

# Vintage Snowman Ornament

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There were four of us then, and -- of course -- four stockings. My sister Juanita and I treasured our own traditional plaids, hand-made by our Mum. We still do.

But for real Christmas glitz, it was hard to match the red felt stockings belonging to our older sibs, sent by our aunt in far-away California. Where ours featured hand-embroidered yarn motifs, their appliqued stockings were adorned with sparkling sequins. We thought them most glamorous.

The image of that festive Snowman, complete with top hat, pipe, and especially his sequined trim, is indelibly etched into our earliest Christmas memories. We both still love sequins on our Christmas decor.

If you follow my projects, you might recall that I reproduced the Snowman as an embroidery design a few years back, for use on door banners and on contemporary stockings. But until now, I hadn't thought to make it into an ornament.

Back in the ancient days of my childhood Christmases, we knew the season had truly begun when the stockings were fetched out of storage, in readiness for the big night.





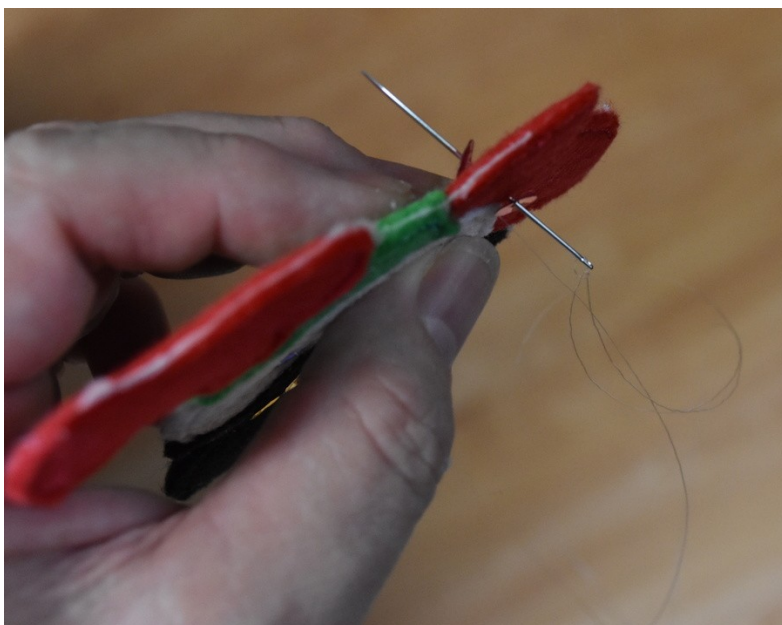
To make the snowman work as an ornament required a few adjustments to the design. I started by repositioning the mitts to be contiguous with the rest of the Snowman.

The original Snowman stood out on the red background of the stocking, so to maintain that pop of red, I changed the colour of the mitts from white.

I also moved the sprig of holly from the Snowman's hand to his hat brim, and eliminated the shirtfront portion of the design.

I also kept the Snowman's iconic pipe, although smoking – thank goodness – is not as ubiquitous as it was back when he was made. (If you recall the song, even Frosty had a pipe).

I would normally have used holly leaf sequins, on my ornament, but I found these hallographic holly motifs in my stash, and since they're the perfect size and just as sparkly as sequins, I've used them instead, gluing them in place with Fabri-Tac.



I made my ornament double-sided, so it looks good from both sides. After stitching and trimming the appliques, I hand-sewed the sequins to the ornament with invisible (nylon) thread, stitching each one multiple times and sewing right through the ornament so as to catch the sequins on both back and front.

The sequins on the original shirt front portion of the design were gold-coloured, so I trimmed the hat brim with gold sequins, staying with multi-coloured sequins for the mitten trim.



Hand-stitching the sequins means these ornaments are labour-intensive, taking well over an hour each. But the result is worth it, because they so well capture that vintage Snowman from long ago.

I've made four Snowmen so far, and I expect to make a couple more

before I'm done. As you can see from the photo, each one is a little different from its fellows, which is okay in a handmade ornament. I'll keep one for my own tree and give the others to my sisters and my friend. I can't wait to see him on the tree.

