ornaments

Top row: A Canadian flag design and a Minion complete with banana.



Middle row: A stocking commemorating the iconic Canadian retailer, now sadly gone, and a Leafs version with the Stanley Cup – wishful thinking, I guess.



Bottom row: A comet stocking with a teeny Alien toy.

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

