

Elf Sack Christmas Stocking

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DH's original Elf sack stocking has passed a big milestone: he's just celebrated his 30th Christmas!



All in all, the Elf has held up pretty well, but I have to admit that ever since I made a newly redesigned version for my little nephew (see my post for May 5th, 2023), I've been thinking that this old guy might benefit from a makeover.

Compared to the new version (left), whose face was made on the embroidery machine, the face on the original sewn version now seems kind of flat. In making

him over, I hoped to be able to bring a bit more dimension to him, without changing him *too* terribly much.

My main plan was to add a bit of stuffing to the head of the elf, just as I had for the new Elf version. Before doing that, I added some topstitching to his ears (shown by the dashed lines, at right) to give them some definition.



Next, I topstitched along his chin line and along the lower edge of his hat (indicated by the yellow lines) so as to contain the stuffing within the face area.



Once that was done, I used a seam ripper to open the seam between his left ear and his shoulder to insert some stuffing.



With the seam open, I added small amounts of polyester fibre, filling the head lightly. That done, I hand-stitched the opening closed using a ladder stitch. As a final touch, I added a jingle bell to the tip of my Elf's hat.

As long as I was working on Elf, I wanted to do one last repair. The Elf's sack was originally cinched with elastic, but after 30 years, it had lost some of its oomph, so I decided to replace the elastic with a drawstring. There was no easy way to get into the elastic channel without dismantling the entire sack, so instead I used my seam ripper to cut tiny slits in the centre and at both ends, so I could release the elastic and remove it.

I used some fray check on the small slits before inserting the new cord – actually a long shoelace imprinted with a Christmas design – which I secured by stitching at each end and then tied in a bow at the centre of the sack.

This sack-style stocking dates back to a time years before I owned an embroidery machine; it was also the first Christmas stocking that I made for DH.

For nostalgic reasons, then, I wanted to keep at least some of its original character even as I did the makeover. In keeping with that aim, I limited my revisions to things that didn't require an embroidery machine.

The Elf is still himself, only – to my eye, at least – improved. I'm happy with his updated look and I think DH is as well.

