

Tiny Punkinhead Toy (To Fit Mini Stocking Ornament)

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Two versions of the Punkinhead toy are given in the file. Both versions when finished are approximately 1.8" x 3.1" and fit nicely into the Mini Stocking Tree Ornaments.



The simpler version features an embroidered snout and sews almost entirely in the hoop except for a line of machine stitching to close the toy after stuffing.

If you're more ambitious, the other version has a separate snout piece that is sewn on by hand after the body has been completed. He takes a little longer to finish but I really like the effect.

Instructions for both versions are given below.

You will need

- Two 3x4.5" pieces of light brown felt
- One scrap (about 1"x1") of tan felt
- A tiny amount of polyester fiber stuffing

Tiny Punkinhead 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 lightweight 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 light brown felt approximately 3" x 4.5" against the sticky Press N Seal in the centre of the hoop, pressing to hold it in place. This will make a single Punkinhead bear.

If you want to make two bears in a single hooping, as I will be doing in the illustration, use a 4x4" square of felt in the hoop as shown in the second image.

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 colour. You can see the two bears sewing out on the same piece of felt.



4. Remove the hoop from the machine but do not unhoop the design. Depending on which style you are making, your design will look like one of these two stitch-outs. I am making both styles of bear.



5. Turn the hoop face down. You will be able to see the stitching clearly through the back of the Press N Seal.



6. 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.



7. Change the bobbin thread to brown, then carefully return the hoop to the machine and stitch the final color.



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. Remove the hoop from the machine. You can see the two bears sewn out side by side. Unhoop the design and get ready to trim the edges with small sharp scissors.



10. With small sharp scissors, trim neatly around the edges of the toy, leaving a border of about 1/8" around the stitching. Leave the area between the ears untrimmed for now, 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.



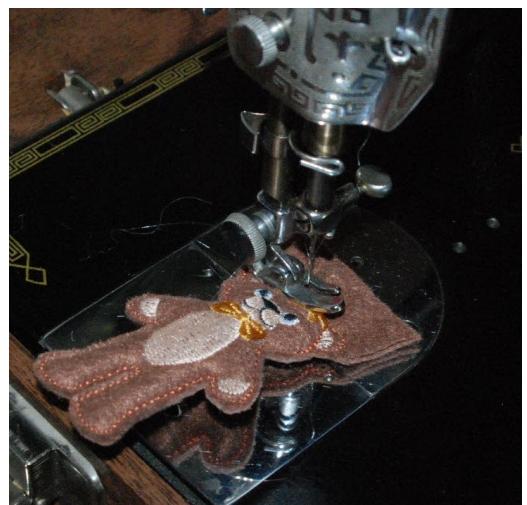
11. The next step is to add a tiny bit of polyester stuffing to the toy, just enough to give it shape. I use the blunt end of a thin bamboo skewer as a stuffing tool for tiny toys.



12. Work tiny bits of polyester stuffing (about half the size of a pea) into the toy using the skewer. Fill each leg, then arms, then the belly, and finally the head. Use just enough stuffing to give him shape but don't overfill him.



13. When you have finished stuffing the body, close the top of the head with a line of stitching by hand or machine, using matching or invisible thread. A straight-sew foot is helpful so you can see what you're doing.



14. When you have closed the top of top of the bear, trim the remaining waste away, leaving a border of no more than 1/8" around the ears and top of the head.

If you are making the bear with the embroidered snout, he is now finished.



The remaining steps show how to finish the snout for the other version of the bear.

15. To make the separate sewn-on snout, hoop a piece of Press N Seal in your smallest hoop. Place a small piece of light tan felt (about 1x1") against the sticky Press N Seal in the centre of the hoop, pressing to hold it in place.



16. Sew out the complete snout piece (two colours).



17. Take the hoop from the machine, tear away the Press n Seal, and carefully cut out the snout piece close to the line of stitching.



18. Run a gathering thread around the outer edge of the snout piece, just inside the stitch line. I am using an overedge stitch so the edge will gather smoothly.



19. Pull the thread up slightly to gather the snout and add just a teeny scrap of stuffing. Then pull up tight to close, and fasten off. (Both back and front of the snout are shown at right.)



20. Add a dab of tacky glue to the back of the snout piece and stick it to the front of the face just below the eyes. The glue isn't sufficient to hold it permanently, but it will help to hold the snout in position while you stitch it.



21. Take several stitches to secure the snout. (I am using a larger needle and darker thread than normal, for visibility in the photo).



22. He's so cute when finished, and fits nicely into any of the Mini Stocking Ornaments from the site.



The Canadian Maple Leaf sock (above) is a perfect choice for this icon of Canadian Christmas past.

Just like Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, who was created for Montgomery-Ward, Punkinhead began life as a promotional concept for a department store. He was Eaton's mascot and Santa's companion in their annual Santa Claus Parade from 1947 until into the 1970s. To read more about Punkinhead, google "Punkinhead Bear" or visit www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/explore/online/eatons/punkinhead.aspx

