

# Tiny Fox, Tiny Skunk, or Tiny Raccoon Toy (To Fit Mini Stocking Ornament)

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*The Tiny Fox, Skunk, and Raccoon are quick to make, stitching up in about 5 minutes in a 4x4" hoop. Stuff lightly and close with a line of hand or machine stitching.*

*Fox and Raccoon are approximately 1.7" x 3.1" tall when completed; Skunk measures about 1.7x2.9". They are just the right size to slip into the tiny stocking tree ornaments. The instructions show the Fox, but the Raccoon and Skunk are made in exactly the same way.*

You will need

- Two 4.5" squares of colored felt – reddish tan for the fox, grey for the raccoon, black for the skunk
- A tiny amount of polyester fiber stuffing

# Tiny Fox, Skunk, or Raccoon 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. Lay the felt on the sticky surface in the center of the hoop and press in place. (I am using reddish tan for the fox; I'll use grey for the raccoon and black for the skunk.) 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. Replace the hoop in the machine and stitch up to, but not including, the final color. Remove the hoop from the machine but do not unhoop the design.



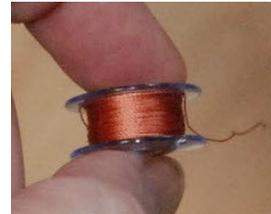
4. Turn the hoop face down. You will be able to see the stitching clearly.



5. Place a second piece of felt on the back of the hoop so that it completely covers the stitching. Use masking tape to hold the felt in position. (I am using an odd-shaped scrap that I had on hand, so it's not quite square).



6. Change the bobbin thread to an appropriate color 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. Remove the hoop from the machine. Your stitched design is complete and can be removed from the hoop for stuffing and finishing.



8. 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.



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 just above 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.



11. Using tiny bits of polyester stuffing (about the size of a pea), work stuffing into the toy using the skewer. Fill tummy and tail, working the stuffing into the entire body right to the bottom, then fill the head. Stuff lightly – don't pack too full.



11. When the body has been filled, close the toy with hand or machine sewing, along the line between the ears. You can use matching thread, but I like to use invisible thread.

After stitching, trim the excess felt away from between the ears, leaving about 1/8" border as you did for the rest of the toy.



12. I like to add additional topstitching through all layers along the top edge of the tail (for clarity, I've shown this in bright yellow on the image). I use invisible thread for this step. This is optional, but does give more definition to the toy.

Trim the excess felt away from the top of the ears, leaving no more than a 1/8" border.



13. Tiny Fox and his companions Tiny Raccoon and Tiny Skunk are just the right size to tuck into one of the mini stocking ornaments.



A teeny toy in a personalized stocking makes a terrific ornament for your Christmas tree, or a welcome hostess gift.

