

Special Interest Stocking

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I love making Christmas stockings! I've made hundreds over the years, for family, for friends, as baby gifts, and even on occasion for craft shows. Every year for longer than I can count, I've spent countless happy hours making new versions for family and friends.

If possible, I like to tailor the stockings to each recipient's interests. For instance, Dave is a big fan of Looney Tunes, and especially of Sylvester Junior. Back in 1994 when I made this one, I didn't have an embroidery machine, so the felt motif was appliqued with a sewing machine. If I were making this one now I would almost certainly embroider the image instead.



The definitive Christmas special when Shaun was a kid was *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, so I knew I'd have to make his new stocking from this Peanuts print. He's a Snoopy fan, so I couldn't resist adding this embroidered Snoopy motif. For his name and other details I used a cartoon-style font.



I'm sure Liam was thrilled with his CFL stocking featuring the insignia of his favourite team. The plain insert panel in the middle gives a nice background for the embroidery, especially when the print is busy,

This fabric is a lovely corduroy, shot with narrow gold stripes -- perfect for a Christmas stocking.



This little stocking is made from authentic wool tartan trimmed with gold braid. I like the fringed bias flap detail on the front of the stocking; if I'd had an embroidery machine when I made this one, I'd certainly have added the clan badge on the flap. This stocking is quite small, only about 13" tall, so it doesn't hold a lot, but it makes a lovely decor piece.

I wish I had better photos of these two from 1983; Nancy's elf stocking was quite striking when it was new. Glenn's features large felt letters on red fake fur, with sequins and spangles sprinkled at random over the entire front of the sock. All those sequins were stitched on by hand. It was painstaking work, but the effect is really lovely.



This stocking was a baby gift for a little girl born in the fall. Her mom requested the colour scheme of blue and purple, and I selected this dreamy snowflake Santa design from Embroidery Library, perfect for a little girl's stocking. If you look closely at the trims, you'll spot some silver geocaching "G" motifs among the snowflakes. Although infant Sophya wasn't yet a geocacher, her parents were quite passionately so, and I wanted to capture that interest in the baby gift I made for their first-born.



A few years back, I saw family crest stockings on line, and since I was casting about for a special gift for the guys, I decided to replicate the idea for each of them. It meant a fair bit of digitizing and stitching, since I made seven in all, but it was worth it. They looked just beautiful, and the guys loved them!



One of these days I'll have to make one for myself.