

Juanita Banana Stocking

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I love specialty Christmas stockings, and when I picked up a remnant of this beautiful golden yellow corduroy fabric, I knew I had to make a stocking for Juanita (fondly known to her sisters as “Banana”, thanks to the old song).

Juanita has embraced the whole Banana thing, and even created this signature logo.



With the addition of a red toque, he becomes Santa Banana – a perfect embellishment for the front of her new banana-themed stocking.

I knew the yellow banana wouldn't show up very well if I stitched him directly on the yellow fabric, so I floated a piece of white felt over the fabric before I stitched the design, then trimmed around the image leaving a narrow felt border. I love the effect and have used it on several other projects since. The white felt outline makes the banana stand out against the yellow corduroy.



I like to stitch the date on the toe of each stocking, but I don't like it to be too visually dominant, so I choose a tone-on-tone effect; here it's gold on gold.

That way you can see the date, but it doesn't distract from the rest of the design. Along with the year, I usually add a small design to the toe of my stockings. For years I used a holly design, but recently I've begun using this Santa and reindeer.

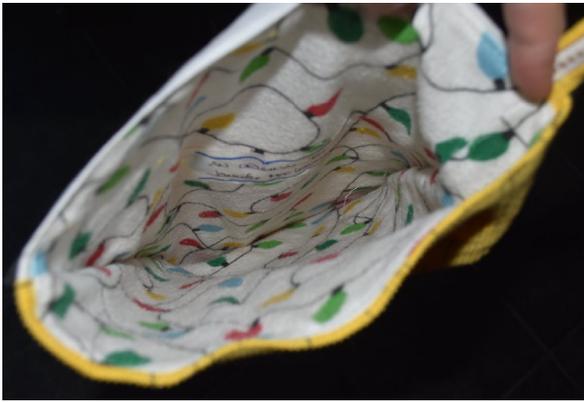
I really like the playful aspect of this Cool Dots font – it's just what I wanted for this rather playful stocking.



Juanita loves a bit of sparkle for Christmas, and we both adore sequins on a Christmas stocking. It was my sister who suggested adding them to the dots on the letters. At first I wasn't sure whether I'd like the effect, but after I got them stitched, I was thrilled. I chose gold sequins to go with the golden theme and hand-sewed each one in place using invisible (nylon) thread. I think they look great!

I added a gold-accented trim along the edge of the band and repeated it along hanging loop. The gold dots in the trim pick up the gold of the sequins, and the overall effect is very festive. Between the sequins and the trim, there's just enough sparkle to give the stocking some glam.





Juanita's new stocking is fully lined with a festive print of Christmas lights – I just love this fabric, and I know she will too. The lining is fully attached, so it won't pull out when items are inserted and removed.

I line all my Christmas stockings, not only to protect the back of the embroidery, but also to help the stocking keep its shape for many Christmases to come.

Juanita already has several stockings, so I suppose she didn't actually *need* another, but since we all love them as Christmas decor, I thought she could stand one more, especially one so personal.

This is quite a large stocking – approximately 21" top to toe – so if she does decide to allow Santa to fill it, he'll find lots of room for Christmas goodies. I actually tucked in some gifts before I sent it along, which I know she'll enjoy.

