INSPIRED BY CRAFT

✓Decorations ✓Stockings ✓Wreaths ✓Advent ✓Homewares ✓Gifts




# CRAFT FOR CHRISTMAS











## 56 easy festive projects to make at home!







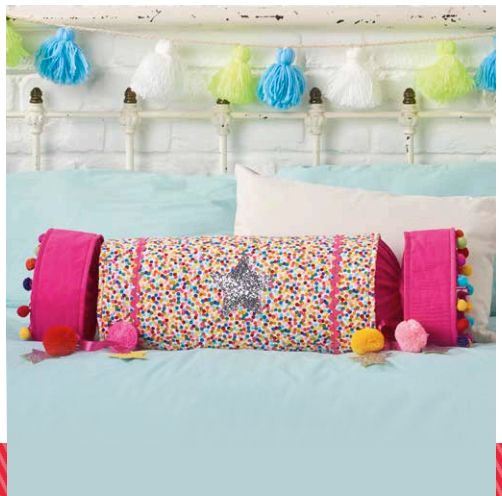












# CRAFT FOR CHRISTMAS



There are few things in life that rival the feeling of joy you experience giving and receiving handmade gifts – and that's because it's not just about the end result. You can take great pleasure in making something by hand, enjoying the process as you go along. So take a seat and let me inspire you with this emporium of seasonal makes. There's over 50 projects to craft (and a few treats to bake along the way!) to help you create your perfect handmade Christmas.

Charlie

Charlie Moorby, Editor




Merry Christmas

CONTENTS

# CRAFT FOR CHRISTMAS



















## DECORATIONS


**08** Partridge and pear wreath
**12** Felt mistletoe keepsake
**13** Mini reindeer ornament
**15** Crochet Christmas trees
**18** Pom pom yarn wreath
**23** Glitzy crochet baubles
**25** Embroidered dove hoop
**29** Felt fairy tree topper
**33** Kawaii-inspired felties
**37** Unicorn and goose decs
**40** Gold-dipped baubles
**41** Amigurumi critters
**44** Paper flower wreath
**49** Kitsch foodie felties


## ADVENT + STOCKINGS


**54** Textured yarn stocking
**58** Quick-sew felt stocking
**59** Kitsch retro-style stocking
**62** Bauble advent calendar
**66** Paper advent village
**67** Stocking and owl keepsake
**71** Fabric advent calendar
**75** Fun embellished stocking
**79** Rustic advent calendar


## DINING + HOSTING


**82** Botanical table setting
**86** Pinny and tea towel set
**90** Easy Christmas jumper
**94** Metallic star piñatas
**95** Handmade cracker treats
**98** Nature-inspired table setting
**103** Festive gingerbread cake


PLUS! TEMPLATES P146

# CONTENTS
















## GIFTS + WRAPPING


**108** Model polar bear keepsake
**112** Festive baby vest update
**116** Fun ideas for wrapping
**120** Fabric cracker cushion
**124** Appliqué present sacks
**127** Knitted penguin mittens
**131** Papercut glass dome
**133** Knitted polar bear cuddly
**138** Embroidered swan hoop
**142** Amigurumi goodies


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MAKE A PLAYFUL POM POM
YARN WREATH, PAGE 18







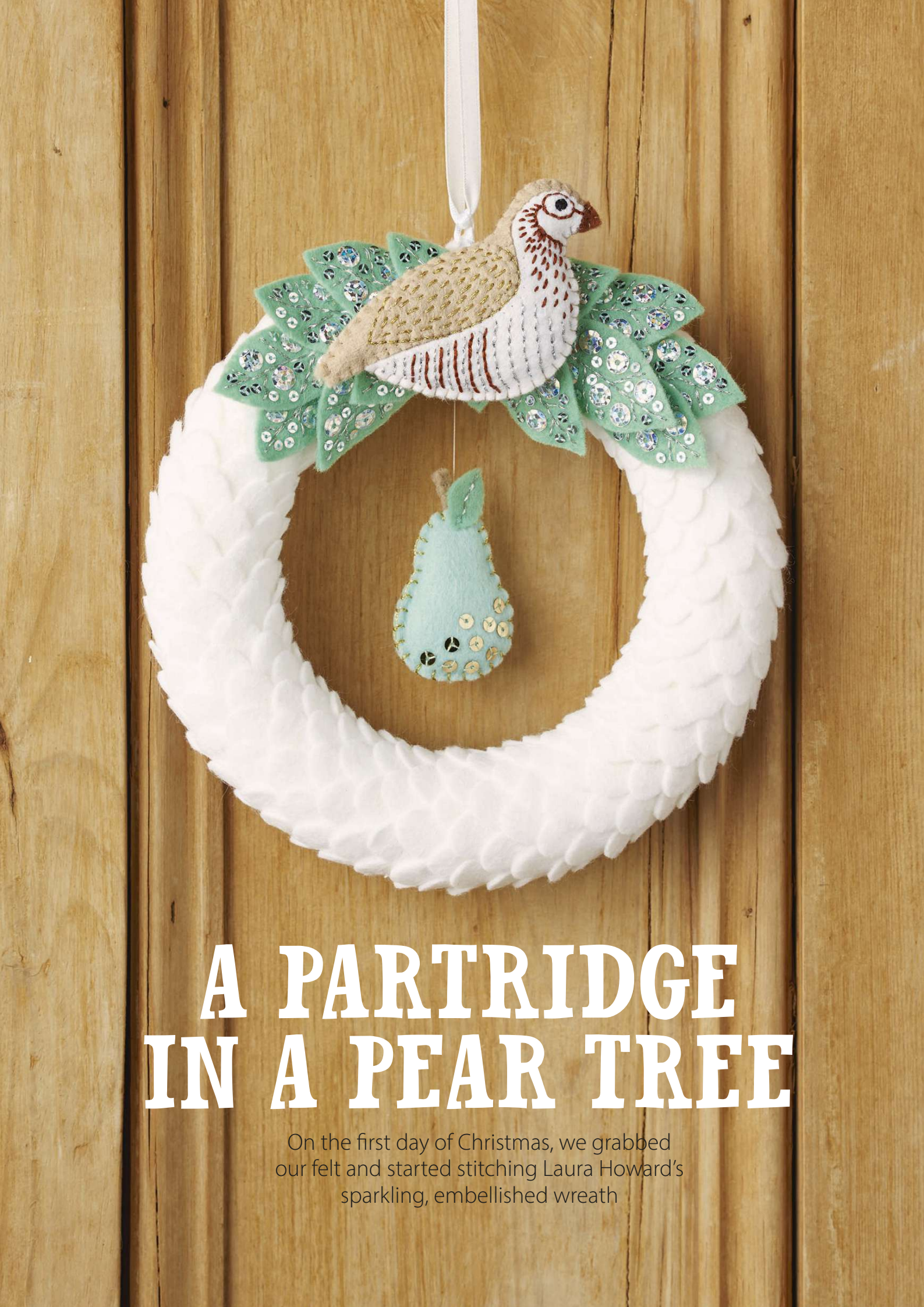






# DECORATIONS

Adorn your home (and your tree!) with show-stopping decorations, handmade baubles and winter curios to personalise your Christmas décor.

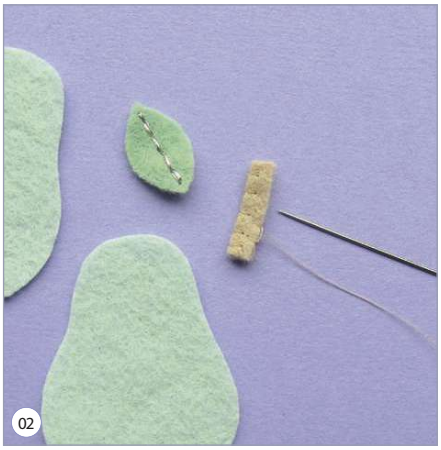


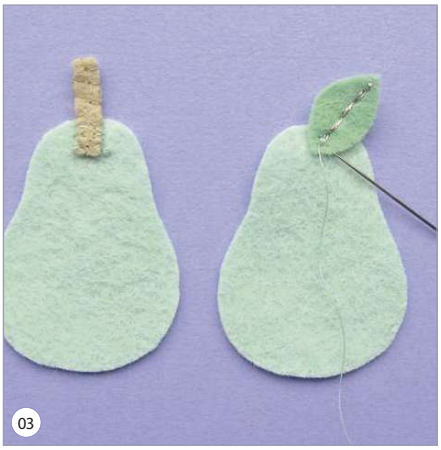
# A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE

On the first day of Christmas, we grabbed our felt and started stitching Laura Howard's sparkling, embellished wreath

# FELT WREATH












## HOW TO MAKE… A PARTRIDGE AND PEAR WREATH

### YOU WILL NEED

- Polystyrene wreath base, 17cm (6¾")
- White felt, approx. four 23 x 23cm (9 x 9") squares
- Green felt, approx. 15 x 15cm (6 x 6")
- Pale green felt, approx. 6 x 9cm (2½ x 3½")
- Pale brown felt, approx. 13 x 19cm (5 x 7½")
- Small piece of brown felt
- Matching sewing threads
- Silver, gold, black, light brown and dark brown embroidery threads
- White nylon thread (or other thin, strong thread)
- Silver sequins (6mm wide)
- Mini silver sequins (3mm wide)
- Mini gold sequins (4mm wide)
- 1m (1yrd) white ribbon, 5-10mm wide
- Polyester stuffing
- Glue gun and glue
- Sewing needle and pins
- Embroidery scissors
- Sewing scissors
- Air erasable fabric marker (optional)

We all know the house isn't properly prepped for Christmas until you've hung a gorgeously festive wreath on the door to welcome guests, or just catch the eye of passers-by. So grab your felt and some fancy embroidery threads, and spend a few cosy evenings putting together this sparkly partridge and pear wreath. There are loads of different felt techniques here to practice and to adapt into other projects – you could also just sew the hanging partridge and pear into individual decorations, if you don't want to make the whole wreath.

When stitching, use a third of each piece of metallic thread (so for six-stranded thread use two strands). For the black and brown thread, use half (so for six-stranded thread use three strands). Metallic thread can be tricky to work with, so cut shorter pieces than you'd normally use and take your time. We got our mini sequins (how cute!) from www.simplysequins.co.uk and found the polystyrene wreath at www.craftmill.co.uk.

### MAKING THE PEARS

01 Use the templates on page 146 to cut two pale green pears and one green mini leaf. Cut two pale brown stalk shapes (approximately 2 x 0.5cm). Embroidery scissors are great for cutting out small shapes. Use clear sticky tape to hold templates to the felt to make it easier when cutting fiddly parts.

02 Stitch along the leaf using running stitch and silver thread, sewing along then back, filling in the gaps as you go to make a continuous line. Start and finish your stitching at the bottom of the leaf. Join the stalk pieces using blanket stitch and a pale brown thread.

03 Attach the stalk and leaf to the pear pieces using pale green thread. Sew the leaf with a few



















## HOW TO MAKE… A PARTRIDGE AND PEAR WREATH

tiny stitches and the stalk with whip stitch (sewing into the felt not through it).

04 Add mini gold sequins using pale green thread.

05 Join the edges using blanket stitch. Start at the top, leaving a gap for stuffing. Stuff the pear lightly then sew up the gap.

### MAKING THE PARTRIDGE

06 Use the templates to cut one white belly, one pale brown body, one pale brown wing and one brown beak. One by one, sew them to a backing piece of pale brown felt. Use whip stitch and matching threads and sew along the inside lines only.

07 Cut out the partridge, then use the shape as a template to cut a backing shape from pale brown felt.

08 Cut a white felt eye using the template. Sew to the bird using white whip stitches. Backstitch around the eye using brown embroidery thread, then sew a line from the beak to the partridge's throat. Stitch this freehand or mark the line with an air-erasable fabric marker. Then sew small stitches along the line.

09 Add more small brown stitches, then backstitch six curved lines, leaving space for Step 11.

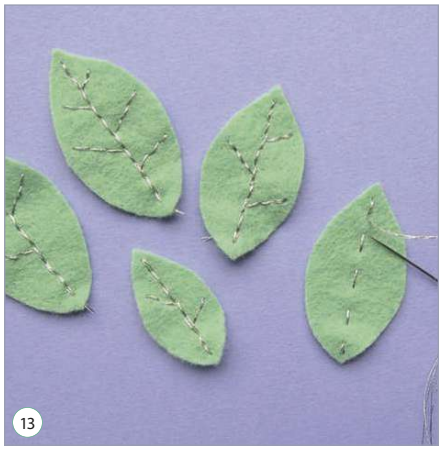
10 Stitch the eye using black embroidery thread, building up the shape from several tiny stitches. If you prefer, you can use a black bead or sequin instead.

11 Use silver embroidery thread to backstitch more curved lines: between the brown lines and filling the white space. Use gold embroidery thread to backstitch around the wing (leaving the top unstitched) then decorate the wing with small stitches.

12 Blanket stitch the edges of the partridge with pale brown thread, leaving a small gap at the top. Stuff the bird lightly then sew up the gap.

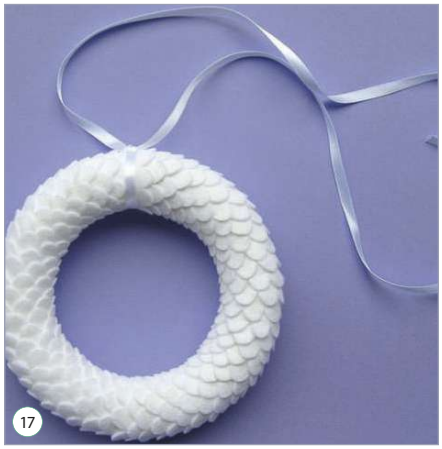


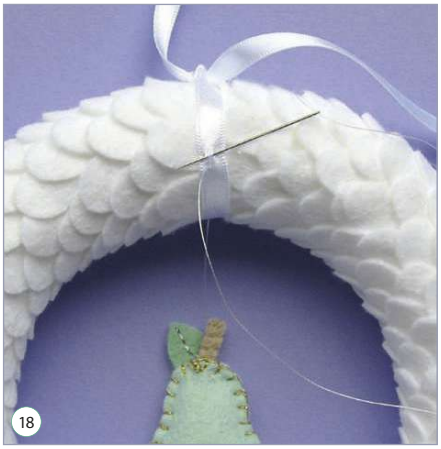
# FELT WREATH


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**MAKING THE LEAVES**

13 Cut four small, seven medium and four large green leaves, again using the templates. Add veins using silver embroidery thread and running stitch (see Step 2). Start and finish at the bottom of each leaf.

