

Tiny Lion Toy (To Fit Mini Stocking Ornament)

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Tiny Lion stitches up in approximately 5 minutes. He sews almost entirely in the 4x4" hoop except for a line of machine stitching to close him up after stuffing. When finished, he stands approximately 1.6" x 3.1" and fits nicely into the Mini Stocking Tree Ornaments.



You will need

- Two 3x4.5" pieces of gold/yellow felt
- A tiny amount of polyester fiber stuffing

Tiny Lion 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. Press one of the felt pieces (approx. 3" x 4.5") against the sticky Press N Seal in the center of the hoop. 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 tan outline stitch).



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



5. Turn the hoop face down. 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.



6. Change the bobbin thread to gold/tan for the final line of stitching.



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.



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. Unhoop the design and trim around the Lion 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 bottom of the Lion 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. Using tiny bits of polyester stuffing (about the size of a pea), work stuffing into the toy using the skewer. Fill him carefully, using enough stuffing to give him some shape, but don't overfill him.



11. When you have finished stuffing the body, close the bottom of the body with a line of stitching by hand or machine, using matching thread or 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 opening, trim the remaining waste away, leaving a border about 1/8" around the bottom of the Lion's body.



11. The Lion is now complete and is just the right size to tuck into one of the Mini Stocking ornaments, such as this “G” stocking in Gryffindor colors.

