

Tiny Candy Cane Toy (To Fit Mini Stocking Ornament)

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Tiny Candy Cane stitches up in approximately 4 minutes. It sews almost entirely in the 4x4" hoop except for a line of machine stitching to close it up after stuffing.

When finished, it stands approximately 1.8" x 3.2" and fits nicely into the Mini Stocking Tree Ornaments.



You will need

- One 3x4.5" piece of white felt*
- One 3x4.5" piece of red felt*
- A tiny amount of polyester fiber stuffing

*If you wish to make two candy canes in a single hooping, as I will be doing in the example, choose a 4.5x4.5" square of felt

Tiny Candy Cane 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 the piece of white felt against the sticky Press N Seal in the center of the hoop, pressing to hold it in place. I am using a 4.5" square because I will be stitching two Candy Canes in a single hooping.

If you are using a stabilizer other than Press n Seal, 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 last color (the final outline stitch).



4. Remove the hoop from the machine but do not unhoop the design. Turn the hoop face down. You will be able to see the stitches clearly. I'm working on two candy canes, so you can see both in the illustrations.



5. Lay the red felt piece over the back of the hoop so that it completely covers the stitching. Hold it in place with masking tape at the corners, as shown.



6. Change the bobbin thread for the final line of stitching. I'm outlining my Candy Canes with black, but you could choose red or green if you prefer.



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

Remove the hoop from the machine and unhoop the design.



8. Remove the plastic wrap. It should tear out easily.

If you are using a stabilizer other than plastic, trim it away in the next step.



9. Trim around each Candy Cane with small sharp scissors. Work carefully, making as smooth a cut as you can, since this will be the outer edge of your toy.

As you trim, leave a border of about 1/8" around the stitching. Leave the segment around the top curve of the cane untrimmed for now, as shown in the pictures.



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.



11. When you have finished stuffing, close the top of the Candy Cane with a line of stitching by hand or machine, using invisible (nylon) thread and following along the stitched guideline. A straight-sew foot is helpful so you can see what you're doing.



12. When you have closed the top of the Candy Cane, trim the remaining waste away, leaving a border about 1/8" around the top. The Candy Cane is now complete.



13. Tiny Candy Cane can be used as an embellishment on other crafts, but it's a versatile addition to any of the Mini Stocking ornaments.