14 Add silver sequins using green thread. Sew the larger sequins first, then fill in the gaps with mini sequins. Start and finish your stitching at the bottom of each leaf.

**MAKING THE WREATH**

15 Use the template to cut lots of white scallop pieces (you'll need around 50-60 in total so be prepared to spend some time cutting!). To save time you could enlarge the template to cut larger scallops, or cover the wreath using white yarn instead.

16 Attach the scallops one by one using the glue gun. Arrange them so they overlap and the base is completely hidden.

17 Tie the white ribbon around the wreath where the scallops meet, knotting it securely. You can trim it later when you hang the wreath up.

18 Using nylon thread, sew into the top of the pear – from the back and up between the leaf and stalk. Sew a small stitch (front to back) into the bottom of the ribbon tied round the wreath, then sew a few running stitches up the back. Pull the thread to adjust the pear's position then sew a few small stitches to secure.

19 Attach the leaves, using the images above as a guide. Work outwards, adding a dot of glue to the bottom of each leaf.

20 Finally, add the partridge, applying glue to the leaves then pressing the bird into position.

Now find a place to proudly hang your classic partridge wreath in all its sparkling glory and wait for the compliments (and requests) to start rolling in!



**Laura Howard**

Laura is a designer, maker and craft writer living near Bristol, in the south-west of England. She loves colour, hand stitching and making lots of things from her favourite material – felt! She's written two books about felt crafting – *Super-Cute Felt* and *Super-Cute Felt Animals* – and she shares stitchy tutorials over on her blog. ***www.bugsandfishes.blogspot.com***

# KISS ME QUICK

Make your own (truly evergreen) mistletoe with Kacey Kendrick Wagner's easy tutorial

## HOW TO MAKE… FELT MISTLETOE

### YOU WILL NEED

- Sheet of green felt
- Permanent marker or fabric pencil
- Pearl embellishments
- Hot glue or fabric glue
- Ribbon of your choice
- Iron-on fabric stabiliser (optional)

How much would we love to have a house packed full of beautiful evergreens come Christmas time? We'd have halls decked with holly and ivy – and a bunch of mistletoe in every doorway, of course. But for now we're happy to settle for this adorable felt version – it won't wilt on us, and can be reused year after year. Pucker up, folks!

01 If you'd like your felt to be more structured, you can use iron-on fabric stabiliser on the wrong side of the felt. This will stiffen the fabric and prevent the finished decoration from being too floppy.
02 Trace the mistletoe template (see page 146) onto a sheet of paper or cardstock at your preferred size.
03 Cut out and trace around onto your felt using a marker or pencil. Trace the small one twice, flipping it over so the leaves face opposite directions. Feel free to trace more sprigs if you want.
04 Cut out the felt shapes and arrange the sprigs to your liking. Glue the stems and leaves together where they overlap.
05 Now arrange the pearl embellishments to resemble clusters of berries. Glue in place.
06 Finally, tie a ribbon bow around the stems. Cut an additional 20cm (8") length of ribbon and loop it to create a hanger. Glue it to the back.

Now find a doorway to hang it and let the seasonal smooching commence. If you'd prefer to gift this to a partner, personalise your sprig with their initials and attach to a hand-wrapped gift – for that extra-special finishing touch.


















# LITTLE REINDEER

Add personality to your Christmas tree with Jenny Blair's quirky-cute reindeer



# REINDEER


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## HOW TO MAKE… A REINDEER DECORATION

### YOU WILL NEED

- Felt (in beige, light brown, dark brown, pink and blue)
- Embroidery thread ((in black, brown, turquoise, pink and gold)
- Small orange pom pom trim
- Turquoise yarn
- Toy stuffing
- Fabric glue
- Pins

01 Cut out the deer shapes using the templates on page 146.

02 Pin the head gusset to one body piece, matching the marked ends. Sew using whipstitch, starting at the nose, then repeat to add the second body piece to the other side of the head gusset.

03 Mark the leg darts on the underside. Fold one leg under, along the marked line, then sew along the leg dart, through the two layers to make the leg 'stand'. Repeat for each deer leg.

04 Pin the underside to the body with wrong sides together, aligning the edges and markings. Whipstitch the underside and body together, then turn over and repeat on the other side.

05 Stuff firmly, using a knitting needle or similar, then close up the back seam using whipstitch.

06 Pair up the antler pieces and sew around the outside. Sew the antlers onto the head, as shown.

07 Glue the inner ears to the outer ears and leave to dry. Pinch at the base and sew in front of the antlers. Sew on the tail.

08 Use satin stitch and three strands of black thread to add the nose, then add two black stitches for the mouth and small satin stitches for each eye.

09 Stitch eight V shapes onto the head, following the markings.

10 Cut four thin pieces of blue felt and pin them evenly along the pink felt. Cut two lengths of pom pom trim and sew along the short edges of the pink felt using gold thread. Embroider on the gold details as shown opposite. Sew the blanket to the reindeer.

11 Cut a thin piece of blue felt and sew around the reindeer's neck using pink thread. Make a tassel using a length of turquoise thread, then sew the tassel onto the collar. Cut the looped ends to create a fringe. Repeat with the pink thread. Cut two pom poms from the trim, wind gold thread around the top, then sew in place on the collar.

12 Cut a length of gold thread to make a loop for hanging, then sew onto the blanket to finish.



**Jenny Blair**

Jenny Blair is a designer and maker of fun, modern embroidery and sewing kits. She's been stitching since she was nine years old, loves colour and find inspiration in the natural world that surrounds her. Following her desire to spread stitchery joy, she sells sewing and embroidery kits in her online shop. *www.jennyblair.co.uk*

# TINY TREES

Make your own miniature forest with Irina Tretyakova's adorable crocheted Christmas treasures



## HOW TO MAKE… CROCHET CHRISTMAS TREES







### YOU WILL NEED

- Anchor Pearl Cotton 5 thread, 100% cotton, 5g/21m per skein, one skein in 310 (Yarn D)
- For the pink tree: one skein each in 23 (Yarn A), 27 (Yarn B), 77 (Yarn C)
- For the coral tree: one skein each in 926 (Yarn A), 301 (Yarn B), 303 (Yarn C)
- For the yellow tree: one skein each in 2 (Yarn A), 8 (Yarn B), 11 (Yarn C)
- 1.25mm (US steel 10) crochet hook
- Soft toy filling
- Embellishments (we used star buttons, micro-mini buttons and seed beads)
- Stitch markers
- Tapestry needle

### TENSION

Tension isn't too important, but make sure your stitches are fairly tight to prevent any stuffing showing through

### ABBREVIATIONS (UK)

**st(s)** stitch(es)
**ch** chain
**dc** double crochet
**RS** right side
**ss** slip stitch
**dc2tog** double crochet two together
**Magic ring** to make a magic ring, hold the thread in your hand and wrap working yarn around forefinger twice to create ring, slip ring off your finger and insert hook to pick up first st, ch1, then work the sts for Round 1 and close the ring by pulling the loose end
**BLO** work the stitch through the back loop only
**FLO** work the stitch through the front loop only
**cr st** crab stitch (reverse double crochet). Insert the hook into the next st to the right, yarn over hook and pull loop through, yarn over the hook and pull through both loops on the hook to complete a stitch

### FINISHED SIZE

Approx. 9cm (3") high and 4.5cm (1") wide

Everything is so much better in miniature, from fun-sized chocolate bars (you're allowed to eat more, right?) to these scaled-down Christmas trees and their teeny tiny button trimmings. Use them as fun table decorations, create a festive display on your sideboard or mantelpiece, or make them as sweet stocking fillers to give to friends and family.

Each tree top uses three different threads in varying shades to give a pretty ombre effect. You can echo this look with your own choice of colours, or simply use a variegated yarn to create a similar feel.

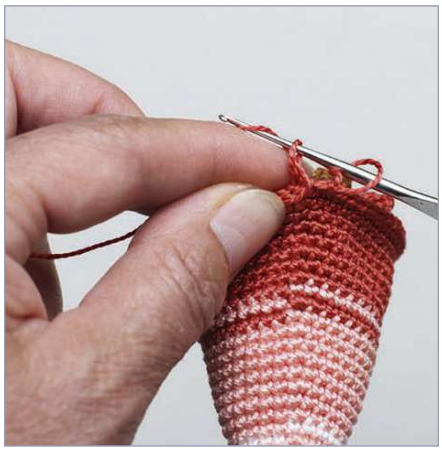
### INSTRUCTIONS

Each tree is made up from a base and a cone shape, both made in the round in a continuous spiral, then joined together with crab stitch. Don't join at the end of each round – instead, use a stitch marker to show the start of each round.

### MAKING THE BASE

Work from bottom upwards. Using Yarn D, start with a magic ring and work in a spiral
**Round 1** ch1 (does not count as st), 7dc in ring, pull ring tight [7 sts]
**Round 2** 2dc in each st around [14 sts]
**Round 3** (1dc in next st, 2dc in next st) seven times [21 sts]
**Round 4** (1dc in each of next 2 sts, 2dc in the next st) seven times [28 sts]

# TREE DECORATIONS







**Round 5** working into the BLO (1dc in each of next 5 sts, dc2tog) four times [24 sts]
**Round 6** 1dc in each st around
Change to Yarn C
**Round 7** working into the FLO (1dc in each of next 3 sts, 2dc in next st) six times [30 sts]
**Round 8** (1dc in each of next 4 sts, 2dc in next st) six times [36 sts]
**Round 9** (1dc in each of next 5 sts, 2dc in next st) six times [42 sts]
**Round 10** (1dc in each of next 6 sts, 2dc in next st) six times [48 sts]
Take the hook out of the working loop but don't close it. Cut the yarn, leaving a 7cm (2¾") length.

**MAKING THE CONE**
Work from the top downwards.
Using Yarn A, start with a magic ring and work in a spiral
**Round 1** ch1 (does not count as st, 6dc in ring, pull ring tight [6 sts]
**Round 2** 1dc in each st around
**Round 3** (1dc in next st, 2dc in next st) three times [9 sts]
**Round 4** 1dc in each st around
**Round 5** (1dc in each of next 2 sts, 2dc in next st) three times [12 sts]
**Round 6** 1dc in each st around
**Round 7** (1dc in each of next 3 sts, 2dc in next st) three times [15 sts]
**Round 8** 1dc in each st around
**Round 9** (1dc in each of next 4 sts, 2dc in next st) three times [18 sts]
**Round 10** 1dc in each st around
Change to Yarn B
**Round 11** (1dc in each of next 5 sts, 2dc in next st) three times [21 sts]
Change to Yarn A
**Round 12** 1dc in each st around
Change to Yarn B
**Round 13** (1dc in each of next 6 sts, 2dc in next st) three times [24 sts]
**Round 14** 1dc in each st around
**Round 15** (1dc in each of next 7 sts, 2dc in next st) three times [27 sts]
**Round 16** 1dc in each st around
**Round 17** (1dc in each of next 8 sts, 2dc in next st) three times [30 sts]
**Round 18** 1dc in each st around
**Round 19** (1dc in each of next 9 sts, 2dc in next st) three times [33 sts]
**Round 20** 1dc in each st around
Change to Yarn C
**Round 21** (1dc in each of next 10 sts, 2dc in next st) three times [36 sts]
Change to Yarn B
**Round 22** 1dc in each st around
Change to Yarn C
**Round 23** (1dc in each of next 11 sts, 2dc in next st) three times [39 sts]
**Round 24** 1dc in each st around
**Round 25** (1dc in each of next 12 sts, 2dc in next st) three times [42 sts]
**Round 26** 1dc in each st around
**Round 27** (1dc in each of next 13 sts, 2dc in next st) three times [45 sts]
**Round 28** 1dc in each st around
**Round 29** (1dc in each of next 14 sts, 2dc in next st) three times [48 sts]
**Round 30** 1dc in each st around, keep working loop on hook
Stuff the cone roughly three quarters full with soft toy filling.

**JOINING THE SECTIONS**
Align the edges of the base and cone, lining up the two working loops. Insert the hook from the cone's loop through the base's loop and pull the working Yarn C through both loops.
Pull the base's tail of yarn tightly.
Using Yarn C, work 48 crab stitches through both pieces to join them.
Add more stuffing as you make the crab stitches, filling the cone firmly and shaping it as you go.
Join to first crab st with a ss.
Break yarn, fasten off and sew through centre of tree.

**FINISHING**
Decorate your little trees with buttons and beads. Sew them on evenly around the tree, then attach a bigger star on top as a final finishing flourish.



**Irina Tretyakova**
Irina, originally from Russia, now lives in Wales with her family. Her grandma taught her to crochet at the age of five, but she made her first crochet dolls when her son was two years old, and opened her Etsy shop, Fancyknittles, in 2012. Visit for all things crochet and miniature, including bunnies and cacti!
*www.fancyknittles.etsy.com*

# DECK THE HALLS

Make this Christmas pom pom-tastic with Christine Leech's playful yarn wreath and garland



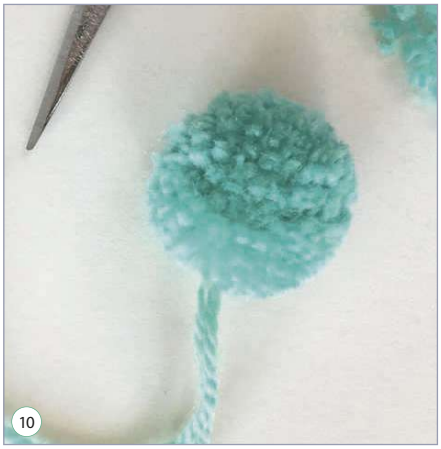



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01


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## HOW TO MAKE… A POM POM WREATH

### YOU WILL NEED

- Stylecraft Special DK yarn, 100% acrylic, 100g/295m per ball, one ball each in White (1001), Aspen (1422), Shrimp (1132), Lipstick (1246), Fiesta (1257), Sherbet (1034) and Sunshine (1114)
- Polystyrene wreath, 17cm (6¾")
- Glue gun
- Pom pom makers in 3.5cm (1⅜"), 5.5cm (2¼") and 7.5cm (3")
- One sheet of A6 card
- Fork (for making small poms)
- Small Christmas ornaments
- Ribbons

Up the kitsch factor this season with a set of festive decs that'll have Santa simultaneously reaching for his sunglasses and praising your outstanding pom pom skills. If you're usually fairly restrained when it comes to your décor choices, Christmas-time is a great excuse to indulge your extravagant side, and this straightforward project makes it easy to add an injection of colour to your home. After all, if you can't go overboard for the holidays, when can you? In fact, we might crack open a family-sized tin of chocolates now to get us in the mood for whipping up a big batch of pom poms.

