

Tiny Unicorn Toy (To Fit Mini Stocking Ornament)

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This Tiny Unicorn toy sews up in just over 5 minutes and can be completed right in the 4" hoop, except for a line of stitching by hand or machine to close him after stuffing.

He is approximately 1.8" x 3.6" tall when stitched -- just the right size to slip into the tiny stocking tree ornaments



You will need

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

Tiny Unicorn 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. Place a piece of white 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 Unicorn.

If you want to make two Unicorn toys in a single hooping, as I am doing in the sample, use a 4.5" square of felt in the hoop as shown in the second image.

If you are using plastic or cling wrap instead of the Press N Seal, 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 all except the final color. Remove the hoop from the machine.



4. Remove the hoop from the machine but do not unhoop the design.

My sample shows two Unicorns in a single stitch-out.



5. Turn the hoop face down. You will be able to see the stitching clearly.



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. I am stitching the final outline in white, but if you are using a different color to sew the final outline, change the bobbin to match.



8. Return the hoop to the machine and stitch the final color.

Remove the hoop from the machine and unhoop the design.



9. 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.



10. With small sharp scissors, trim neatly around the edges of the toy, leaving a border of about 1/8" around the stitching and leaving the segment between his ears untrimmed as shown in the picture. Cut out the tail piece as well, if you are using it.



Work carefully, making as smooth a cut as you can, since this will be the outer edge of your toy.

11. Carefully slash to separate the legs, making sure you don't cut the stitching.



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



13. Use tiny bits of polyester stuffing (about half the size of a pea). Work stuffing into the toy with 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.



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



15. When you have closed the top of the Unicorn, trim the remaining waste away from around the top of the head, leaving a border about 1/8" around the top.



16. Trim around the top of the Unicorn's head.

If you are attaching the optional tail piece, turn him face down. Add some tacky glue or fabric tack to the back of the stitched tail piece, then press it in place on the back of the body, as shown in the photos. Set him aside so the tail can dry.



Tiny Unicorn is complete.



16. Tiny Unicorn looks adorable in this Hearts & Swirls stocking.

