

Tiny Owl Toy (To Fit Mini Stocking Ornament)

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Tiny Owl is stitched right in the 4" hoop in about 12 minutes. Finish him with a line of hand or machine stitching to close him after stuffing.



When stitched, Tiny Owl measures approximately 1.6" x 3.2" (39 x 81 mm), and fits into any of the stocking ornaments on the site.

You will need

- Two 3.5x4.5" pieces of white felt, or colour of your choice
- A tiny amount of polyester fiber stuffing

Tiny Owl Toy Instructions

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1. Hoop a single layer of Glad Press N Seal or even 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: *Not all machines will tolerate the cling wrap used in this way (for example, mine does, but my sister's doesn't). If you can't use the cling wrap, choose a lightweight wash-away stabilizer instead.*



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 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'm using the Press N Seal in the photos that follow, I now always use plastic for making these tiny toys.

2. Lightly spray one of the 3.5x4.5" felt pieces lightly with temporary adhesive and press in place. If you are using Press N Seal, you can simply press the felt against the sticky surface. (I am using white felt because I am making Hedwig, but you can use whatever colour you wish).



3. Replace the hoop in the machine and stitch up to, but not including, the last 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. I have used yellow thread in the bobbin for visibility in the picture.



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



6. Change the bobbin thread to an appropriate color for the final line of stitching. I am using the same light grey that I used to stitch the outline of the wings. 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 lower right edge untrimmed as shown in the next 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 for tiny toys.

Note the untrimmed area to the right of the tail and lower wing.



11. Using tiny bits of polyester stuffing (about the size of a pea), work stuffing into the toy using the skewer. Fill the head first and then the belly, working the stuffing into the entire body right to the bottom.



12. When the body of the toy has been filled, stitch the bottom of the toy closed by hand or machine, using matching thread. Trim the excess felt away from the bottom of the toy, leaving about 1/8" border.



13. When you have closed the opening, trim the remaining waste away, leaving a border of no more than 1/8" around the edge. You may find it helpful to trim one layer at a time.

14. The little owl is just the right size to tuck into one of the mini stocking ornaments. Together they make a terrific ornament for your Christmas tree or a child's room.