Customise your wreath with any mini ornaments you might have, small baubles and even old cake decorations or cracker toys.

We recommend using the smallest pom pom maker and also the fork to make mini pom poms for your wreath, but you could always up the size of the polystyrene wreath if you want more of a statement piece. And remember, when it comes to pom pom making, trimming is key – the neater you trim, the more the pattern will stand out.

### MAKING THE POM POMS

01 To make a speckled pom pom, wind two or more colours of yarn around the pom pom maker at the same time. Follow the maker's instructions to complete the pom pom, then trim.

02 To make a patterned pom pom, use lots of different yarn colours, but wind each colour on individually. Complete the pom pom and trim.

03 To make a spotty pom pom, you'll need three different yarn colours. Wind the first yarn around the middle of one half of the maker twenty times. Make sure you build it up so the yarn is thicker in the middle than it is around the edges.

04 Wind the second yarn around, winding either side of the first yarn 10 times, then winding it over 20 times to cover it.

05 Wind the third colour over the previous yarn. Wind 30 times either side, then 40 times over the top. Then wind the same colour yarn round the other half of the maker until it's as full as the first half. Complete the pom pom and trim.

06 To make a striped pom pom, you'll need to use three different colours of yarn. Wind the first yarn colour around the pom pom maker 20 times, making sure to cover the full width of the maker.

07 Wind the second colour around the pom pom maker 40 times, covering all of the first colour, then wind the third colour around the maker 20 times, covering the second yarn. Repeat on the other half of the maker, then complete the pom pom and trim.

08 To make a fork pom pom, cut a length of yarn approximately

# YARN WREATH


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15cm (6") long and place it between the middle two tines on a fork. Wind yarn from the ball around the fork 50 times. Make sure the cut piece of yarn doesn't get caught up in the process!

09 Use the yarn strand to gather the yarn together tightly and tie a knot. If you find it hard to pull the yarn tight, slip the bundle from the fork tines, wrap the yarn strand around and tie another knot instead.

10 Cut each side of the bundle so the yarn is released, then trim the pom pom in the normal way.

11 To make a looped fork pom pom, cut a length of yarn approximately 15cm (6") long and place it between the middle two tines on a fork. Weave yarn from the ball over and under each tine, back and forth across the fork until it's full.

12 Use the cut piece of yarn to gather the yarn together tightly and tie a knot. Tighten the knot gradually by sliding the woven yarn away from the fork. Tie in a double knot, then manipulate the loops to form a sphere, as pictured.

## MAKING A TASSEL

13 Cut a length of yarn approximately 15cm (6") long and lay it beside your piece of card. Wrap yarn from the ball around the piece of card 40 times, wrapping over the cut length as you go. Tie the cut piece of yarn in a double knot tightly around the bundle of yarn, then slide from the card.

14 Tie another piece of yarn around the bundle, roughly quarter of the way down. Cut the lower part of the bundle to release the strands of yarn, then trim the strands to neaten. Use the two tails of yarn to fix the tassel in place on your chosen project or trim to tidy.

15 For an ombré effect, dip the tassel into a small cup of bleach. Wear gloves when doing so, and follow the manufacturer's safety guidelines. Keep an eye on it, as some colours change quicker than others, then rinse well and leave to dry fully.

## MAKING THE WREATH

16 Make roughly 50 different pom poms using Steps 1-12. To decide the arrangement of your pom poms first, pin them to the wreath, making sure you're happy with the overall look. Take a photo for reference, then remove the pom poms.

17 Beginning at the top, fix the pompoms to the wreath using a glue gun. Glue the larger pom poms in place first, then fill the space around them with smaller pom poms or decorations. Work your way around the whole wreath to make sure it's completely covered.

18 Once you've finished, add small ribbon bows, then fold a length of ribbon in half and glue to the back of the wreath for hanging. Glue three colourful yarn tassels to the bottom – and ta-da, your rainbow wreath is finished and ready to hang!



**Christine Leech**

Christine has written a total of nine books on a selection of crafts such as paper, felt and embroidery – she's one talented creative! Our favourite book, *Pompomania*, is full of clever pom pom projects just like this. Follow her on Instagram @sewyeah to share in her crafty lifestyle, projects and inspiration. *www.sewyeah.co.uk*

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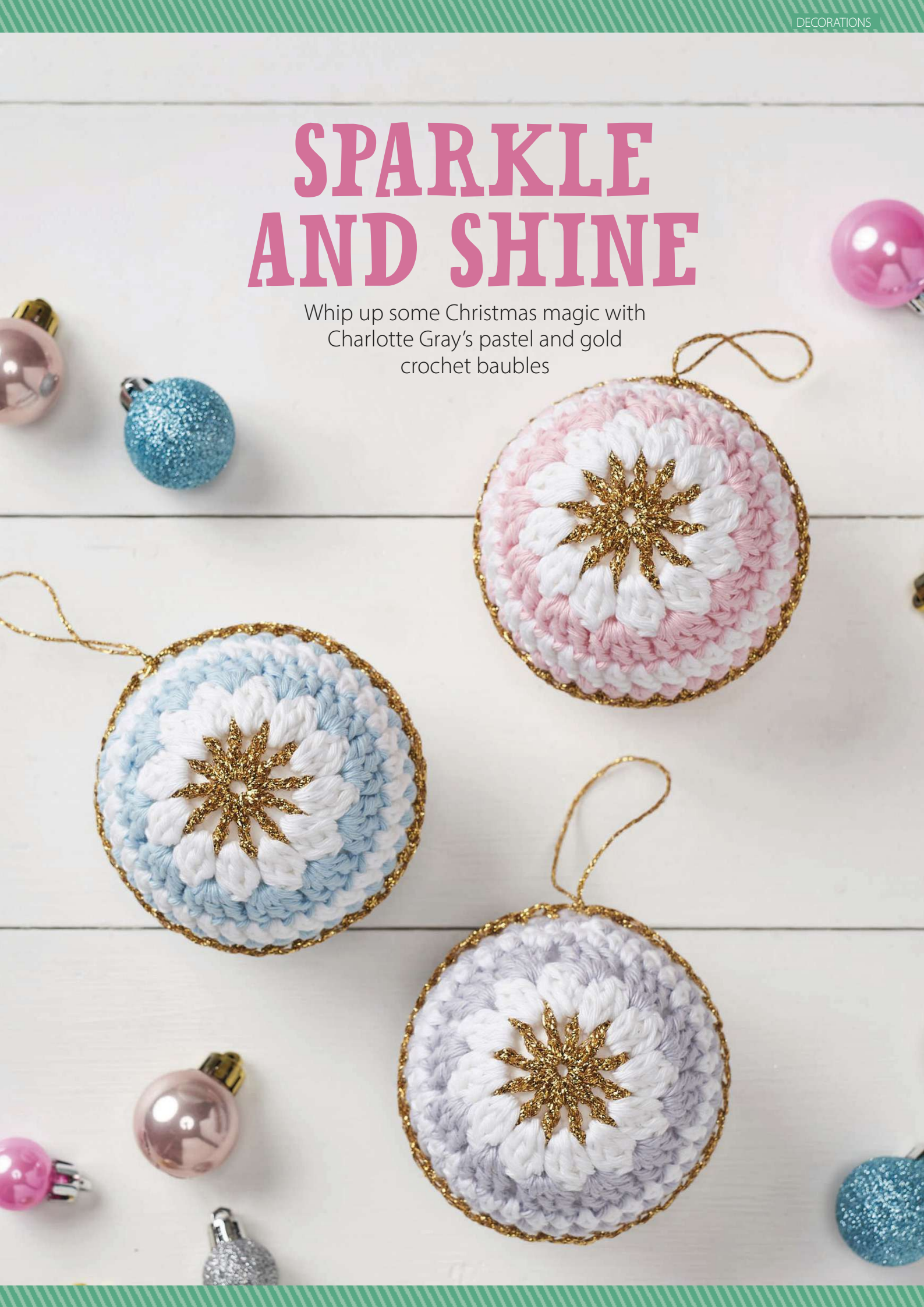
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# SPARKLE AND SHINE

Whip up some Christmas magic with Charlotte Gray's pastel and gold crochet baubles



## HOW TO MAKE… SPARKLY CROCHET BAUBLES








### YOU WILL NEED

- Rico Creative Cotton Aran, 100% cotton, 85m/93yd per 50g, one ball in each White (80) (Yarn A), Rose (00) (Yarn B), Light Blue (32) (Yarn C) and Silver Grey (22) (Yarn D)
- Twilley's Goldfingering, 80% viscose/20% polyester, 99m/108yd per 25g ball, one ball in Gold (002) (Yarn E)
- 4mm (UK 8, US G/6) crochet hook
- Three polystyrene balls, 7.5cm (3") diameter, 23.5cm (9¼") circumference
- Tapestry needle

### TENSION

Tension is not important for this project, but do check each hemisphere against the polystyrene ball as you work

### ABBREVIATIONS (UK)

**st(s)** stitch(es)
**ch** chain
**ch-sp(s)** chain space(s)
**ss** slip stitch
**tr** treble crochet
**htr** half treble crochet
**dtr** double treble crochet
**yrh** yarn round hook
**magic ring** wrap working yarn around forefinger twice to create ring, slip ring off finger and insert hook to pick up first st, ch1, then work necessary sts for Round 1 and close ring tightly by pulling the loose end
**2-tr** cluster (yrh, insert hook in st indicated, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) twice, inserting hook in same st each time, yrh and draw through all 3 loops on hook
**3-tr cluster** (yrh, insert hook in st indicated, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) 3 times, inserting hook in same st each time, yrh and draw through all 4 loops on hook

### FINISHED SIZE

Each bauble is approx. 8cm (3⅛") in diameter

### INSTRUCTIONS

To make each bauble, two outers are crocheted together around the polystyrene ball. Each round is completed with a slip stitch and fastened off. Make the process easier by crocheting over the yarn ends in the previous round to avoid having to sew them all in at the end.

### BAUBLE OUTER (MAKE 2)

**Round 1** using Yarn E, start with a magic ring, ch4 (counts as 1dtr), 11dtr into the magic ring, pull the ring closed, ss to the 4th ch from the start to join [12sts]
Break yarn and fasten off
**Round 2** attach Yarn A in between any dtr stitch of the previous round. Work this round into the spaces between dtr from Round 1, ch3, 2-tr cluster into same space, ch1, (3-tr cluster in next space, ch1) 11 times, ss to 3rd ch from start to join [12 3-tr clusters and 1ch-sps]
Break yarn and fasten off
**Round 3** attach Yarn B in any 1ch-sp, ch3 (counts as 1tr), 2tr into the same 1ch-sp, (3tr into next 1ch-sp) 11 times, ss to the 3rd ch from the start to join [36tr]
Break yarn and fasten off
**Round 4** attach Yarn A in any st. Ch3 (counts as 1tr), 1tr into each st around, ss to 3rd ch from start to join. Break yarn and fasten off
**Round 5** attach Yarn B in any st, ch2 (counts as 1htr), 1htr into each stitch around, ss to 2nd ch from the start to join. Break yarn and fasten off.

### FINISHING

Attach Yarn E to any st on the last round of one hemisphere. Place the two hemispheres together, last rounds touching, and join them by working through the sts on the last round of both hemispheres. Ch2 (counts as 1htr), then work 1htr through both sets of sts all around. Halfway around, insert the polystyrene ball and continue. Ss to 2nd ch from start to join. Break yarn and fasten off, leaving a long tail to create a hanging loop.
Repeat the pattern twice more to create a set of three different coloured baubles, replacing Yarn B with Yarn C for the second bauble, and with Yarn D for the third.

# FLORA AND FAUNA

Embrace the magic of winter with Georgie K. Emery's dreamy embroidered hoop art



# DOVE HOOP


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## HOW TO MAKE… EMBROIDERED DOVE HOOP ART

### YOU WILL NEED

- 25 x 27cm (9⅞ x 10⅝") navy cotton fabric
- Embroidery thread (we used DMC stranded cotton in 734 (yellow), 3816 (green), 666 (red), 352 (peach), 07 (light brown), 898 (dark brown), 3847 (dark green), 992 (jade green), 498 (dark red), 310 (black) and blanc (white))
- Gold metallic embroidery thread (we used DMC Mouline Light Effects in E677)
- Fine-tipped white fabric marker
- 18cm (7⅛") embroidery hoop
- Size 5 embroidery needle
- Size 7 embroidery needle
- Embroidery scissors
- Hot glue gun
- Pegs

Long evenings curled up indoors and those in betweeny days during Christmas and New Year – that's time to savour with satisfying stitches. This lavishly detailed embroidery hoop is just the project to pick up – you've got to be in it for the long game, but the beautiful wintry shades and the variety of techniques used make it such a rewarding wall art piece to create.

**EMBROIDERY**

Metallic thread can be tricky to use – to avoid getting it tangled up, try to keep the thread lengths to roughly 20cm (7⅞") and switch to an embroidery needle with a larger eye to help with threading.

When embroidering large areas of satin stitch, it's easier to start in the middle of the shape and fill out the stitches on either side. This helps to set the angle and direction of the stitches. When working the long and short stitches for the doves, it may be easier if you draw on some markings to assist you in placing the stitches and help you keep them going in the right direction.

# DOVE HOOP



















01 Using the template on page 146 and a window or lightbox behind the fabric, trace the pattern onto the fabric with the white marker, then place the fabric in the hoop.

02 For the mistletoe leaves, use satin stitch and three strands of embroidery thread; the right halves of the leaves are stitched in yellow thread and the left halves are stitched in green thread.

