

Tiny Fish Toy (To Fit Mini Stocking Ornament)

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Tiny Fish can be stitched right in the 4" hoop in about 3 minutes, except for a line of stitching by hand or machine to close him after stuffing.



He is approximately 3.4" wide x 1.9" tall when stitched -- just the right size to slip into the tiny stocking tree ornaments.

Or, if you like, add a bit of catnip when stuffing him to make a cat toy.

You will need

- Two pieces of colored felt approx. 3x4.5" (I have used golden yellow in the example)
- A tiny amount of polyester fiber stuffing

Tiny Fish Instructions

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1. Hoop a single layer of Glad Press N Seal in the 4x4" hoop with the sticky side up (toward the hoop). Make sure it's snug.

You can substitute regular cling wrap if you wish; use spray adhesive to hold the felt in position.



Note: The plastic wrap works well for this project, but not all machines will tolerate it (mine does, but my sister's doesn't).



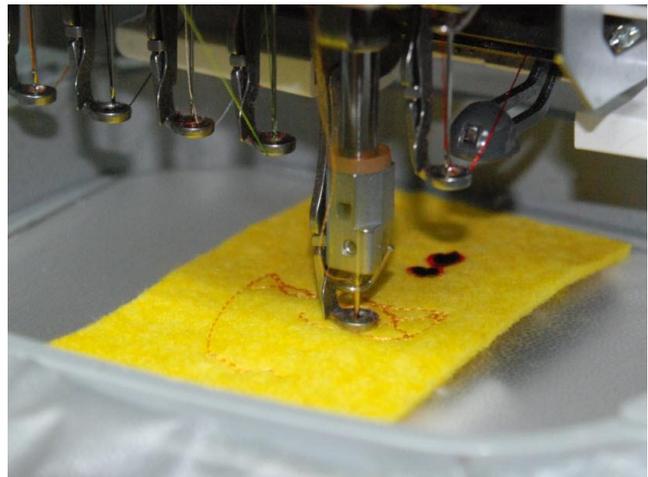
You really want the lightest thing you can find to stabilize so the toy will be pliable enough that it can be stuffed when it's finished. Don't use tear-away or cut-away stabilizers, which tend to be too heavy and stiffen the toy too much.

Having recently read that sturdy plastic bags can in some cases be used as stabilizer, I decided to try it for these tiny toys, and am happy to report that it worked well, at least for my machine. I am using Press N Seal in the photos.

2. Select a piece of colored felt approximately 3" x 4.5" in the color of your choice. Lay the felt on the sticky surface in the center of the hoop and press in place.



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



4. Remove the hoop from the machine but do not unhoop the design.



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

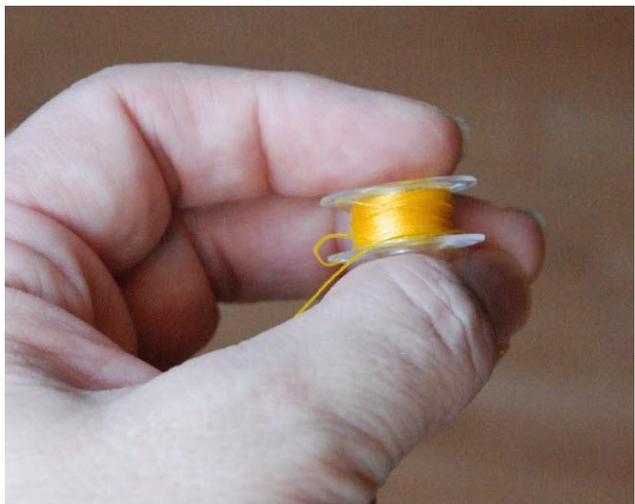


6. Lay a second piece of matching felt on the back of the hoop so that it completely covers the stitching.

Use masking tape to hold the felt in position on the back of the hoop, taping just the very edges of the felt piece.



7. Change the bobbin thread to a color to match the stitching on the front of the fish. Carefully return the hoop to the machine and stitch the final color.



8. Remove the hoop from the machine; your stitched fishy will look like the picture.

Unhoop the design.



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 fish untrimmed around the end of his tail, as shown in the photo. 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 these 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 head and lower jaw first and then the belly, leaving the tail unstuffed.



12. When the body has been filled, stitch the toy closed by hand or machine; with matching thread or invisible (nylon) thread, stitch across the body at the top of the tail, then around the entire edge of the tail.

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



12. The finished Fish is just the right size to fit easily into one of the Mini Stocking ornaments. See some examples on the next page.



The Tiny Fish looks great tucked into one of the Mini Stocking ornaments. Make him in just about any color.

