

Tiny Sock Monkey Toy (To Fit Mini Stocking Ornament)

<jensoriginalsembroiderydesigns.yolasite.com>

This Sock Monkey toy sews up in about 3 minutes and can be completed right in the 4" hoop, except for a line of stitching by hand or machine to close the toy after stuffing.

He is approximately 1.8" x 3.2" tall when stitched -- just the right size to slip into the tiny stocking tree ornaments.



You will need

- Two squares of tan or light grey felt approximately 3x4.5"
- A tiny amount of polyester fiber stuffing

Tiny Sock Monkey Toy Instructions

<jensoriginalsewbroiderdesigns.yolasite.com>

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. Place a piece of tan or grey felt approximately 3" x 4.5" against the sticky Press N Seal in the center of the hoop, pressing to hold it in place. This will make a single Sock Monkey toy.

If you want to make two toys 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 color. You can see the two monkeys sewing out on the same piece of felt.



2. Remove the hoop from the machine but do not unhoop the design. You can see the two sock monkeys stitched side by side. Turn the hoop face down. You will be able to see the stitching clearly.



5. Lay a second piece of felt on the back of the hoop so that it completely covers the stitching. Use small pieces of painter's masking tape to hold the felt in position on the back of the hoop.



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

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 and unhoop the design.



8. 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 above his head and between the ears untrimmed for now.



Work carefully, making as smooth a cut as you can, since this will be the outer edge of your toy. Snip carefully between the legs to separate them, and between arms and body. Take care not to cut the stitching.

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.



10. Using tiny bits of polyester stuffing (about the size of a pea), work stuffing into the toy using the skewer. Fill the legs, then the arms, belly, and head.



11. When the body of the toy has been filled, stitch the top of his head closed by hand or machine, using black thread. Trim the excess felt away from the top of the toy, leaving about 1/8" border.



12. Two finished Sock Monkey toys. Note the trimmed area around the top of the head. You can stitch one monkey at a time, but it saves material if you can do two at once. It takes under 10 minutes to stitch them both.



13. Tiny Sock Monkey fits into any of the mini stocking ornaments on the site, but he's especially well suited for this Juanita Banana stocking.



The Tiny Sock Monkey looks just as good stitched in grey and red, like the traditional sock.