03 Stitch the mistletoe berries using three strands of gold thread and satin stitch. Start on the centre edge of the berry and work straight parallel stitches outwards, neatly filling the shape on either side.

04 For the mistletoe flowers, use three strands of red thread and satin stitch. Start with the centre petal and place the first stitch on the bottom edge in the centre and bring it down at the top point of the petal. Then work the stitches outwards to fill in the shape and repeat for the other two red petals. For the peach petals, use the same method but with three strands of peach thread instead.

05 Stitch the mistletoe stem with two strands of light brown thread and stem stitch. Stitch the main centre stem first, followed by the secondary stems.

06 Use straight stitch and two strands of dark brown thread for the spruce branches, as shown.

07 For the spruce leaves, use straight stitch and two strands of dark green thread. Make sure to cover the traced pen lines.

08 Use satin stitch and three strands of jade green for the three large leaves. Split each leaf in half and stitch the two halves separately with symmetrical diagonal stitches, as shown.

09 Working over the top of the satin stitch (using three strands of dark green thread), work a running stitch up the centre of each of the leaves for the leaf




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## HOW TO MAKE… EMBROIDERED DOVE HOOP ART

veins. Use the template on page 146 or the main image for guidance on the placement of these stitches, then work straight stitches coming out from the centre line.

(10) For the red berries in the spruce leaves, work French knots using four strands of dark red thread.

(11) Use satin stitch and three strands of peach thread for the sprig bunches. Stitch the leaves first using the same method as the mistletoe flowers in Step 4. Stitch all the leaves, then embroider the stems in running stitch.

(12) Stitch French knots next to the sprig bunches using three strands of white thread.

(13) The two embroidered doves are broken down into three different sections – the bodies, tails and wings. Use two strands of white thread to stitch all three of the sections. Start with the bodies, using long and short stitches near the beak, and making sure the stitches follow the natural direction of the feathers by curving them around the head. Leave a little gap for the eye, then continue down towards the tail, as shown. Make sure you keep the stitches very close together so none of the dark background fabric below shows through the embroidery.

(14) Stitching the tails with the same white thread, use the image for reference as to which sections are filled in for this step, continuing with long and short stitches in a curved downwards direction, and making sure to leave the lines separating the sections clear for the metallic details.

(15) As in Steps 13 and 14, work through each section of the wings separately in long and short stitch leaving the dividing lines clear – use the image above as a guide. Make sure the stitches follow the curves of the wings.

(16) For the metallic details on the doves' wings, tails and beaks, use two strands of gold thread. The larger sections are filled in using satin stitch and the outlines are in running stitch.

(17) The doves' eyes are filled in with two strands of black thread and satin stitch, then one straight line through the beak.

(18) To finish off the hoop, make sure the design is positioned centrally in the hoop with the fabric taut. Trim away the excess fabric, leaving a 2.5cm (1") border all the way round. Use a hot glue gun on the top edge of the inner part of the hoop, pegging the fabric down over it to hold it in place as you go. Once the glue is dry, remove the pegs. Cut a circle of felt to size to stick over the back to give your piece a professional finish.



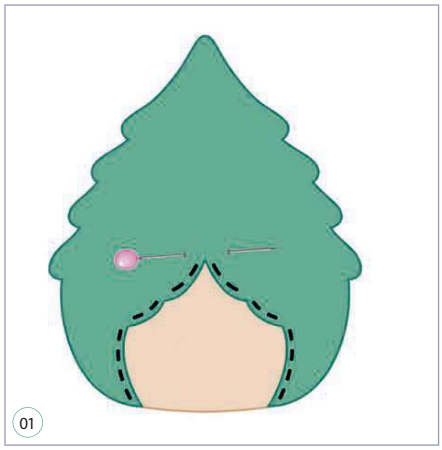
**Georgie K. Emery**
Printed textiles graduate Georgie lives in Gloucestershire. Her love of stitching started during college, but after university she abandoned her needle and thread for several years and has only just reengaged with her passion. Making up for lost time, she's now rarely seen without her embroidery and always carries projects with her!
*www.georgiekemery.etsy.com*

# MAKE A WISH

Top your tree with Paloma Rocha's kawaii-inspired fairy doll – or add her to a shelf alongside your kitsch collectables

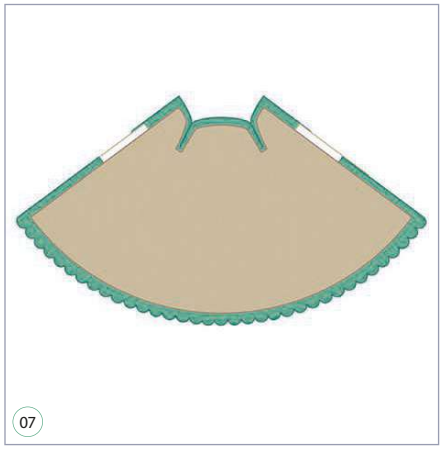


# TREE TOPPER


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## HOW TO MAKE… A FELT FAIRY TREE TOPPER + FOX

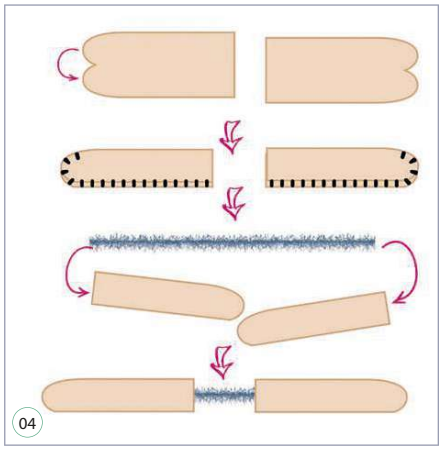
### YOU WILL NEED

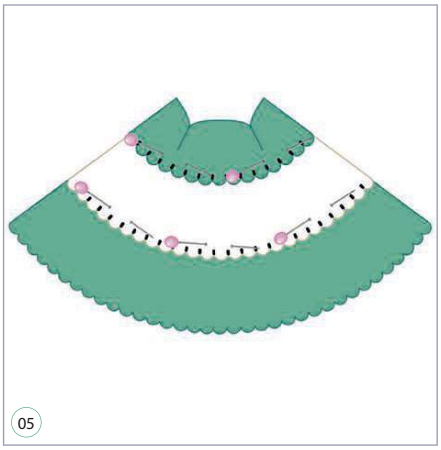
- Felt in turquoise, white, yellow, beige and brown
- Buttons
- Toy stuffing
- Embroidery thread in brown, black, red, pink, white and yellow
- Embroidery needle
- Pink pencil
- Pipe cleaners
- Scissors
- Pinking/ scalloped shears (optional)

How early do you put your tree up? There's a bit of debate at Craft for Christmas HQ as to when's the ideal time ("*I'm going for wait until December,*" says Charlie – Editor), but we all agree that you need plenty of kitsch, colourful decorations to adorn it with. This cute doll – complete with her own star glove and fox mascot – would look great atop a mini tree on a shelf or side table, or proudly displayed on a mantelpiece for a touch of kawaii-style.

Seed beads and buttons give her hair and dress a co-ord finish, and you could also use star-shaped sequins for extra shimmer. A little tip for cutting small shapes (such as the tiny felt stars): pin the paper pattern onto felt and cut around it to get an exact shape.

# TREE TOPPER


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01 Using the templates on page 146, cut the doll pieces from felt. Position the hair at the top of the face and pin. Sew the hairline onto the face using a tiny running stitch and matching thread.

02 Draw the face using a felt marker or pencil. Thread an embroidery needle with brown thread and sew the eyes and lashes onto the face. The eyes are made using a few curving backstitches, and the eyelashes using small straight stitches. Sew an outline circle for the pupils and then fill in with satin stitch. Sew a tiny straight stitch on for each eyebrow.

Re-thread the needle with red thread and embroider a small, curved mouth using a few backstitches. Stitch the lips using horizontal straight stitches positioned very close together. Sew the seed beads, buttons, plastic stars and any other embellishments you want onto the hair, as shown.

03 Align the two head pieces wrong sides (WS) together and join using whip stitch. Continue stitching until you're left with a small opening. Fill with toy stuffing and stitch the head closed.

04 Fold the arm shapes in half and whip stitch around the edges, leaving the top open. Push the arms onto a pipe cleaner, as shown.

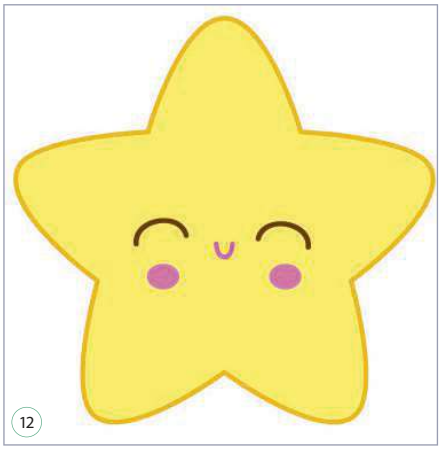
05 Pin the dress pieces together as shown. We used scallop shears to cut the bottom of each piece, however you could use regular pinked or smooth scissors. Sew in place using one small vertical stitch between each scallop.

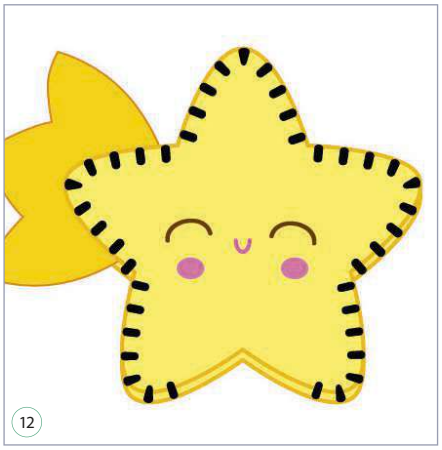
06 Sew the buttons and tiny felt stars onto the dress, as shown.

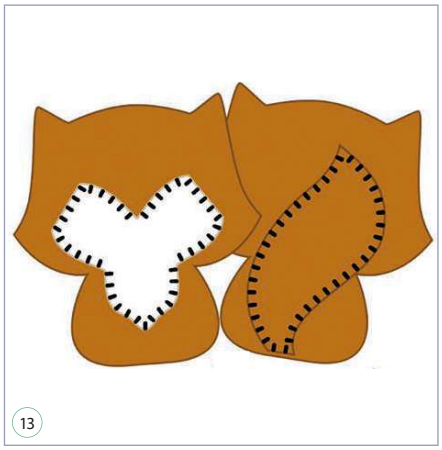
07 Glue a cardboard or plastic shape to the WS of the dress to add stiffness.

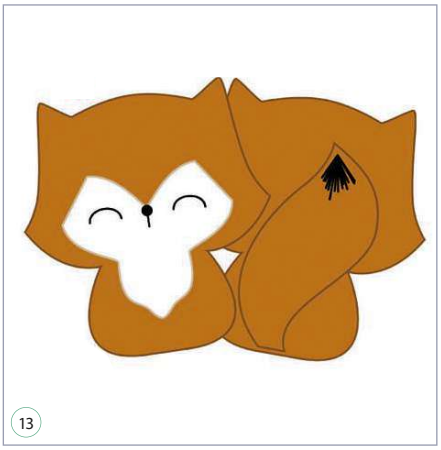
08 Fold the dress so that the back edges met, and whip stitch together along the back.

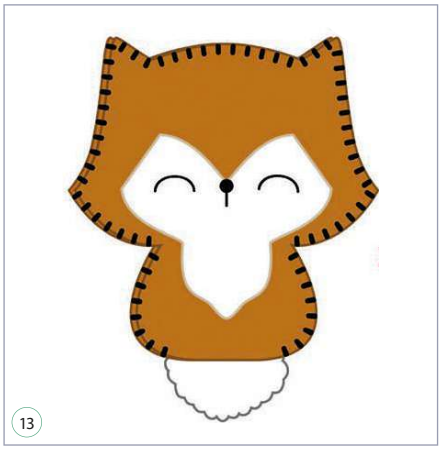


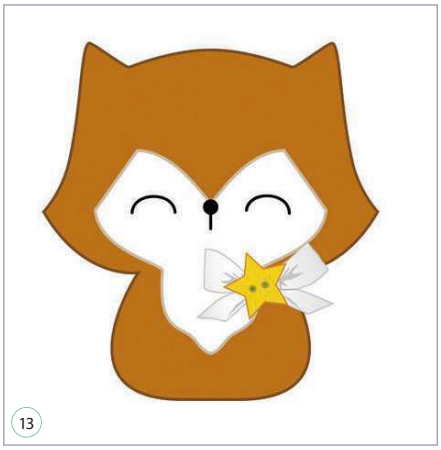



## HOW TO MAKE… A FELT FAIRY TREE TOPPER + FOX

09 Insert the arms in the gaps of the dress and sew the neck zone, as shown.

10 Position the head so that it overlaps the body. Attach using a ladder stitch through the head and the neck, going round and round until the head is secure.

11 Sew the wings onto the back, as shown. Tie a bow and sew it onto the neck. Colour in the cheeks using a pink pencil.

12 Embroider the star's eyes and mouth using small straight stitches. Add two French knots for the cheeks. Align the two star pieces WS together so the star's tail is sandwiched in the middle, and sew together using whip stitch. Stop stitching when the opening is small enough for the doll's hand to fit through.

13 Carefully arrange the face on the front of the fox and the tail on the back, then sew on using matching thread around the edges. Embroider the eye using three curved straight stitches.

Sew a French knot and vertical stitch for the mouth. Align the fox pieces WS together and sew with whip stitch. Fill with toy stuffing. Your fairy doll, her glove and fox mascot are all ready to decorate your tree.





