

# Tiny Beaver Toy (To Fit Mini Stocking Ornament)

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Tiny beaver stands under 3" tall when upright and can be completed right in the 4" hoop, except for a line of stitching by hand or machine to close the toy after stuffing. At full height with tail extended, he is approximately 1.8" x 4.2" tall and sews diagonally in the hoop in about 3 minutes.

He is just the right size to slip into the tiny stocking tree ornaments on my website.



You will need

- Two 4.5" squares of brown felt
- A tiny amount of polyester fiber stuffing

# Tiny Beaver 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 lightweight 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. Select a piece of medium brown felt approximately 4.5" x 4.5". Lay the felt on the sticky surface in the center of the hoop and press in place. If you are using plain plastic or plastic wrap, lightly spray the felt with temporary adhesive before placing it in position in the hoop.



3. Insert the hoop into the machine and stitch up to but not including the last colour. The beaver stitches on an angle. Remove the hoop from the machine but do not unhoop the design.



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



5. Lay a second piece of brown felt over the back of the hoop so that it covers the stitching. Hold it in place with masking tape at the four corners.



6. Change the bobbin thread to brown for the final line of stitching.

Once the bobbin has been changed, carefully return the hoop to the machine and stitch the final color.



7. When the final line of stitching is complete, remove the hoop from the machine and unhoop the design.



8. Gently remove the plastic from around the stitched toy. It should tear away easily. 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 top untrimmed between the ears, 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.



Snip between the feet and the tail to separate them, but don't snip through the body seam.

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 the body and head right to the top.



12. When the body of the toy has been filled, stitch the bottom of the toy closed by hand or machine, using matching thread.



13. Trim the excess felt away from the top of the toy, leaving about 1/8" border.

Fold the tail up toward the back of the toy and bend the feet slightly forward. He will stand on his own.



14. Tiny Beaver is just the right size to fit into the mini stocking ornaments, such as the Canadian flag stocking.

