

# Tiny Bear Toy (To Fit Mini Stocking Ornament)

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Two versions of the Tiny Bear toy are given in the file. Both versions when finished are approximately 1.7" x 3" and fit nicely into the Mini Stocking Tree Ornaments.



The first version features an embroidered snout and sews almost entirely in the hoop except for a line of machine stitching to close the toy after stuffing. The second version has a separate snout piece that is sewn on by hand after the body has been completed. He takes a little longer to finish but I like the effect better.

Instructions are included for both versions.

You will need

- Two pieces of felt in the colour of your choice, approx. 3x4.5"
- A tiny amount of polyester fiber stuffing

# Tiny Bear Toy Instructions

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1. Hoop a single layer of Glad Press N Seal or regular cling wrap in the 4x4" hoop. If you prefer, you can also use a light-weight water soluble stabilizer. Whichever you choose, make sure it is snug in the hoop.



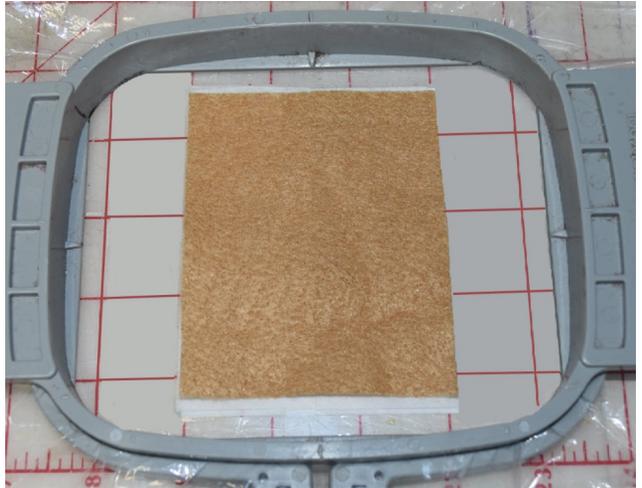
**Note:** Plastic wrap works well for this project, but if you prefer not to use it, choose a lightweight wash-away stabilizer instead.



You really want the lightest stabilizer you can find so the toy will be pliable enough that it can be stuffed when it's finished. Don't use tear-away or cut-away stabilizers, which tend to be too heavy and stiffen the toy too much. Having recently read that sturdy plastic bags can be used as stabilizer in some cases, I decided to try it for these tiny toys, and am happy to report that it worked well, at least for my machine. Although I am using Press N Seal in the photos, I now always use plastic bags for making the toys.

2. Place a piece of tan felt (or colour of your choice) approximately 3" x 4.5" against the sticky Press N Seal in the centre of the hoop, pressing to hold it in place.

If you are using cling wrap instead, you will need to lightly spray the felt with temporary adhesive before pressing it into position.



3. Place the hoop in the machine and stitch up to but not including the final color.



4. Remove the hoop from the machine but do not unhoop the design. Depending on which style you are making, your design will look like one of the two samples.



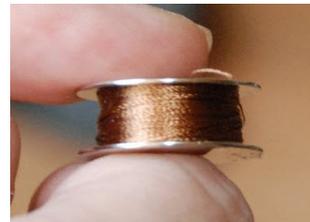
5. Turn the hoop face down. You will be able to see the stitching clearly.



6. Lay the second piece of felt over the back of the hoop so that it completely covers the stitching. Hold it in place with masking tape as shown.



7. Change the bobbin thread to an appropriate color for the final line of stitching. Return the hoop to the machine and stitch the final colour. Take the hoop from the machine and unhoop the design.



8. Gently remove the plastic from around the stitched toy. It should tear away easily from around the stitching.

If you have used tulle, organza, or lightweight wash-away instead of the Press N Seal, you can simply trim it along with the felt in the next step.



9. With small sharp scissors, trim neatly around the edges of the toy, leaving a border of about 1/8" around the stitching and leaving the segment between his ears untrimmed as shown in the picture.

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



10. The next step is to add a tiny bit of polyester stuffing to the toy, just enough to give it shape. I use the blunt end of a thin bamboo skewer as a stuffing tool for tiny toys.



11. Using tiny bits of polyester stuffing (about the size of a pea), work stuffing into the toy using the skewer. Fill each leg, then arms, then the belly, and finally the head. Use just enough stuffing to give him some shape but don't overfill him.



12. When you have finished stuffing the body, close the top of the head with a line of stitching by hand or machine, using matching thread. A straight-sew foot is helpful so you can see what you're doing.



13. When you have closed the top of top of the bear, trim the remaining waste away, leaving a border about 1/8" around the ears and top of the head.

If you are making the version with the embroidered snout, he is now finished. The remaining steps show how to finish the snout for the other version of the bear.



14. To make the separate sewn-on snout, run a gathering thread around the outer edge of the snout piece. I'm using an overedge stitch that will gather the edge smoothly.



15. Pull the thread up to begin gathering the snout. Add a teeny tiny bit of stuffing, pull the thread tight to close, and fasten off. (Both back and front of the snout are shown at right.)



15. Add a dab of tacky glue to the back of the snout piece and stick it to the front of the face just below the eyes.



17. To secure the snout in position, take a few stitches through the face and through the snout piece.



18. When finished, Tiny Teddy is super cute in either version, with or without the separate snout piece.



17. Tiny Teddy fits neatly into any of the Mini Stocking ornaments, and also looks great in nearly any colour!