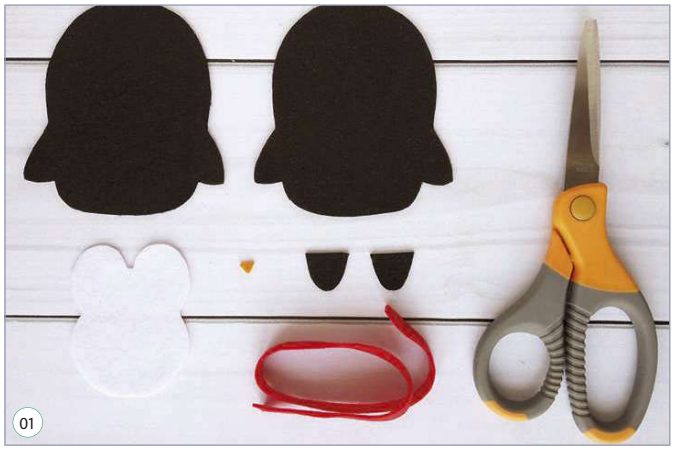

**Paloma Rocha**

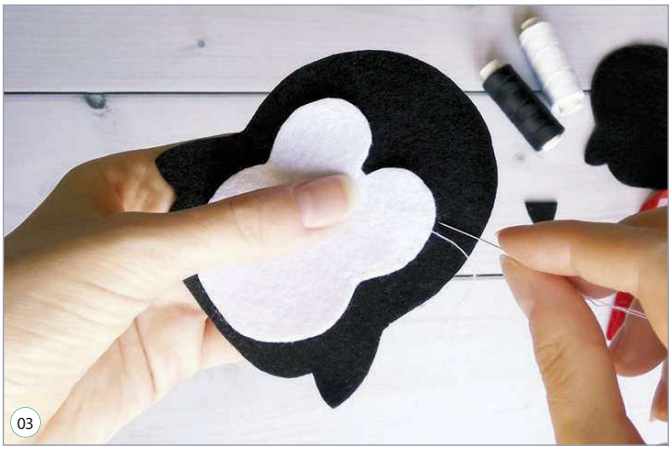
Spanish Paloma is a stitcher, crafter and designer. She creates a handmade collection of characters inspired by wild fairy tales and her own stories. She's a huge fan of working with felt, and always finds herself returning to it despite trying other materials. You can browse more of her gorgeous felt doll patterns in her online shop. *www.noialand.com*

# FESTIVE FELTIES

Spread Christmas joy with Anastasia Telegey's pair of cute kawaii-inspired critters












## HOW TO MAKE… FELT ANIMAL DECORATIONS

### YOU WILL NEED

- Soft toy filling
- Toy safety eyes, 8mm (1/8")
- Sewing needle
- Matching sewing thread
- Embroidery needle
- Black embroidery thread
- Thread for hanging
- Fabric glue
- Erasable fabric marker
- Pink colouring pencil

FOR THE PENGUIN
- Black, white, red and orange felt

FOR THE BEAR
- White, black and blue felt

FOR THE REINDEER
- Dark brown, light brown, beige and black felt

The only stocking filler cuter than these felt animals would be a tiny fluffy kitten – fact. Soft, squishy, and with the sweetest faces, you can hang them around your home, use them to decorate the Christmas tree, or use the as 3D tags on your wrapped gifts.

Easy to make, why not get kids involved in putting together these felt friends? Help them cut out the shapes by pinning the templates to the felt or drawing around them with a fine fabric marker, then show them how to join the pieces with easy blanket stitch – just add hot chocolate for a fun family night in.

**MAKING THE PENGUIN**

01 Using the templates on page 146, cut out all penguin pattern pieces.

02 Add a few drops of fabric glue to the reverse of the white face and tummy piece, then stick to the body piece, using the picture as a guide.

03 Blanket stitch around the edge of the face and tummy piece with white sewing thread.

04 Use the tip of a pair of embroidery scissors to make two holes for the eyes. Insert the safety eyes, then add on the connectors at the back, sliding each connector onto the post as far as it will go.

05 Embroider the eyelashes using straight stitch and black embroidery thread, then glue on the beak.

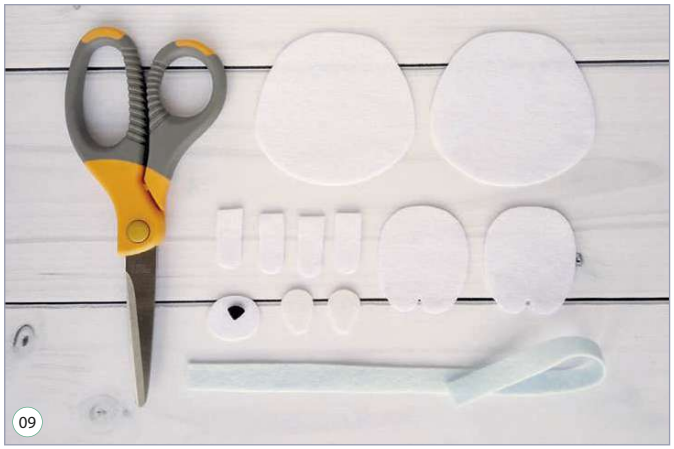
06 Pin the two body pieces with wrong sides (WS) together. Add a few drops of glue along the wider top parts of the feet, then position between the two body pieces, pressing down to secure.

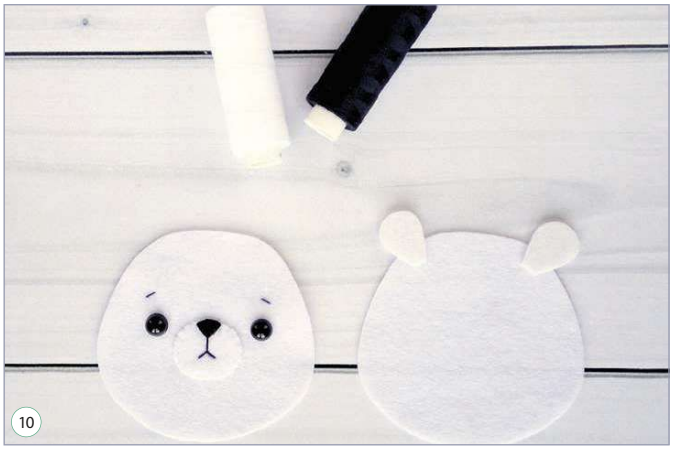
07 Blanket stitch around the body, adding a loop of thread at the top and leaving an opening on one side. Stuff, then sew the gap closed.

08 Tie on the scarf. Rub the pink pencil onto the penguin's cheeks and smudge with your finger.



# FELT ANIMALS










**MAKING THE BEAR**

09 Using the templates on page 146, cut out all bear pattern pieces.

10 Glue the face piece onto the head using the pictures above as a guide, then blanket stitch around the edge of the face piece. Glue on the nose.

11 Use the tip of a pair of embroidery scissors to make two holes for the eyes. Insert the safety eyes, then add on the connectors at the back, sliding each connector onto the post as far as it will go.

12 Embroider the eyebrows and mouth using straight stitch and black embroidery thread, using the picture as a guide. With WS facing up, glue the bear's ears onto the top of the head back as shown in the pictures.

13 Place the head front and back with WS together and blanket stitch around the edge, adding a loop of thread at the top for hanging and leaving an opening at the bottom for stuffing.

14 With WS together, blanket stitch two arm pieces to join. Repeat with the other two arm pieces, then glue onto the WS of the body back.

15 Place the body front and back with WS together and blanket stitch around the edge, leaving an opening at the top for stuffing.

16 Stuff the head and body, then sew the gaps closed. Pin the head to the body and sew in place with ladder stitch. Make sure you go around the join several times to ensure it's sewn firmly in place.

17 Tie on the scarf, then rub the pink pencil onto the bear's cheeks and gently smudge with your finger.




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## HOW TO MAKE… FELT ANIMAL DECORATIONS

**MAKING THE REINDEER**

18 Using the templates on page 146, cut out all reindeer pattern pieces.

19 Glue the face piece onto the head front, then glue three dots to the face piece using the picture as a guide. Glue three dots to the body front, then glue the smaller ear pieces onto the larger ear pieces. Glue the ears and antlers onto the WS of the head back.

20 Use the tip of a pair of embroidery scissors to make two tiny holes for the eyes. Insert the safety eyes with the connectors at the back, sliding each connector onto the post as far as it will go.

21 Glue on the nose, then embroider on the eyelashes and mouth as shown, using straight stitch and black embroidery thread.

22 Place the head front and back with WS together then blanket stitch around the edge, adding a loop of thread at the top for hanging and leaving an opening at the bottom of the head for stuffing.

23 Place the body front and back with WS together and blanket stitch around the edge, leaving an opening at the neck area.

24 Stuff the head and body, then sew the gaps closed. Pin head to body and sew in place with ladder stitch. Make sure you go around the join several times to ensure it's sewn firmly in place.





**Anastasia Telegey**

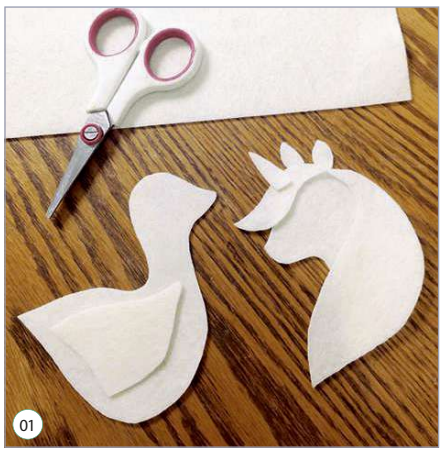
Anastasia originally trained as a civil engineer, but after discovering the joy of making felt decorations, couldn't imagine life without them. Visit her Etsy shop, My Magic Felt, to find gorgeous handmade baby mobiles, festive decorations and animal ornaments that will add a unique look to your nursery, home and Christmas tree!

*www.mymagicfelt.etsy.com*



# THE UNICORN AND THE GOOSE

Sprinkle some festive magic on your tree with Sabina Gibson's unlikely pair of felted creatures



















## HOW TO MAKE… FELT UNICORN AND GOOSE DECORATIONS

### YOU WILL NEED

- Wool felt in white, red, mint, plum, peach and navy
- Embroidery floss in white, red, mint, plum, navy and black
- Yarn or cotton cord
- SuperGlue or fabric glue
- Polyester stuffing

Here's an unlikely alliance of characters come to spread the Christmas cheer – a traditionalist goose, and a unicorn for those who fancy a bit of extra magic.

We used an unexpected combination of fresh pastels and deep plummy tones to bring these creatures to life, but of course you can switch the palette up how you wish, and add whatever stitches or accessories you fancy.

The flower template is a little large, making it easier to cut – we made a smaller version for the goose and a larger one for his legendary buddy.

01 Trace and cut the templates on page 146, starting with your white pieces. These will serve as the base for both the unicorn and the goose. Layer them as shown in the photo, starting with the body, then the smaller parts over the top. Trace the pattern onto the fabric facing in the opposite direction to how you'd like your character. This way, your pencil won't be visible.

02 Now add your secondary, coloured shapes – the mint mane and peach flower for the unicorn, and the mint head and chest, red wing accent and peach flower for the goose. When adding the mane, first cut the full shape then cut contouring strips into it as shown, to create waves. For your goose, tuck the red wing detail under the main wing, then layer the mint parts, beak and neck. Finally, add the flower shapes to both animals.

03 Time to secure all your felt pieces. Pin them in place, then apply a very small amount of glue under each piece to secure each layer together. A good trick here is to take a pin and dip it into your tube of glue, then brush it underneath each piece to avoid disrupting your pattern.

04 Now the main form of your characters are bonded you're

# UNICORN + GOOSE


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ready to apply them to the backing. Place your unicorn head over the plum oval. Her hair should flow off the edge.

The goose requires an additional step. Place it on the plum felt and trace around the shape, leaving about a 1cm (⅜") border. Don't worry about being perfect – you can always go a little bigger and trim down if needed. Cut this shape out twice. Now place your goose character over just one of the plum pieces.

05 Next, stitch your animal form to the purple backing using white embroidery thread.

When you arrive at the mint portion of either animal (the goose's chest for example, or the unicorn's mane) you may wish to switch your thread colour to make the stitches less visible. Follow up by stitching around any of the coloured layers you feel need extra securing.

06 Now you're ready to start embroidering. For the unicorn, add a red, diagonal stripe to her horn, resembling a candy cane. For the goose, add the wing detail using navy thread. Start your line between each scallop and follow the contour of the wing in a curved line that ends at the base of the wing. For the flowers, start from the centre and work your way out, creating lines in each petal. Next, stitch in the 'arrows', starting at the base of each line and working your way out, as before.

Finally, create almond-shaped eyes on both creatures using black thread. Finish by adding blush to the cheeks, some pink in the unicorn's ears and a red stripe to the base of the goose's beak and unicorn's snout.

07 Now your main work is finished, it's time to create the base for your ornaments. Place your unicorn piece over the large red oval. Stitch together using matching plum thread. Switch up your colours when you arrive at the mint portion of the hair.

08 Cut the coloured yarn or cord of your choice to your desired length then create a loop, tying it off with a knot at the bottom. Turn your ornament over and sew it to the back. This will be to hang your ornament from.

09 Now you need to create a little 'pocket' to stuff. Take your final backing pieces (the purple goose shape and the unicorn's red oval), layer them together and start stitching, beginning at the top and working your way around. Leave a gap for stuffing.

10 Now you're ready to start stuffing your ornaments. Gently put just a small amount of stuffing into the pocket you've created. Try to avoid over-stuffing them as this can create a buckling effect at the seam. Once you're done, slipstitch the opening closed and hang your new ornaments from your tree.



**Sabina Gibson**

Illustrator, artist and soft sculpture maker, Sabina spends her days creating puppets for movies and TV and her nights making characters for her Etsy shop. She's inspired by 80s films such as Gremlins and The Dark Crystal. She has also written (and made characters!) for a number of children's books.

