

Tiny Raven Toy (To Fit Mini Stocking Ornament)

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



When stitched, Tiny Raven measures approximately 1.7" x 3.3" (39 x 81 mm), and fits into any of the stocking ornaments on the site.

You will need

- Two pieces of black felt, approx. 2.5x4"
- A tiny amount of polyester fiber stuffing

Tiny Raven Toy 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.



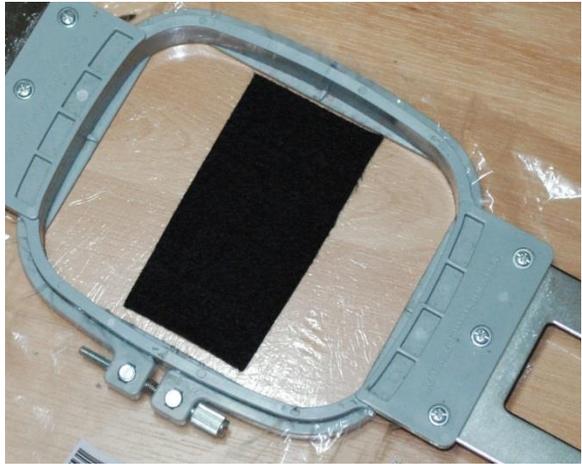
Note: The plastic wrap works well for this project, but not all machines will tolerate it (mine does, but my sister's doesn't). If you find it won't work with your machine, choose a lightweight wash-away stabilizer, fine tulle, or organza instead.



Don't use tear-away or cut-away stabilizers, which tend to be too heavy and stiffen the toy too much. It needs to be pliable enough so that it can be lightly stuffed when finished.

Having recently read that sturdy plastic bags can in some cases be used as stabilizer, I decided to try it for the Tiny Raven, and am happy to report that it worked well, at least for my machine.

2. Select a piece of black felt approximately 2.5" x 4". Spray the felt 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.



3. Place the hoop in the machine and stitch up to, but not including, the last color. I have chosen a grey thread so you can see the outline stitches; normally I would use a slightly darker thread.



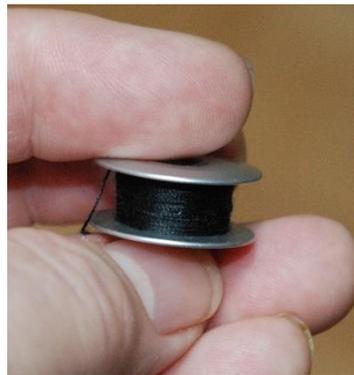
4. Remove the hoop from the machine, but do not unhoop the design. Turn the hoop face down. You will be able to see the stitching clearly.



5. Place a second piece of black felt on the back of the hoop so that it completely covers the stitching. Use masking tape to hold the felt in position. (It's best not to use adhesive spray for this step, since it can make it difficult to work the stuffing into the toy when it's stitched.)



6. Change the bobbin thread to an appropriate color for the final line of stitching. I am using black. 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 trim around the Raven 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 along his wing untrimmed for now, as shown (area to your left as you look at the Raven).



9. 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. Note the untrimmed area to the left of the design.



10. Using tiny bits of polyester stuffing (about the size of a pea), work stuffing into the toy using the skewer. Fill the tail, wings, belly, and then the head, working the stuffing into the entire body right to the top. Use just enough stuffing to give him some shape, but don't overfill him.



12. When the Raven has been filled, stitch the wing opening closed by hand or machine. I like to use invisible (nylon) thread for this step.

If you like, you can also topstitch through all layers along the wing and tail outlines, to give more definition to the toy.

Trim the excess felt away from around the wing, leaving no more than a 1/8" border.



12. The Tiny Raven is now finished, and is just the right size to tuck into one of the Mini Stocking ornaments, such as this "R" stocking in Ravenclaw colors.

