

Tiny Lobster Toy (To Fit Mini Stocking Ornament)

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Tiny Lobster can be completed right in the 4" hoop, except for a dab of tacky glue to close the toy after stuffing.



The lobster is approximately 2" wide x 3.7" tall and is just the right size to slip into the tiny stocking tree ornaments.

You will need

- Two pieces of red or orange felt approximately 3x4.5"
- A tiny amount of polyester fiber stuffing

Tiny Lobster 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.



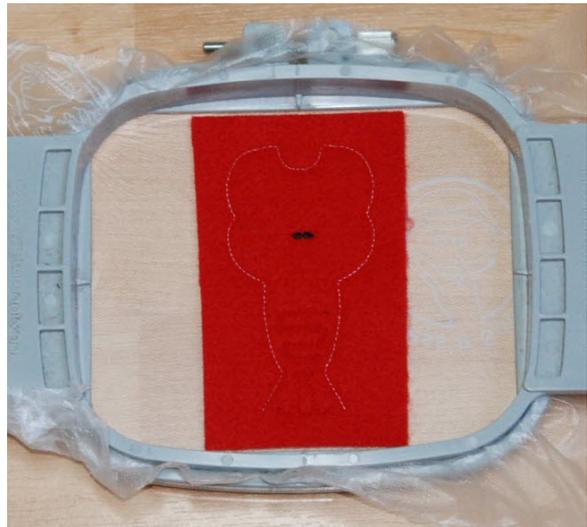
You really want the lightest stabilizer you can find so the toy will be pliable enough that it can be stuffed when it's finished. Don't use tear-away or cut-away stabilizers, which tend to be too heavy and stiffen the toy too much. Having recently read that sturdy plastic bags can be used as stabilizer 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 red or orange felt approximately 3" x 4" against the sticky Press N Seal in the center of the hoop, pressing to hold it in place.

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 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. 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.

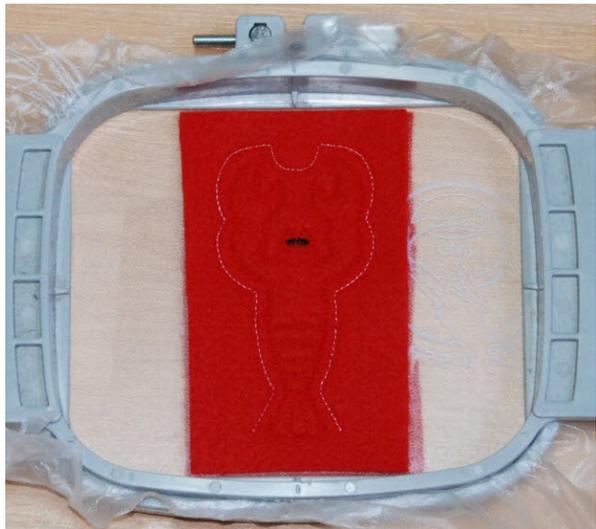


6. Change the bobbin thread to red or other appropriate color for the final line of stitching.

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, trimming off the outer line of stitching (shown here in white). You should work carefully, making as smooth a cut as you can, since this will be the outer edge of your toy. Leave a border of no more than 1/8" around the stitching.



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 tiny toys.



11. Using tiny bits of polyester stuffing (about half the size of a pea), work stuffing into the toy using the skewer. Fill each claw, then arms, then the head and belly, but **leave the tail unstuffed**. Use just enough stuffing to give him shape but don't overfill him.



12. When the body of the Lobster has been filled, add a small amount of tacky glue to the inside of the fanned tail piece.



13. Once you have added a blob of glue, pinch the tail flat just until the glue grabs and set the toy aside to dry.



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13. The finished Tiny Lobster Toy.



14. The finished Lobster looks cute tucked into any one of the mini stockings on the site.