*www.mountroyalmint.etsy.com*

# SO EASY!

Give plain old plastic baubles a playful makeover with nail polish and gold leaf adhesive – Lana Red explains how



As if we need another excuse to buy nail polish! These festive decs are created by daubing complementary shades of varnish to a plain bauble, then applying gold leaf around the base. Use a sponge brush to achieve the ombré effect with multiple coats of varying shades of pink. Balance the bauble upside down on a cup so you can brush on the gold leaf adhesive before smoothing with a dry brush. For more DIYs like this, visit www.lanaredstudio.com

# SNOW DAY

Cosy up with your yarn and hook, and crochet Charlotte Gray's trio of amigurumi tree decorations



## HOW TO MAKE… CROCHET TREE DECORATIONS

### YOU WILL NEED

- Rico Creative Cotton Aran, 100% cotton, 50g/85m per ball, one ball each in White (80) (Yarn A), Light Green (40) (Yarn B) and Red (05) (Yarn C)
- Twilley's Goldfingering, 80% viscose/20% polyester, 25g/100m per ball, one ball in Gold (002) (Yarn D)
- Small amount of DK yarn in grey (Yarn E)
- Black embroidery thread
- Soft toy stuffing
- 3mm (UK 10, US D/3) crochet hook
- 4mm (UK 8, US G/6) crochet hook
- Tapestry needle
- Six black safety eyes, 1cm (3/8 ") wide
- Stitch marker

### TENSION

Tension is not important for this project, but your stitches do need to be tight so no stuffing shows through. To avoid this, try using a smaller hook than the one recommended for the yarn

### ABBREVIATIONS (UK)

**st(s)** stitch(es)
**ch** chain
**ss** slip stitch
**dc** double crochet
inc increase by working 2 dc into the same stitch
**dec** decrease by working 2 dc together
**magic ring** make a magic ring, hold yarn in your hand and wrap working yarn around forefinger twice to create ring, slip ring off your finger and insert hook to pick up first st, ch1, then work the necessary sts for Round 1 and close the ring tightly by pulling the loose end

### FINISHED SIZE

The decorations measure 8-10cm (31/8 -4") high








### INSTRUCTIONS

Most of the decorations are crocheted in continuous rounds, using a stitch marker to indicate the end of each one. For the polar bear's scarf and present, however, work in rows, changing to a 4mm hook for the ribbon on the present.

### CHRISTMAS TREE

**Tree top**

**Round 1** using Yarn B, 3dc into a magic ring, pull ring closed [3 sts]
**Round 2** inc 3 times [6 sts]
**Round 3** (2dc, inc) 2 times [8 sts]
**Round 4** (3dc, inc) 2 times [10 sts]
**Round 5** (4dc, inc) 2 times [12 sts]
**Round 6** (5dc, inc) 2 times [14 sts]
**Round 7** (6dc, inc) 2 times [16 sts]
**Round 8** (7dc, inc) 2 times [18 sts]
**Round 9** (8dc, inc) 2 times [20 sts]
**Round 10** (9dc, inc) 2 times [22 sts]
**Round 11** (10dc, inc) 2 times [24 sts]
**Round 12** (11dc, inc) 2 times [26 sts]
**Round 13** (12dc, inc) 2 times [28 sts]
**Round 14** (13dc, inc) 2 times [30 sts]
**Round 15** (14dc, inc) 2 times [32 sts]
**Round 16** (15dc, inc) 2 times [34 sts]
**Round 17** (16dc, inc) 2 times [36 sts]
**Round 18** crochet in the front loops only, 1dc in each st [36 sts]
Ss in the first dc. Fasten off.
Attach two eyes between Rounds 11 and 12.
Start stuffing, adding small amounts of stuffing at a time to maintain the cone shape.

**Tree base**

**Round 1** using Yarn B, 6dc into a magic ring, pull ring closed [6 sts]
**Round 2** inc 6 times [12 sts]
**Round 3** (1dc, inc) 6 times [18 sts]
**Round 4** (2dc, inc) 6 times [24 sts]
**Round 5** (3dc, inc) 6 times [30 sts]
Ss in the first dc. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. Sew the base to the bottom of the tree, sewing into the back loops from Round 17. Continue stuffing as you sew.

**Finishing**

Using Yarns A and C, add stitches randomly onto the tree.
Secure a length of Yarn D at the top and wind it down and around the tree to represent tinsel. Use small stitches in matching yarn to secure it in place.
Make a mini pom pom from Yarn D and attach to the top of the tree. Leave a long tail and use it to create a loop for hanging.
Use black thread to embroider the mouth between the eyes, using the image as a guide.

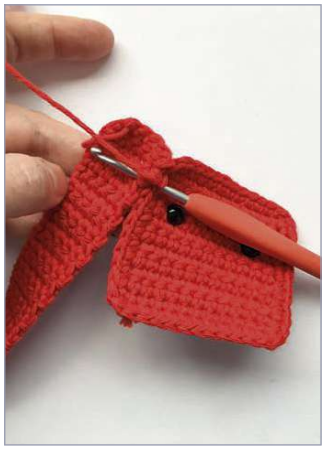
### POLAR BEAR

**Body**

**Round 1** using Yarn A, 6dc into a magic ring, pull ring closed [6 sts]
**Round 2** inc 6 times [12 sts]
**Round 3** (1dc, inc) 6 times [18 sts]
**Round 4** (2dc, inc) 6 times [24 sts]
**Rounds 5-9** 1dc in each st [24 sts]
Attach two eyes between Rounds 6 and 7

# AMIGURUMI





**Round 10** (3dc, inc) 6 times [30 sts]
**Round 11** (4dc, inc) 6 times [36 sts]
**Rounds 12-17** 1dc in each st [36 sts]
Start stuffing, and continue to stuff as you go
**Round 18** (4dc, dec) 6 times [30 sts]
**Round 19** (3dc, dec) 6 times [24 sts]
**Round 20** (2dc, dec) 6 times [18 sts]
**Round 21** (1dc, dec) 6 times [12 sts]
**Round 22** dec 6 times [6 sts]
Ss in the first dc. Sew the remaining stitches closed and weave in ends.

**Snout**
**Round 1** using Yarn E, 6dc into a magic ring, pull ring closed [6 sts]
**Round 2** inc 6 times [12 sts]
Ss in the first dc. Embroider a nose and mouth using black thread.

**Ears (make 2)**
**Round 1** using Yarn A, 6dc into a magic ring, pull ring closed [6 sts]
**Round 2-3** 1dc in each st [6 sts]
Ss in the first dc. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

**Arms (make 2)**
**Round 1** using Yarn A, 4dc into a magic ring, pull ring closed [4 sts]
**Round 2** inc 4 times [8 sts]
**Round 3** 1dc in each st [8 sts]
Ss in the first dc. Fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing.

**Legs (make 2)**
**Round 1** using Yarn A, 6dc into a magic ring, pull ring closed [6 sts]
**Round 2** inc 6 times [12 sts]
**Round 3-4** 1dc in each st [12 sts]
Ss in the first dc. Fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing. Lightly stuff.

**Scarf**
**Foundation** using Yarn C, ch51
**Row 1** 1dc in 2nd chain from the hook then in each ch across [50 sts]
Ss in the first dc. Fasten off.
Use Yarn D to weave stitches through the scarf for embellishment. Use Yarn B to add tassels to each end of the scarf.

**Finishing**
Sew on the snout, between and slightly below the eyes. Using the image as a guide, sew the ears onto the head, and the arms and legs onto the body.
Wrap the scarf around the neck of the bear and secure in place with a few stitches. Attach a loop of Yarn A to the top of the bear's head.

**CHRISTMAS PRESENT**
**Front and back panels (make 2)**
**Foundation** using Yarn C, ch13
**Row 1** 1dc in 2nd chain from the hook then in each ch across, turn [12 sts]
**Rows 2-10** ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc in each st across, turn [12 sts]
**Row 11** ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc in each st across
Starting from the end of Row 11, work dc evenly around the panel (placing 2dc in each corner) to create a clean border. Ss in the first dc. Fasten off, leave an extra-long tail. Attach two eyes between the fourth and fifth row of the front panel.

**Side piece**
**Foundation** using Yarn C, ch6
**Row 1** 1dc in 2nd chain from the hook then in each ch across, turn [5 sts]
**Row 2** ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc in each st across, turn [5 sts]
Repeat Row 2 until the piece measures 25cm (9⅞ ") in length.
Don't fasten off the yarn in case you need to add or decrease rows on the middle panel.

**Ribbon (make two)**
**Foundation** using Yarn B and a 4mm hook, ch43
Change to Yarn D
**Row 1** ss back across your chain.
Fasten off. Leave a tail for sewing.

**Bow**
**Foundation** using Yarn B, ch11
**Row 1** 1dc in 2nd chain from the hook and 1dc in each ch across, turn [10 sts]
**Row 2 and 3** ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc in each st across, turn [10 sts]
**Row 4** ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc in each st across
Fasten off and leave a long yarn tail measuring 50cm (19¾").
Using the yarn needle, bring the tail to the centre of the bow. Wrap the tail around the middle several times to create a bow shape, leave yarn to attach to the present.

**Finishing**
Hold together the front panel and side panel of the present and, starting at the long yarn tail, 1dc through both pieces in each stitch around, making sure to work 2dc in each corner.
Repeat with the back panel, stuffing as you work round.
Whip stitch the side panel closed, then fasten off and weave in any loose ends.
Wrap the ribbons horizontally and vertically around the present and stitch them both in place.
Attach the bow to the top of the present and create a loop for hanging, then embroider the mouth in black thread at the point where the green ribbons cross.

Now your trio of adorable amigurumi Christmas decorations are ready to be hung on your tree!





# CELEBRATE THE SEASON

Craft a beautiful winter floral wreath from paper – Sarah Louise Matthews shows you how

# PAPER WREATH


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## HOW TO MAKE… A PAPER FLOWER WREATH

### YOU WILL NEED

- Paper in sage green and dark green
- Crepe paper in white and pink
- Paint in pink, red, gold, light green and black
- Polystyrene balls, 25 1cm (⅜"), one 1.5cm (⅝") and one 2cm (¾")
- Gold ring, 15cm (6") diameter
- Ribbon, 40cm (15¾"), 1.5cm (⅝") wide
- Floral tape
- Floral wire
- Wire cutters
- Bone folder
- Paint brush
- Hot glue gun
- Quick-drying glue

Floral and foliage wreaths at Christmas time are an age-old tradition, but we love the contemporary twist this lifelike paper version has been given.

Sarah has recreated sprigs of eucalyptus, blousy anemones and delicate roses with an attention to detail that'll earn this realistic garland a double take. Studded with berries in complimentary hues of red, pink, gold and white, this intricate piece is wound around a gold ring to add a clean elegance to the modern foliage and blooms.

With templates supplied for each individual leaf and petal, you can easily craft your own version. All you need is a quiet afternoon, a steady hand, and a few flower arranging essentials – festive music optional.

01 Use wire cutters to cut 22 6cm (2⅜") lengths of floral wire. Take one length and apply a small amount of hot glue to one end, then push it into the centre of a 1cm (⅜") polystyrene ball. Repeat with the remaining wires.

02 Paint seven polystyrene balls using pink paint, five using red paint, and five using gold paint. Leave five balls white. Once dry, group the berries in twos and threes, as shown, twisting the wires together to secure them.

03 Using the templates on page 146, cut 20 round eucalyptus leaves from the sage green paper: four small, four medium, four large and four extra large. To prepare the eucalyptus sprigs, cut two 12cm (4¾") lengths of floral wire. Separate the eucalyptus leaves into two groups, with two small, two medium and two large leaves in each group. Put two extra large leaves into one group, and six extra large leaves into the other.

# PAPER WREATH


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04 To make the eucalyptus sprigs, use quick-drying glue to attach the leaves to each wire in pairs, one on either side of the wire, starting at the top of with the smallest pair, as shown. After sticking on each pair of leaves, wrap floral tape around the paper stems and the wire, roughly 1-1.5cm (⅜ -⅝") down, then add the next pair of leaves. Continue until both groups of paper leaves are attached to both wires.

05 Using the templates on page 146, cut out 60 long eucalyptus leaves – 30 from dark green paper and 30 from sage green paper. Cut 30 8cm (3⅛") lengths of floral wire, then glue a piece of wire down the centre of each sage green leaf. Apply a thin layer of quick-drying glue to one side of each dark green leaf, then press onto the sage green leaves, sandwiching the wire between the two. Press together with the bone folder, then repeat again with the remaining paper leaves and wire.

06 Wrap each long eucalyptus leaf's wire with the floral tape. Take two of the leaves and hold their stems together with one leaf positioned higher than the other. Wrap the two stems together from the base of the leaves down, adding in new leaves as you go. Make one eucalyptus sprig with 25 leaves and one with five leaves.

07 Using the templates on page 146, cut four variegated leaves from the dark green paper and five from the sage green paper. Fold each one in half down the centre, then use short brush strokes in light green paint to colour the edges of each of the leaves, as shown.

08 Cut nine 8cm (3⅛") lengths of floral wire. Use quick-drying glue to attach a wire to the back of each variegated leaf, along the fold. Separate the leaves into two groups of three leaves, leaving




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## HOW TO MAKE… A PAPER FLOWER WREATH

three single leaves. Use floral tape to bind the wire ends of the grouped leaves together.

09 Using the templates on page 146, cut 38 large petals from white crepe paper, eight small petals from white crepe paper and 32 small petals from pink crepe paper. Cut with the grain of the crepe running vertically through each petal. Round out each petal by holding it with your thumbs in the centre, then pulling them gently apart to stretch it out.

10 Use the wire cutters to cut three 6cm (2⅜") lengths of floral wire. Use hot glue to attach a 1cm (⅜") polystyrene ball onto the end of each wire, using the same technique as Step 1. Paint the polystyrene balls black.

11 Cut two strips of white crepe paper and one strip of pink crepe paper measuring 2 x 7cm (¾ x 2¾"). Brush a strip of black paint along one long edge of each of the three strips, around 0.5cm (¼") thick. Use scissors to fringe the painted edges, making the cuts a couple of millimetres apart, and finishing 0.5cm (¼") from the bottom edge.

12 Apply lines of quick-drying glue to the bottom edge of each strip, then wrap one strip around each wire, just below the black polystyrene ball, to create the centre of an anemone.

13 To make one large anemone, take eight large white petals. Use quick-drying glue to attach two layers of four petals around the fringed centre, off-setting the second layer. Repeat this process with eight small white petals to make a small white anemone, and with eight small pink petals to make a small pink anemone.

14 Use the wire cutters to cut two 6cm (2⅜") lengths of floral wire. Use hot glue to attach a 1.5cm (⅝") polystyrene ball onto the end of one wire and a 2cm (¾") polystyrene ball onto the other.

15 Take 10 large white petals and 10 small pink petals. Use quick-drying glue to stick the large white petals onto the large polystyrene ball, positioning them so the first three petals meet at the centre top of the ball, then the remaining petals graduate outwards around the ball, all cupping the ball tightly. Repeat with the small pink petals on the small polystyrene ball.

16 Take the remaining 20 large white petals and use quick-drying glue to stick them around the white centre from Step 15 in layers. Repeat with the other 14 small pink petals and pink centre.

