

## Tiny Piggy Redux

<jensoriginalsewembroiderydesigns.yolasite.com>

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When I recently digitized this Mini Stocking ornament based on my family tartan, I knew I'd need a suitable tiny toy to put inside. I wasn't quite sure which one to choose, so I surveyed my sisters. In keeping with the family's piggy theme, the response was unanimous.



I had long ago created a cute Tiny Pig toy with a natty bowtie, sized to fit the Mini Stockings, so I was good to go. Or was I?



Back then, I designed the original piggy on the analogy of a teddy bear – the very first toy I created back when I began crafting Mini Stocking ornaments. Like the teddies, the original piggy is anthropomorphic, standing upright on his hind legs. He would have been an ideal choice for the new tartan stocking. But . . .



About 18 months or so ago, I started designing all these little dogs, who sat on their haunches instead of standing on

their hind legs like a teddy bear. I really like this more realistic look, so when I set out to re-design my Tiny Unicorn last fall, I set him on his haunches too.



That unicorn is darned cute, so when it came time to think about a Tiny Piggy to fit into the new sock, I wanted to see if I could re-design him in a similar fashion. I had a hunch he'd be just as adorable as the unicorn and those dogs.



As you may already have guessed, he is.



Although the first Tiny Piggy was cute, I'm afraid he's not a match for his newer cousin.

It might seem that, apart from re-shaping the body outline so it's more convincingly piggish, I didn't change that much about New Piggy: after all, he has the same embroidered snout and the same big ears and the same hoofs. So how come he's got so much more personality?

The answer, of course, is in his face: his smile, and especially his eyes, which are so much more expressive. By comparison with New Piggy, the original Tiny Piggy-- who seemed so adorable when I first made him -- now looks kind of blank.

It's not his fault, but I have moved on.

So it's New Tiny Piggy who will be slipped into the tartan stocking. My sisters were right: he is the perfect companion. And he was kind of inevitable, an homage to all the piggies gifted to my dad and my brother over the years.



I can't help imagining how much they would have enjoyed this ornament. I'll be thinking of them both when I hang it on my tree.