

Jack Frost Elf

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I made my first wired elf doll in 2023, as an addition to the Elf on the Shelf game that my sister plays with her grandson. I even wired the hands, so that he could grip objects or make gestures. My sister – and my nephew – loved him.



I had more or less expected Elfis to be a one-off, but in 2024, my nephew requested a girl elf to join the crew. I was off and running!

Ellie – the Elf Herself – was soon followed by Grinchy, and then by Ringles. I thought I might have run out of elves until my sister reminded me about Jack Frost. Hmmmm.

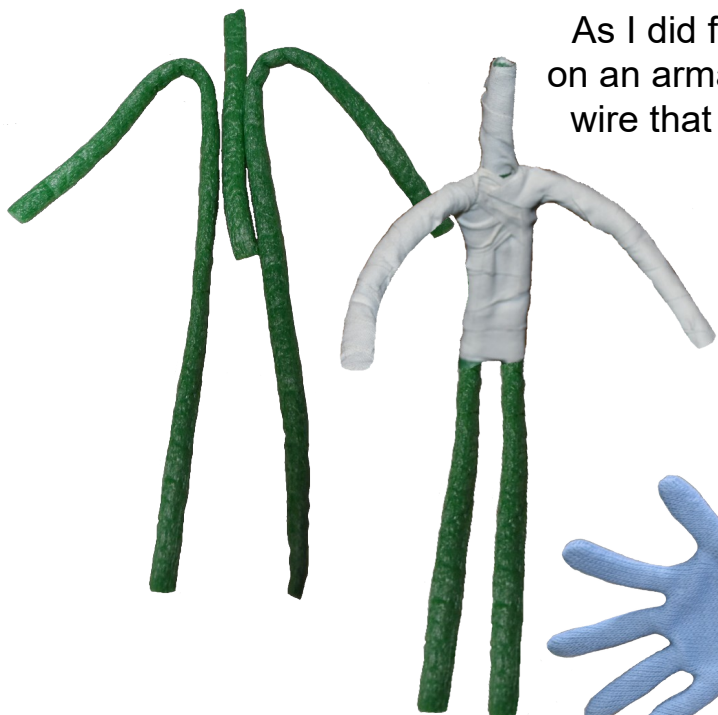


Her request was inspired in part by one of my doll designs from decades past: it's Jack Frost all right. He's blue with the cold, and he's dressed in shades of blue, white, and silver. He wears jeans and sneakers, a tail coat, and a crushed top hat with silver band and white plume. As you might expect, he's *cool*.

As it happens, my sister's favourite colour is blue, and her Christmas decor is blue, white, and silver. Jack Frost Elf will fit right in at her house.



Since the new Jack is an elf, he won't be identical to Old Jack. I'll do him up in shades of blue and white and silver like his predecessor, but as an elf he'll have an identity all his own.

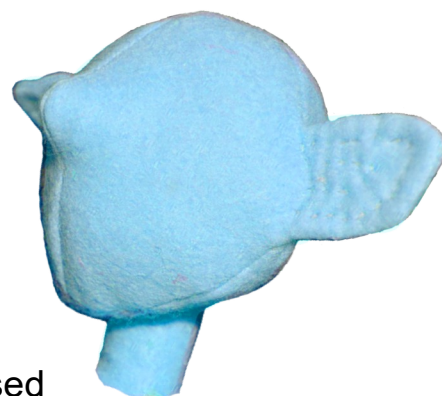


As I did for the previous elves, I built Jack Frost Elf on an armature made from the kind of foam-covered wire that is sold for use as plant ties. I wrapped the whole armature in white hockey tape.



As with Grinchy and Ringles, I made Jack's hands by sewing "gloves" from t-shirt knit, and wired the fingers using old-fashioned cotton pipecleaners.

For the head of my new Jack Frost elf, I used the same basic shape as I used to make Ellie, except of course that he is blue. I wrapped the neck piece with blue felt, then attached the stuffed head using Fabri-Tac glue and hand-stitching,



To make the new Jack's hair, I used medium-length white fake fur. Jack's head is blue, so before attaching the hair, I painted the back of the head with white acrylic paint, just as I did for Ellie's, to help prevent the blue from showing through the white hair.

I've used fake fur as doll hair before, but in the past I've always made a complete wig, as I did for the original Jack Frost doll and for Elfis. This time, drawing on my experience applying yarn wefts to make Ellie's hair, I decided to use the same technique, but instead of yarn wefts I used narrow strips of fake fur.

I cut the fur carefully into 1/4" wide strips, snipping through the back of the fabric only, without cutting the pile. Then I glued approximately 11 strips of various length in place across the back of the head, following the pattern shown by the red dashed lines. For security, I also stitched them down by hand, just as I did for Ellie's hair.





