

Tiny Santa Toy (To Fit Mini Stocking Ornament)

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The Tiny Santa toy stitches completely in the 4" hoop, except for a line of stitching by hand or machine to close the toy after stuffing. He sews up in under 5 minutes.

When stitched, the Santa Toy measures approximately 1.6" x 3.8" tall (46 x 79 mm), and fits into any of the mini stocking ornaments the site.



You will need

- Two pieces of red felt (or colour of your choice) approximately 3x4.5", **OR**
- Two 4.5" squares of felt to make two Santas in a single hooping
- A tiny amount of polyester fiber stuffing

Tiny Santa 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.

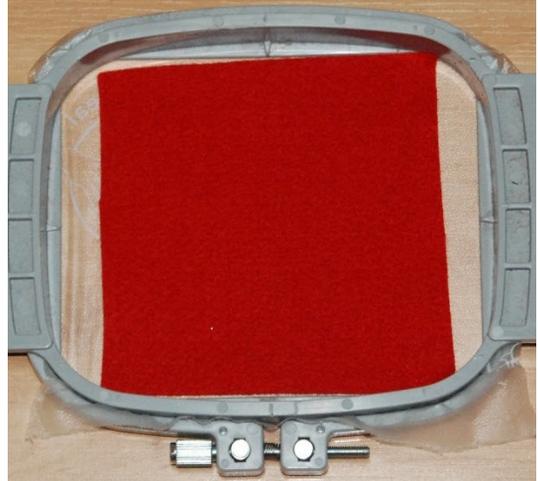


Note: Plastic wrap works well for this project, but if you prefer not to use it, choose a lightweight wash-away stabilizer instead.

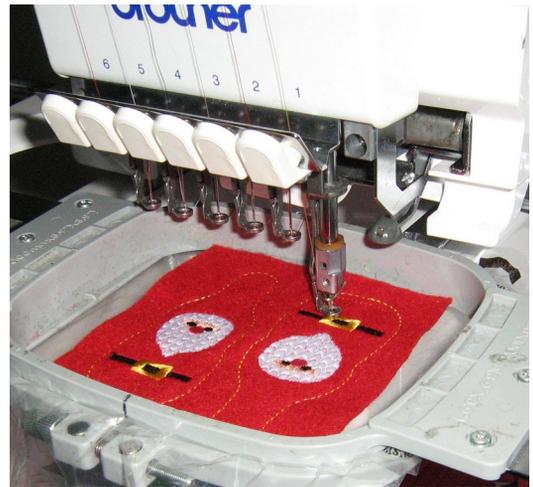


You really want the lightest stabilizer you can find so the toy will be pliable enough that it can be stuffed when it's finished. Don't use tear-away or cut-away stabilizers, which tend to be too heavy and stiffen the toy too much. Having recently read that sturdy plastic bags can be used as stabilizer 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. Lay one piece of felt the felt on the sticky surface in the center of the hoop and press in place. If you're using a different stabilizer, you may need to lightly spray the felt with temporary adhesive. I am making two Santas in a single hooping, so am using a 4.5x4.5" square of felt.



3. Place the hoop in the machine and stitch up to but not including the final color. (The yellow outline around the design will be trimmed away later.)



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 – in the example, both Santas are showing.



5. Lay a second piece of red felt on the back of the hoop so that it completely covers the stitching.

Use masking tape to hold the felt in position on the back of the hoop, taping just the very edges of the felt piece.



6. Change the bobbin thread to red for the final line of stitching.



7. Carefully return the hoop to the machine and stitch the final color (the red outline stitch). Then remove the hoop from the machine. Unhoop the design.



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. Trim around the Santa 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 no more than 1/8" around the stitching. Leave the segment around the bottom of the Santa untrimmed for now, as shown.



10. The next step is to add a small amount 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.



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



12. When the body 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. After stitching, complete the Santa by trimming away the extra fabric from around the bottom.



14. The finished Santa is just the right size to fit easily into one of the Mini Stocking ornaments.

