

# Thinking Pink

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Posted 2020 August 14

Lately my sister has been introducing her 4-year-old grandson to some of the great vintage cartoons from her own childhood. Among his favorites, it turns out, is the Pink Panther -- a character much loved by his grandma when she was a kid herself.



They've been having so much fun that I was inspired to make his Christmas gift from one of the soft toy patterns that I designed back in the days when I was making toys for craft shows and shops.

It's been a very long time since I made a Pink Panther doll, and it was very satisfying to revisit one of my toy patterns from so long ago, and to rediscover just how well it goes together.



Believe it or not, I even had a piece of the same hot pink fur that I used all those years ago, still in my fabric stash. Can you say "hoarder"!?

The finished Pinkie stands about 22" tall and takes approximately 8 oz of polyester stuffing. The one at left is one I made several years ago; the one for my nephew is on the next page.

My decades-old pattern needed no refinements -- I just stitched him up exactly as I designed way back when. All of his limbs are sewn in by machine during construction, so there's only a little hand stitching to do: closing up the back after stuffing, and attaching his nose, which is stuffed and applied using a curved upholstery needle.



This time, though, I used embroidered eyes (using my Toy Eyes Style #2 design -- so much easier!) Back in the day, I used to cut and piece them from felt and glue/sew to the face of the finished doll. This time, I sewed the embroidered eyes to the face piece before assembling the doll.

It's the first time I've used this method and I'm quite happy with how he turned out. I also like to think the eyes will stay more secure.

Soft toys are so inexpensive to buy nowadays that it hardly seems worth the effort and expense to make them. I don't make so very many any more, but doing this project has reminded me how much I used to enjoy this absorbing and rewarding hobby -- and still do. I'm also pretty sure my nephew will be tickled to find this new friend under the tree on Christmas morning.