17 Fold the ribbon in half around the top of the gold ring to make a loop for hanging. To assemble, arrange the foliage and flowers asymmetrically onto the ring, using the main image as a guide. Wind the wire stem of some elements around the ring, and bind the others to the ring with floral tape as you go.

Now find a plain wall that's in need of a delicate floral update and hang with pride.



**Sarah Louise Matthews**

Sarah is a paper engineer and product designer who lives in Nottingham. She's a self-proclaimed perfectionist who designs playful and innovative stationery, artwork and decorations, as well as bespoke commissions for anything from weddings to visual merchandising. See more of her work on Instagram @_sarah_matthews.

*www.sarahlouisematthews.com*

# FESTIVE FELTIES

Up the kitsch factor this Christmas with Sosae Caetano's kawaii-style decorations



# KAWAII FELTIES


01


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## HOW TO MAKE… FELT KAWAII-INSPIRED DECORATIONS

### YOU WILL NEED

- Black embroidery thread
- Soft toy stuffing
- Baker's twine
- Black fine-tipped pen

FOR THE STAR COOKIE
- Felt in brown, pink, white and yellow
- Embroidery thread in blue, pink and yellow

FOR THE MITTEN
- Felt in blue, brown, pink, turquoise and yellow
- Embroidery thread in blue, pink and white

FOR THE HOT CHOCOLATE
- Felt in brown, dark brown, pink, light pink, white and yellow
- Embroidery thread in brown, pink, white and yellow

Sometimes we just can't resist the opportunity to go super-kitsch with our crafting, especially when it comes to Christmas. With their twinkling smiles and candy-coloured hues, these squishy tree decorations are so cute, they'll even have Santa breaking from his busy schedule to admire them.

Inspired by the Japanese art of kawaii, these mini makes are lovely ideas for stocking fillers, too. Use felt in pastel shades to replicate our versions, or opt for reds and greens for a more traditional feel.

Work three strands of thread to give the details definition, and use a knitting needle, or similar, to help push the stuffing into the corners for a neater finish.

**MAKING THE STAR COOKIE**

01 Using the templates on page 146, cut a large star from the yellow and brown felt, a small star from the white felt, and two cheeks from the pink felt. Make a loop from a length of baker's twine. Using a pin, prick holes in the white felt for the eyes and mouth. Dot over the holes with the black pen.

02 Place the white star centrally onto the yellow star and use white thread to backstitch it in place. Use black thread to embroider the face, then place on the pink cheeks and use pink thread to backstitch in place.

03 Using blue and pink thread, embroider single stitches onto the white star to create sprinkles.

04 Back the yellow star with the brown star and blanket stitch together, adding the twine loop at the top, and leaving a gap for stuffing. Stuff, then blanket stitch the gap closed.

# KAWAII FELTIES



















**MAKING THE MITTEN**

05 Using the templates on page 146, cut a large mitten from the yellow and brown felt, and a small mitten from the turquoise felt. Cut two cheeks from the pink felt, and a cuff from the blue felt. Make a loop from a length of baker's twine. Using a pin, and the template as a guide, prick holes in the turquoise and blue felt for the face and cuff detail. Dot over the holes with pen.

06 Place the turquoise mitten onto the yellow mitten and use blue thread to stitch in place.

07 Position the blue cuff onto the mitten and use blue thread to stitch it in place. Use white thread to embroider the cuff.

08 Use black thread to embroider the face detail, then position on the pink cheeks and use pink thread to backstitch in place. Back with the brown large mitten and blanket stitch together, adding the twine loop at the top and leaving a gap for stuffing. Stuff, then neatly blanket stitch the gap closed.

**MAKING THE HOT CHOCOLATE**

09 Using the templates on page 146, cut a mug backing from the yellow and the brown felt, a mug and a large handle from light pink felt, a small handle from yellow felt, hot chocolate from brown felt, whipped cream from white felt and two cheeks from pink felt. Make a loop using baker's twine. Using a pin, and the template as a guide, prick holes in the pink felt where the eyes, mouth and mug rim detail should go. Repeat on the froth. Dot over the holes with a pen.

10 Place the large handle onto the yellow mug backing as shown, and stitch on with pink thread.

11 Position the pink mug onto the yellow mug backing as shown, stitch on with pink thread, then repeat with the hot chocolate and brown thread. Add the whipped cream on top, using white thread to backstitch it in place.

12 Use black thread to embroider on the face detail, then position on the pink cheeks, and use pink thread to stitch in place. Add on the yellow handle detail using yellow thread and backstitch.

13 Back the design with the brown mug backing and blanket stitch together, adding the twine loop at the top and leaving a gap for stuffing. Stuff, then blanket stitch the gap closed.



**Sosae Caetano**

Sosae and her husband Dennis are the founders of Trellis & Thyme, an indie pattern company. They live in sunny Southern California, USA, where they spend their days designing cheerful cross stitch, embroidery and felt softie patterns. Their book, *Kawaii Craft Life,* is full of colourful (and super-cute!) projects for home, work and play. ***www.trellisandthyme.com***













# COUNTDOWN

Fill handmade advent calendars with treats and hang personalised stockings on the hearth – it's time for a handmade Christmas countdown!


SEW A PLAYFUL STOCKING
FOR THE KIDS, PAGE 75

# ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS

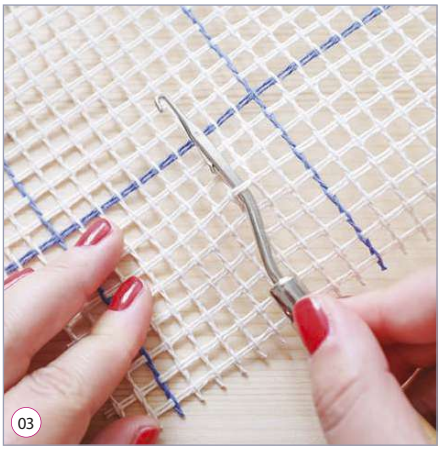
Make all your yarn-based dreams come true with Lucy Rowan's tactile stocking



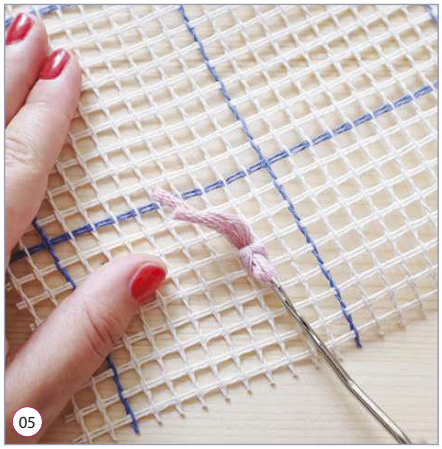
# YARN STOCKING


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## HOW TO MAKE… A TEXTURED YARN STOCKING

### YOU WILL NEED

- Bergere de France Lunele, 100% polyester, 352m/355yd per 25g, one spool in Or (51775) (Yarn A) (ours was from www.love-crochet.com)
- Paintbox Yarns Wool Mix Chunky, 50% wool, 50% acrylic, 100m/109yd per 100g, one ball in Evergreen (1030) (Yarn B)
- Lana Grossa Superbingo, 100% wool, 55m/60yd per 50g, one ball in Hellrot (46) (Yarn C)
- Lamana Puno, 60% alpaca, 40% wool, 60m/66yd per 50g, one ball in Karmin (033) (Yarn D)
- DMC Natura Just Cotton XL, 100% cotton, 75m/83yd per 100g, one ball in Pink (41) (Yarn E) and two balls in Cream (31) (Yarn F)
- Berroco Vintage Chunky, 52% acrylic, 40% wool, 8% nylon, 124m/136yd per 100g, one ball in Sunny (06121) (Yarn G)
- 50 x 50cm (19¾ x 19¾") monk's cloth
- 50 x 50cm (19¾ x 19¾") backing fabric
- 50 x 70cm (19¾ x 27⅝") lining fabric
- Sewing needle
- Matching sewing thread
- Tapestry frame
- Gold thread
- Needle punch
- Latch hook tool
- Pom pom maker
- 30 x 20cm (11⅞ x 7⅞") rug canvas
- Wool needle
- 18cm (7⅛") gold ribbon, 1cm (⅜") wide
- 5cm (2") cardboard

This artisan stocking has blown the pillowcase option out of the water. It's not as roomy, but fine jewellery doesn't take up that much space anyway (we live in hope) and the pay off in texture is worth it. There's rug hooking, needle punching, pom poms and tassels all vying for attention, resulting in a Merry-Christmas-to-me piece that's equal parts stocking and wall art. RSVP to the texture party – you'll find us fondling yarn and practising our Mariah high notes.

01 Cut or copy the stocking template from page 150, then cut a piece of monk's cloth large enough to accommodate the stocking shape and stretch it over the tapestry frame or a large embroidery hoop. Using the stocking template and a pencil, draw the shape onto the cloth. Put this to one side for now.

02 To make the latch hook fringe, measure the top of the stocking and cut a piece of the rug canvas about 3cm (1¼") larger in each direction. Only the stocking top will be latch hooked. Begin wrapping Yarn E around the 5cm (2") piece of cardboard. Once the yarn has been wrapped around a few times, cut down the middle. This will create strands of yarn ready to use. Repeat with Yarns A, C, D, F and G.

03 Push the latch hook tool through the canvas, making sure the latch mechanism is above the line and facing towards you.

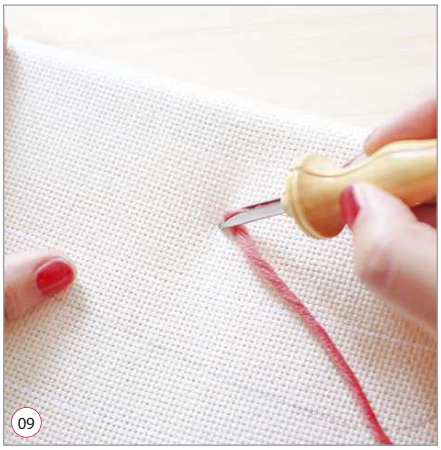
04 Take a cut piece of Yarn E and run it underneath the tool, making sure it's below the line the tool was pushed through. Pinch the two ends of yarn together and wrap both pieces into the open mouth of the hook, as shown.

05 Close the latch and pull the tool towards you, letting go of the two ends of yarn, then pull the yarn all the way through.

06 Using the chart on page 150 as


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## HOW TO MAKE… A TEXTURED YARN STOCKING

a guide to the colour changes, or making a pattern of your own, repeat this process over and over until the piece of rug canvas is filled, leaving a border around the edges. To make the piece extra thick and fluffy, use two pieces of yarn for each square.

07 Once you've completed it, trim away the excess canvas at the sides of the piece.

08 To cover the top edge, take the yarn needle and thread it with a length of Yarn F. Sew around the edge until no plastic is left showing. This is now ready and can be put to one side.

09 Using a pencil and the main image as a guide, draw a pattern straight onto the fabric stocking shape. To needle punch the main part of the stocking, thread the needle punch with one of Yarns B-G, making sure the yarn is threaded through the hole at the top of the needle and coming out the back. This is very important, as the loops will not stay in place otherwse.

10 Take the needle and punch down into the fabric of your first chosen section until the wooden handle meets the fabric.

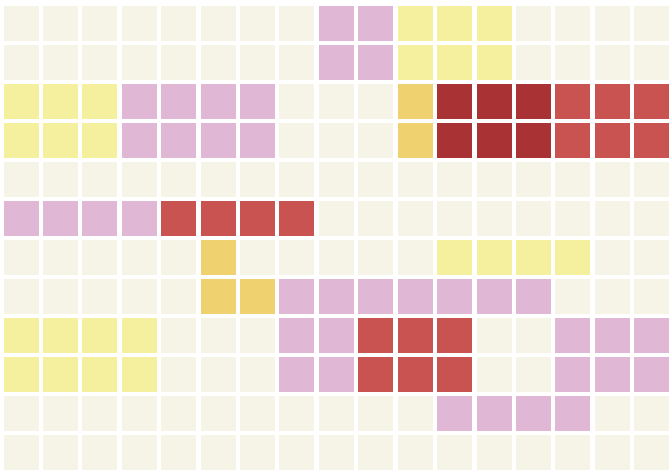
11 Bring the needle back out and move it along roughly 0.5cm (¼"). Be sure to not bring the needle out too far as you'll pull the looped yarn out. Move the needle along, making small running stitches.

12 Continue to fill in the sections with the needle punch and Yarns B-G. You'll notice the stitches will have formed lots of little loops on the back of the work – this will become the right side (RS).

13 Once all the marked sections have been filled, turn the frame over and make sure the loops don't need any trimming. You won't need to needle punch right to the top of the marked stocking template, as the latch hooked piece will sit over this area and cover it.

14 Using the paper template, cut

### COLOUR GUIDE



### KEY

- Yarn A
- Yarn C
- Yarn D
- Yarn E
- Yarn F
- Yarn G

# YARN STOCKING


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two pieces of fabric for the lining of the stocking. Cut the needle punched fabric out, leaving 3cm (1¼") around the outside of the template marks. Use this as your template to cut a second piece of fabric for the back of the stocking.

15 Aligning the top raw edges, pin one lining piece to the stocking front, RS together, and one lining piece to the stocking back, RS together, as shown.

16 Sew both pairs 1cm (⅜") down from the top, then press open.

17 Lay one stocking piece on the other, RS together. Pin around the edges. For the hanging loop, fold the length of gold ribbon in half and pin the folded end inside at the top corner above the heel, leaving a 2cm (¾") seam allowance.

18 Next, sew all the way around the stocking, leaving a 10cm (4") gap in the lining. Turn the stocking to the RS through the gap, then fold the raw edges at the gap to the wrong side and sew closed.

19 Using your fingers, push the lining back into the stocking. You might find it helpful to use the end of a knitting needle to help push the fabric into the corners. Hand sew the latch-hooked piece in place on the top of the stocking.

20 For the dangling embellishment, make two large pom poms: one in Yarn B and one in Yarn E. Make two small pom poms: one in Yarn C and one in Yarn D. Make three chunky tassels: one of each in Yarns E, F and G. Wrap the middle of each of the tassels with a scrap of Yarn A for sparkle. Thread all the tassels and pom poms onto a length of Yarn F, referring to the main image as a guide to placement. Sew in place beside the gold hanging loop at the top corner of the completed stocking and you're ready to hang your textured delight on display.



