

Tiny Seagull Toy (To Fit Mini Stocking Ornament)

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Tiny Seagull stitches right in the 4" hoop in under 5 minutes. Finish him with a line of hand or machine stitching to close him after stuffing.



When stitched, Tiny Seagull measures approximately 1.6" x 3.1" (40 x 79 mm), and fits into any of the stocking ornaments on the site.

You will need

- Two pieces of white felt, approx.3x4.5"
- A tiny amount of polyester fiber stuffing

Tiny Seagull 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. Select a piece of white felt approximately 3" x 4.5". 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. Replace the hoop in the machine and stitch everything except the last two colors (a white outline and the orange feet).



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 piece of white 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 white for the next line of stitching. Once the bobbin has been changed, carefully return the hoop to the machine and stitch the next color. Pause the machine for another bobbin change.



6. Change the bobbin thread one last time – this time to orange, to stitch the feet. 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. Gently remove the plastic from around the stitched toy. It should tear away easily from around the stitching.

If you have used tulle, organza, or lightweight wash-away instead of the Press N Seal, you can simply trim it along with the felt in the next step.



9. As you trim, leave a border of less than 1/8" all around the body. Leave the area around the top of his head untrimmed for now, as shown in the picture. Work carefully, making as smooth a cut as you can, since this will be the outer edge of the 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.



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



12. When the body of the toy has been filled, stitch the toy closed around the top of his head, by hand or machine, using either white or invisible thread. A straight-sew foot will help you to see what you're doing.



13. When the stitching is complete, rim the excess felt away from the top of the head, leaving no more than a 1/8" border.



12. The little Seagull is just the right size to tuck into one of the mini stocking ornaments. This Lighthouse-themed ornament is perfect.

