

A Christmas Tradition Preserved

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This vintage Christmas stocking is looking a bit worse for wear, but that's not surprising since it's more than 60 years since my sister and brother first hung them for Santa.



Although the felt has discolored and many of the sequins have been lost over the years, both my sibs still display their stockings each year, and both still find surprises inside on Christmas morning. .

About four years ago I had the idea that I might adapt the snowman applique as an embroidery design, so I asked my sister to send me a photo of her ancient stocking. When I saw its dilapidated condition, I decided to use the new applique design to make her a replica. I was pleased with the result, and I think she was too.



As a kid, I loved those stockings, as did my younger sister, even though they weren't ours. We had our own plaid ones (mine can be seen in the photo above), but ours didn't have sequins, which made these ones seem all the more glamorous.



Initially I toyed with the idea of making stockings for us using this design, but at the time it seemed almost irreverent to do that. So I opted to recreate the design on a banner instead.

I made a red banner for my sister and one for myself, so we both have that touch of fond nostalgia in our Christmas decor.



Since making the first two banners in red, I've made another for a sister whose favourite colour is blue.

I very much like the design adapted to a banner -- making it is sort of similar to making a Christmas stocking, except for the shape. I usually insert a length of dowel or stick into a channel along the top to keep the corners from flopping, and I like to add a tassel or dangle to the point.



Later, when it came time to make stockings for my sister's and my brother's newborn grandchildren, it seemed only right to choose this this family design that had been on their childhood stockings.



My niece and her hubby both have green stockings, so the baby's is also green. The red stocking features an embroidered rather than sequined name.

If these kids keep their stockings as long as their grandparents have done, the tradition will last more than a century. Now *that's* a cool thought.