

# Felt Snowman Piper Ornament

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*This Snowman 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 white 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 Snowman Piper Instructions

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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.*

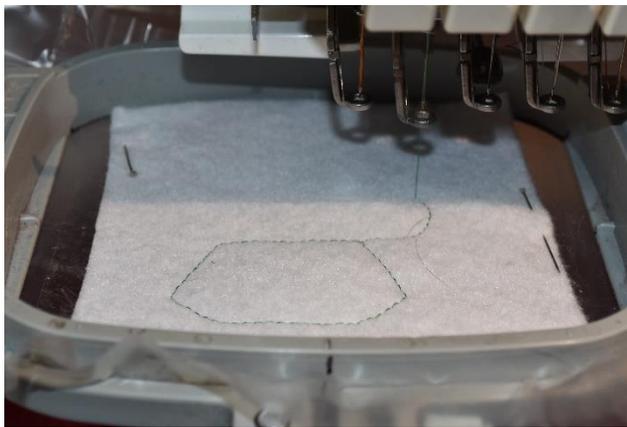


*I have had very good luck with a variety of options, including exhausted dryer sheets or the plastic from clear lightweight bags, which is readily available and free. If you prefer not to use any of these substitutes, choose a lightweight tulle or organza, a light wash-away stabilizer, which tends to 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 white 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.



6. Carefully trim the applique fabrics just outside of the stitching lines, coming as close to the stitching line 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.



7. Return the hoop to the machine and stitch the next nine colors; stop just after the black eyes/mouth/buttons finish. There will be two colors still left to stitch (white and brown).

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



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



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



10. Change the bobbin thread to white for the body outline. Return the hoop to the machine and stitch the white outline (the second last color).  
Pause the machine for one more bobbin change.



11. Change the bobbin color to brown to match the color you are using for the Snowman's arm. If you have removed the hoop to do this, return it to the machine and stitch the final color.



12. Remove the hoop from the machine and unhoop the design. With small sharp scissors, trim neatly around the edges of the Snowman, 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.

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



14. Using small bits of polyester stuffing (about the size of a quarter), work stuffing into the Snowman using the chopstick. Fill the lower body, then the pipe bag, belly, and head.



15. Cut a piece of cord or narrow ribbon about 6" 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 have used a short loop of thin wire instead of a cord.

16. 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.



17. When you have closed the top of the Snowman'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 Snowman Piper ornament is now complete and ready to hang.



Each Snowman Piper takes approximately 20-25 minutes to complete, including set-up and finishing, with an embroidering time of about 14 minutes. I made ten of these for family and friends in just over a half day's pleasurable work (they're not all in the photo).

## 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 usually 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.

