

Felt Gingerbread Piper Ornament

<jensoriginalsembroiderydesigns.yolasite.com>

This Gingerbread Piper ornament stitches in under 15 minutes and can be completed right in the 4" hoop, except for a line of stitching by hand or machine to close him up after stuffing.

He is approximately 3.9" tall when completed – the perfect size for a lightweight tree ornament.



You will need

- Two 4x4.5" pieces of tan or light brown felt
- Scraps of plaid or tartan fabric
- A tiny amount of polyester fiber stuffing
- About 6" of cord or narrow ribbon for hanging loop
- Lightweight stabilizer or Glad Press n Seal

Felt Gingerbread Piper Instructions

<jensoriginalsewembroiderydesigns.yolasite.com>

1. Hoop a single layer of very lightweight stabilizer or Glad Press N Seal in a 4x4" hoop. As an alternative, you could choose plain cling wrap or exhausted dryer sheets. Whichever you choose, make sure it is snug in the hoop.



You really want the lightest thing you can find to stabilize so the ornament will be pliable enough that it can be lightly stuffed when it's finished. Regular tear-away or cut-away stabilizers tend to be too heavy and stiffen it too much, so I usually go for something lighter.



I have had very good luck with a variety of options, including exhausted dryer sheets or the plastic from clear lightweight bags, which is readily available and free. If you prefer not to use any of these substitutes, choose a lightweight tulle or organza, a light wash-away stabilizer, which tends to be more pliable than cutaway, or a lightweight interfacing that can be trimmed away after stitching is complete.

2. Lightly spray one piece of the tan felt with temporary fabric adhesive spray and center it in the hoop. (If you're using Press n Seal, you can simply press the felt against the sticky surface).



3. Place the hoop in the machine and stitch the first color. Remove the hoop from the machine but do not unhoop the design.



4. Lightly spray a small piece of the plaid fabric and position it over the stitched outlines, ensuring that they are completely covered. Return the hoop to the machine.



5. Stitch the next color. Pause the machine and remove the hoop, but do not unhoop the design. You can just make out the stitched outlines of kilt and bagpipe.



6. Carefully trim the applique fabrics just outside of the stitching lines, coming as close to the stitching as you can without snipping through it.

I use bent-handle scissors for this, although a sharp pair of curved nail scissors may also work.



When trimmed, your design should look like the picture.



7. Return the hoop to the machine and stitch the next seven colors; stop just after the satin stitching around the bagpipe. There will be three colors still left to stitch (brown, black, and brown again).

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



8. Place a small piece of tan felt to cover the area just below the bagpipe, where Ginger's hand will be.

Return the hoop to the machine, being careful not to dislodge the felt scrap, and stitch the next color (tan/brown).



9. Pause the machine and remove the hoop once more. Do not unhoop the design.



10. Once again using the curved scissors, trim around the curved stitch line at the top of the hand. Leave the felt scrap untrimmed along the unstitched bottom, as shown in the photos.



11. Return the hoop to the machine and stitch the next color (black). Pause the machine and remove the hoop for a final time, but do not unhoop. Your design will look like the photo.



12. Turn the hoop face down. You will be able to clearly see the stitched design.



13. Place the remaining piece of tan felt over the back so that none of the stitching can be seen. Tape the corners with masking tape to hold it in position.



14. Change the bobbin color to brown for the body outline. Return the hoop to the machine and stitch the final color.



15. Remove the hoop from the machine and unhoop the design. If you have used plastic as stabilizer, you can gently pull it away from around the stitched design. Any other stabilizer can be trimmed away along with the felt in the next step.



16. With small sharp scissors, trim neatly around the edges of the design, leaving a border of about 1/8" around the stitching, and leaving the top of the head untrimmed for now, as shown in the photo.



You should work carefully, making as smooth a cut as you can, since this will be the outer edge of your ornament.

17. The next step is to stuff Ginger with just enough polyester fiber to give him shape. I use the blunt end of a chopstick as a stuffing tool.



18. Using small bits of polyester stuffing (about the size of a quarter), work stuffing into the Ginger with the chopstick. Fill the lower body, then the pipe bag, arm, belly, and head.



19. Cut a piece of cord or narrow ribbon about 7" long to form a hanger. When the body of the toy has been filled, tuck the ends of the cord into the top of the head before sewing it closed.



Because I prefer to hang my tree ornaments using a hook rather than a string, I will be using a short loop of thin wire instead of a cord.

20. With the cord or wire in position, close the top of the head with a line of stitching by hand or machine, using invisible (nylon) thread and following along the stitched guideline. A zipper foot makes it easier to see what you're doing. Operate the machine by hand as you work around the wire.



17. When you have closed the top of Ginger's head, trim the remaining waste away, leaving a border about 1/8" around the top of the head and taking care not to cut through the cord or damage your scissors on the wire loop.

18. The Gingerbread Piper ornament is now complete and ready to hang.



Each Gingerbread Piper takes approximately 20-25 minutes to complete, including set-up and finishing, with an embroidering time of about 14 minutes. Changing the tartan makes for a different look.



On the first prototypes, I used a snowflake on the cheeks, but on reflection I decided I like the heart motifs better for him, so the pattern shows hearts.

Optional Step to Support the Pipe Drones

Note: I do not recommend this optional step if the ornament is being given to a young child. Proceed at your own risk.

If left unsupported, the drones of the pipes might tend to curl over time. I decided to insert two straight pins to help keep them upright. Carefully manoeuvre the pin between the two felt layers, making sure it doesn't poke out.



Before pushing the head of the pin all the way down, add a dab of tacky glue. Push it home, then allow it to dry.

The pin will keep the drone upright and stop it from curling or drooping.

