

## Felt Gingerbread Piper Ornament

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These hilarious gingerbread cookies decked out in paper kilts were the inspiration behind the Gingerbread Piper ornament that I made for all my sibs for Christmas this year. Scottish iconography is a big deal where we come from, and I know they'll get a huge kick out of these.



Felt gingers make a fun Christmas ornament, and way back when I was first out on my own, I made these adorable sequined felties for my Christmas tree. I based the shape on an actual cookie cutter.

Back in the day, I made my gingers on the sewing machine. The time, I would be using the embroidery machine.



I knew the cookie cutter shape wouldn't cut it for my pipers; I wanted them to wear kilts and carry pipes, and I thought I'd go with a slightly chubbier shape.

I drew up the design and digitized it in my software, complete with an appliqued kilt and bagpipe.



To make the prototype, I used tan-coloured felt and a small-sett plaid print in Christmassy colours.



I embroidered the design, then trimmed and lightly stuffed him through an opening at the top of his head.



Finally, I closed up the opening with a line of machine stitching, sandwiching a small loop in the seam, for hanging.

The finished Gingerbread Piper stuffie is just adorable, standing approximately 3.9" tall – the perfect size for a lightweight tree ornament.

To help keep the drones from drooping over time, I soaked them with fabric stiffener.



Changing the tartan varies the look.



Since digitizing my Gingerbread Piper, I've found at least five different Scottish-themed ginger ornaments on line.

I like this version, though, because even with the kilt they still have that simple "gingerbready" look that makes them perfect as Christmas decorations.



The sibs and friends were quite pleased with their Gingerbread Pipers – so was I.

## 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 manoeuver 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.

