

# Vintage Christmas Stocking Replicas

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Christmas stockings are a much-loved tradition in my family of origin, and like my siblings, I still hang up the one my mom made when I was a kid, along with all the others Hubby and I have gathered over the years.

We still fill them for each other, and opening them on Christmas morning remains a fun part of our gift-giving celebration.

(Lacking a fireplace, we hang our stockings on a rack that stands beside the tree. When decked out with Christmas lights, it actually manages to look quite festive.)



One glaring omission from our collection has always been Hubby's childhood stocking, mislaid when his family abandoned the tradition many years ago, once their youngest grew too old for Santa.

As a surprise for him, I decided to make a replica of his stocking, as near as I could to the original. But the problem was, it's been so long since he's seen it that Hubby couldn't even clearly recall what his stocking looked like -- except that it was red.

Luckily, his older sister had a clear memory of the stockings, and was even able to unearth an old snap where they can be seen.

Armed with the photo and her description, I was able to locate an image of the original pattern that their mom used – what a find!



Now that I had an exact idea of what his childhood stocking looked like, I could get busy and recreate my surprise.

The original motifs were hand-applied, but I digitized the outlines of the designs and

machine-applied them using vintage wool felt. I then added sequins and ribbons by hand, just as his mom did so many years ago.

The only other difference is that I embroidered the name in block caps instead of appliqueing cut-out letters.

In every other respect, though, Hubby's new stocking is very close to the original one his mom made.



I had so much fun recreating Hubby's stocking that I decided to surprise his siblings by reproducing their stockings too, following the images on the pattern envelope. I'm really thrilled with how they all turned out – very festive and authentically vintage!



I sent the siblings their stockings in time for Christmas, along with a printed gift card showing this photo of the four stockings together – a sight they haven't seen for decades. On the inside of the card, I printed this caption:  
“We are better throughout the year for having become a child again at Christmas.”

They were all quite moved by the fond memories that the stockings evoked of their mom and the stockings she lovingly created for her kids. Those memories are doubly meaningful now, since they recently lost their mom after a lengthy illness.

I still don't have a copy of the actual pattern she used, but I'd like to get one someday, just for the sake of nostalgia.