

Tiny Elf Toy (To Fit Mini Stocking Ornament)

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This Tiny Elf toy sews up in just over 5 minutes and can be completed right in the 4" hoop, except for a line of stitching by hand or machine to close him after stuffing.

He is approximately 1.5" x 3.1" tall when stitched -- just the right size to slip into the tiny stocking tree ornaments



You will need

- Two 2.5x4.5" pieces of green felt, or a colour of your choice
- One small piece (about 1.5x2") of light tan or pink felt
- A tiny amount of polyester fiber stuffing

Tiny Elf 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 green felt approximately 2.5" x 4.5" against the sticky Press N Seal in the center of the hoop, pressing to hold it in place. This will make a single Elf.

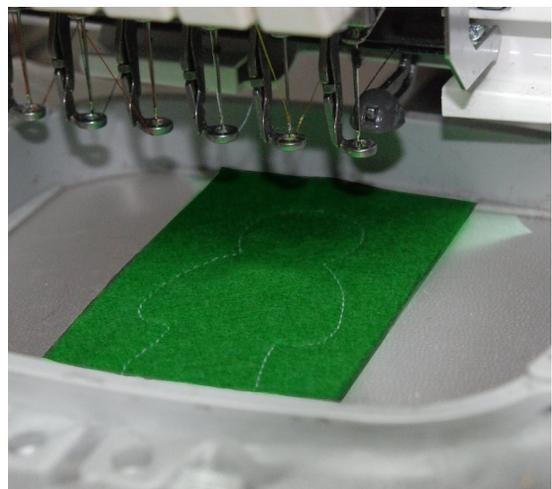


If you would like to stitch two Elf toys in a single hooping, as I am doing in the photos, use a 4.5" square of felt in the hoop as shown in the second image.



If you are using cling wrap or other lightweight stabilizer 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 the first color only. Pause the machine and remove the hoop, but do not unhoop.



4. With the hoop face up, lay a scrap of light tan or pink felt over the stitch-out so that it covers approximately the top half. It should stay in position without spray -- you will need to be able to trim it in the next step.



5. Return the hoop to the machine and stitch the next color only. Remove the hoop once more, but do not unhoop. You will be able to see the stitched outline of the face.



6. Carefully trim away the pink/ tan felt just along the chin line, leaving it untrimmed around the ears and top of the head.



7. Return the hoop to the machine and stitch up to but not including the final colour. Remove the hoop from the machine again, but do not unhoop the design.



8. Turn the hoop face down. You will be able to see the stitching clearly through the back of the plastic or Press N Seal.



9. Lay a 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.



10. Change the bobbin thread to match your felt (I'm using green), then carefully return the hoop to the machine.



11. **Stitch the final color with invisible thread on top and the green on the bottom.**



12. Unhoop the design and 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.



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



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



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



16. When you have closed the top of top of the Elf, trim the remaining waste away, leaving a border of no more than 1/8" around the ears and top of the head. You may find it helpful to trim one layer at a time.



The Tiny Elf is adorable when completed, and fits nicely into any of the Mini Stocking Ornaments from the site.



The red Elf Stocking is perfect, and has plenty of space for personalization.