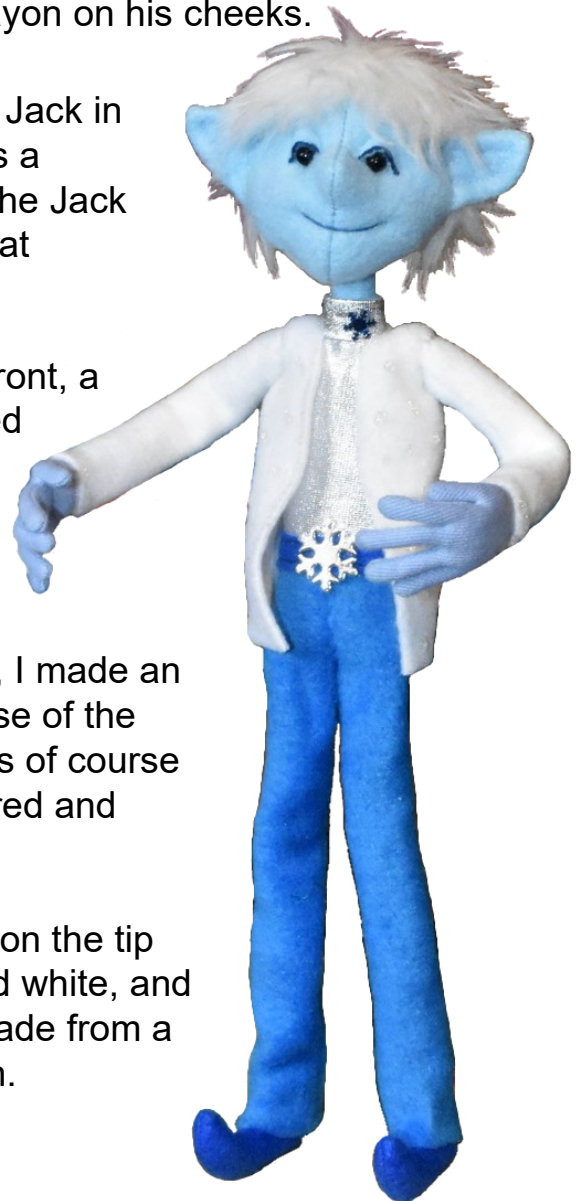
Jack's hair came out looking terrific. Though sewing wefts in this way is more labour-intensive than making a separate wig, I like the result much better and will certainly use it again.



Jack's eyes are made of beads, with felt eyelids similar to the ones I used on my original Jack Frost doll. The lids are lined with a narrow stripe of dark blue fabric paint and glued in place with Fabri-tac. The mouth is hand-stitched, and he has a very faint blush of pink crayon on his cheeks.

In keeping with his wintry character, I'm dressing Jack in white and blue. The original Jack Frost doll wears a white velveteen jacket and blue jeans, but I'll clothe Jack Frost Elf in fleece, which has a bit of thickness that works well over the wired armature.

His wardrobe is fairly simple: a silver lame shirt front, a white fleece jacket, and blue fleece pants. I added a felt belt with snowflake buckle, and a small snowflake on his collar. He's wearing pointy shoes just like those of his predecessors.



To complete his look, I made an elf toque just like those of the previous elves; Jack's of course is all blue instead of red and white like the others.

The sparkly pompon on the tip of his hat is silver and white, and his narrow scarf is made from a length of novelty yarn.

I'm happy with how Jack turned out, and based on the photos I sent, my sisters have judged him "gorgeous". See the next page for more images.



I found it tough to get good photos of Jack, what with all that white! Hopefully you can make him out. He's showing off his snowflake belt buckle. I've also heard that he plans to take along at least one lacy snowflake to hang in the window of his new home.

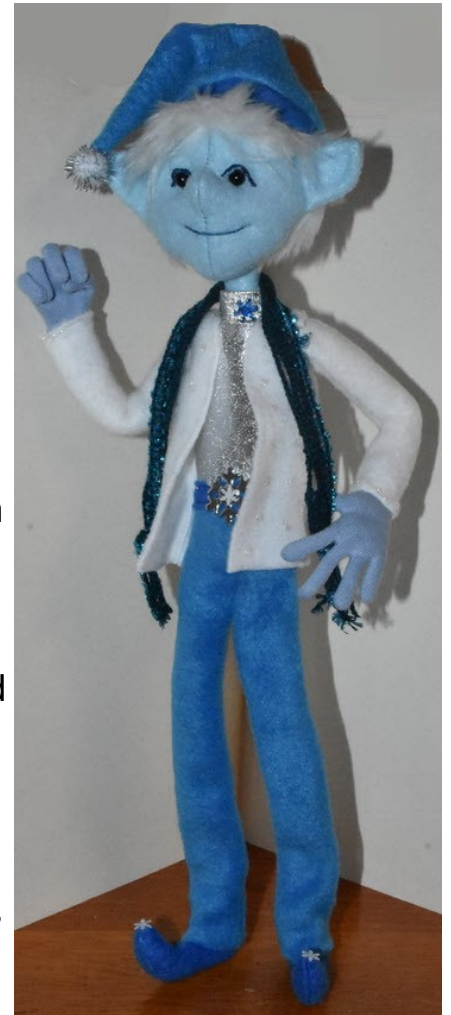


Looks as though Jack is rather fond of his adorable blue teddy. Who wouldn't be?

I'm pretty sure my sister will have lots of frosty scenarios for him to star in. I hear that he has plans to do some painting of wintry scenes – on the windows and elsewhere.

Normally I'd put little jingle bells on the toes of his shoes, but I didn't have any silver or blue ones small enough. Instead I opted for the teeny flakes, glued on and stitched with invisible thread.

When I made Elfis I hadn't really expected to be making any more wired elves, so I'm as surprised as anyone to realize that I've just completed my sixth one!



I suspect there may even be more elfish characters in my future, but for now I'll bid Jack safe travels as he packs up to head east.