**Lucy Rowan**

Brighton-based maker and author Lucy spends her days playing with colour and texture, creating beautiful weaves and decorative wonders. When she's not crafting, she's teaching others how to, and hosts workshops across the UK. Fun fact: born without a sense of smell, Lucy believes her sense of colour has been heightened to compensate.

*www.peasandneedles.co.uk*

# NICE IDEA!

Draw-up your own template and have fun sewing quick felt stockings as a kid-friendly crafternoon activity this winter



Celebrate the season with a mini stocking. Draw a stocking shape onto paper, adding a 1cm seam allowance all the way around, and cut out. Cut two pieces of felt using the template and sew with the right sides together, leaving the top open. Turn right sides out and embellish with felt appliqué letters and ostrich feather ribbons – or whatever you have handy in your stash. Find more fun (and stylish!) craft projects like this at www.thelovelydrawer.com

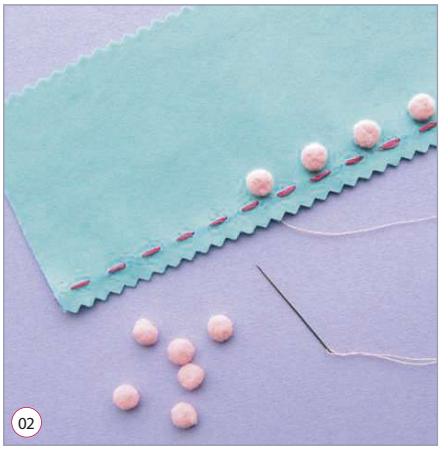


# FESTIVE KITSCH

Add a retro touch to this year's gift giving with Laura Howard's colourful stocking

# KITSCH STOCKING


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## HOW TO MAKE… A FELT STOCKING

### YOU WILL NEED

- Pink wool felt
- Blue wool felt
- Pink mini pom poms, 8mm (⅜")
- Embroidery thread (we used DMC Stranded Cotton, one skein in Blanc, three skeins each in 3706, 3846 and 3844, and eight skeins in 3805)
- Tapestry needle
- Matching sewing thread
- Silver sequins
- Pinking shears
- Erasable fabric marker
- Pom pom maker, 3.5cm (1⅜")
- Card, 15 x 10cm (6 x 4")

If there was a prize for best decorated stocking, this would win hands down. Adorned with sequins, tassels and pom poms, we can totally imagine Barbie hanging a mini version on her bedpost, so we're sure any sparkle-loving little (or big) girl will go crazy for it.

As the whole project is stitched by hand, and the design is simple, it's an easy project to personalise for your friends and family. Change up the colours, embroider a name instead of stars and add as few or as many decorative elements as you like.

01 Use the templates on page 146 to cut the main stocking shapes and loop from your pink felt, and the top band, heel and toe shapes from your blue felt. Trim the edges marked with dotted lines using a pair of pinking shears.

02 With your fabric marker, mark a line roughly 0.5cm (¼") down from the pinked edges, then sew running stitch along the line using six strands of pink embroidery thread. Add a row of mini pom poms underneath the running stitch, attaching each one with two stitches of pink sewing thread.

03 Sew another line of running stitch underneath the pom poms, then on the heel and toe, sew chevrons of two stitches between the pom poms. For the band, sew crosses of two overlapping stitches between the pom poms.

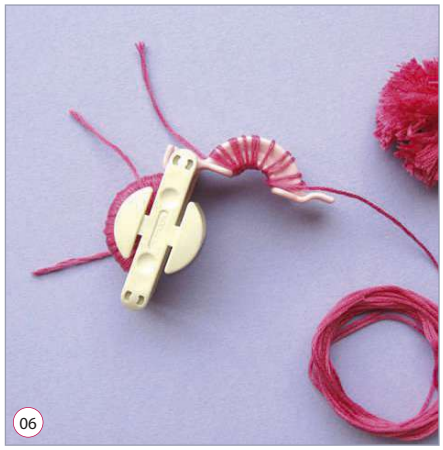
04 Using white sewing thread, add sequins to the remaining space on the heel and toe pieces as shown. For the band, add sequins along the length that isn't decorated.

05 Mark the position of the heel, toe and band onto the right side (RS) of your front stocking piece, then in the remaining space, mark on star shapes. Using three strands of white embroidery

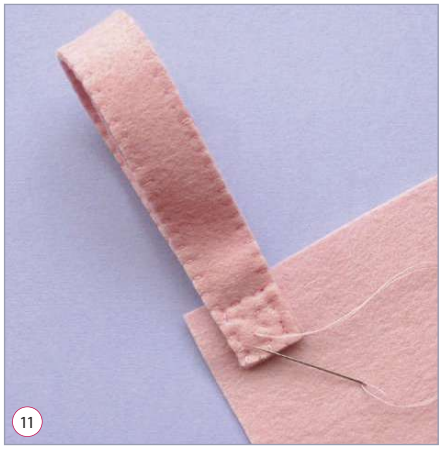
# KITSCH STOCKING


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thread, stitch on the stars, stitching inwards towards the centre of each star.

06 Cut a 40cm (15¾") length from a skein of pink embroidery thread, then split the remaining skein into two lengths of three strands. Following the pom pom maker instructions, make a pom pom using one length for each half. Use the 40cm (15¾") length of thread to tie the pom pom, knotting it securely. Trim any irregular threads, keeping the two long threads you used to tie it. Repeat this step to make six pom poms in total.

07 Wind two shades of blue embroidery thread round the length of the card 10 times. Cut away the excess thread and slide the bundle of thread off the card. Cut 30cm (11⅞") from one shade of blue thread, knot halfway along the bundle, then fold in half. Cut 30cm (11⅞") from both blue shades, tie around the top of the tassel and wind tightly around several times. Knot and trim the excess thread, then cut the looped ends and trim to neaten. Repeat this step to make six tassels in total.

08 On your front stocking piece, mark off the line where the band will sit into six sections. Add a tassel to the centre of each section, threading the two strands through the felt 0.5cm (¼") apart and tying them loosely at the back.

09 Pin on the toe, heel and band pieces, then using matching sewing thread, whip stitch along the pinked edges, sewing one stitch in each 'v' shape. Before sewing the band, adjust the height of the tassels if required, then knot tightly. Sew the ends into the back of the felt, trim off the excess thread, then sew the band in place.

10 Mark the band into six sections between the running stitch and sequin lines. Attach a pom pom to each point by threading the two long strands through the felt 0.5cm (¼") apart and knotting securely. Sew the ends into the back of the felt, then trim the excess thread.

11 Pin the two loop pieces together, then blanket stitch along the edges using matching sewing thread. Fold in half along the length and pin to the wrong side of the stocking back, 1cm (⅜") in from the long edge and 2cm (¾") down from the top. Attach using running stitch and matching sewing thread, as shown in the picture.

12 Place the front and back stocking pieces RS together and pin. Blanket stitch around the edge with matching thread to finish, leaving the top open, ready to be filled with gifts.



**Laura Howard**
Laura is a designer, maker and craft writer living near Bristol, in the south-west of England. She loves colour, hand stitching and making lots of things from her favourite material – felt! She's written two books about felt crafting – *Super-Cute Felt* and *Super-Cute Felt Animals* – and she shares stitchy tutorials over on her blog. ***www.bugsandfishes.blogspot.com***

# BAUBLES FOR DAYS

Give your Christmas countdown a seriously grown-up feel with Mary-Ann Aveline's marbled Advent ornaments




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## HOW TO MAKE… A BAUBLE ADVENT CALENDAR

### YOU WILL NEED

- 24 clear fillable plastic baubles in various sizes (ours were from www.hobbycraft.co.uk)
- Multi-surface satin acrylic paint in blue, mint, dark pink and light pink (we used Americana DecoArt -in Colbalt, Soft Jade, Pink Tropics and Pink Cadillac)
- Paint brush
- Soft paint brush
- Washi tape
- Two double-sided adhesive sheets
- Grosgrain ribbon in blue, mint, dark pink and light pink, approx 1cm (⅜ ") wide
- Shredded tissue paper
- Craft gold leaf
- Soft paintbrush

Do the luxe calendar thing the handmade way with these hidden treasure baubles. Decorated using four different paint effects and fancy gold leaf numbers, you can hang them up individually or thread them together, intertwined with springs of foliage, to create a statement garland.

Best of all, it means you'll get to curate those daily treat yo'self moments, deciding exactly what goes into each one. Use an assortment of different-sized baubles so you've got room to store everything from chocolate truffles to beauty bits.

# BAUBLE ADVENT


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01 To make the solid colour baubles, open six baubles in different sizes. Paint the inside of each one, using a different colour for every bauble. As plastic is non-porous, you'll need a few coats to get a good solid opaque colour – leave to dry in between each one.

02 To create the paint splatter baubles, open a bauble, load a paint brush with paint, then flick it inside the bauble with your finger. Be sure to cover the surrounding surfaces first as it can be messy. Once the splatter effect is dry, paint a contrasting base colour over the top of it, again, on the inside of the bauble. Repeat this step four times so you end up with five splattered baubles in various different sizes.

03 To create the marbled effect baubles, add a few splodges of paint to the inside of a bauble in contrasting colours. Use as many colours as you like, then join the two bauble halves back together and give it a good shake to mix the paint up inside.

04 Once thoroughly mixed, open the bauble up again and let the excess paint run out. The best way to do this is to leave it balanced over an old jar or paint palette. As the paint runs out it'll continue to leave a marbling effect, so occasionally turn them as they dry. Repeat Steps 3-4 five times to create six marbled baubles in different sizes.

05 For the confetti-style bauble, use washi tape to create the confetti shapes. Cut little strips of tape and apply to the inside of a bauble, then paint your chosen base colour over the top.

06 Once the base colour is dry, carefully pull off the washi tape to reveal the confetti pattern, then paint over the gaps in a contrasting colour. Repeat Steps 5-6 six times to create seven confetti baubles in different sizes.

07 Using the number templates on page 146, draw the numbers 1-24 onto the double-sided adhesive sheets. You may want to adjust the size of the numbers by enlarging or reducing them on a photocopier to better fit the baubles. Use scissors to cut the numbers out.

08 Carefully peel off the backing paper from a cut-out adhesive number and stick it onto the face of one of the baubles.

09 Once the number is stuck down, peel off the protective layer on the face of the adhesive number and apply the gold leaf. Gently pat down the gold leaf to make sure it fully sticks to the adhesive.

10 Using a soft bristle paintbrush, lightly dust off the excess gold leaf from the bauble.

11 Fill the finished baubles with shredded tissue paper or confetti and an Advent calendar treat of your choosing, then close them.

12 Thread a 30cm (11⅞ ") length of contrasting ribbon through the loop on each of the baubles, then use to attach to a tree or garland.



**Mary-Ann Aveline**

Mary-Ann started lifestyle brand Hello Marilu back in 2015 and now sells an eclectic range of textile, ceramic and paper goods that have been designed, made or hand finished in her South London studio. She also hosts craft workshops in partnership with brands such as Etsy and Anthropoloie.

*www.hellomarilu.com*

# PAPER FUN!

Use a dinky house template to build a paper advent town in playful prints – then add sweets and let the kids explore




Create a model village with patterned roof tops and printed walls galore as an alternative advent. Use the template on page 146 to experiment making small and big houses. Once you've cut it out, turn over your paper (so the wrong side is facing up) and score the folding tabs. Use a craft knife to cut out the aperture windows and doors before neatly folding and glueing it together. Add numbers and arrange on a shelf for the kids to enjoy!



# 'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

...and the stockings were hung by the chimney with care. Start your own festive tradition with Julia Staite's candy striped-version, plus a cute owl mascot










## HOW TO MAKE… A FABRIC STOCKING WITH OWL MASCOT

### YOU WILL NEED

FOR THE STOCKING

- Red and white striped cotton fabric, 0.5m (½yrd)
- Fleece fabric, 0.5m (½yrd)
- Cotton tape, 6cm (2⅜")
- Red embroidery thread
- Ribbon, 16cm (6⅜"), 1cm (⅜") wide
- Piping, 40cm (15¾"), 3mm (⅛") thick

FOR THE OWL

- Mint felt
- White felt
- Red felt
- Small piece white fur/fleece fabric
- Small piece of patterned fabric
- Dark grey, blue and yellow embroidery threads
- Matching sewing threads
- Toy stuffing

What were your Christmas traditions growing up? Charades in front of the fire, some sherry for Santa (AKA granddad) and the ever-exciting hanging of the stockings, just before bedtime? Recreate a little of that nostalgic magic by sewing a stocking, complete with a sweet owl mascot, that can be unpacked on the 24th for years to come.

To match the stripes on your stocking, cut one side out then use it as a template to cut your second side, flipping it over and lining up the stripes with the fabric underneath. You can make your own piping using bias tape and some cord – if you don't have a piping foot for your sewing machine, then you'll find a concealed zipper foot works just as well.

Have fun personalising this one – stitch a persons name or monogram instead of 'Joy'; switch up colours and patterns, or make a different coloured owl.

# OWL STOCKING



















**MAKING THE STOCKING**

01 First cut out all the pieces using the templates on page 146. Cut the outer stocking pieces on the bias to create diagonal stripes. To make your pocket label, first press a 6cm (2⅜") long piece of cotton tape in half. Mark out your letters on one side of the label using an air erasable fabric pen, and embroider over the top using three strands of red embroidery thread. Set aside for the moment.

02 Press under 1cm (⅜") around the whole of your pocket piece. Hem the top edge. Pin your pocket in place on the front stocking piece. The top of the pocket needs to be around 10cm (4") from the top of the stocking with your embroidered label tucked under the right hand side. Sew the pocket to attach it. Fold a 16cm (6⅜") length of ribbon in half to make the loop for hanging. Sew on your loop, keeping your stitching within the seam allowance so that it doesn't show on your finished stocking.

03 Place the stocking pieces right sides (RS) together and machine stitch using a 1cm (⅜") seam allowance. Trim the seam allowance and clip curves. Repeat for the lining, only this time leave a 5cm (2") gap in the seam on one side for turning right sides out later on.

04 Turn the stocking RS out. Pin then sew the piping around the top edge. Keep your line of stitching about 2mm (⅛") away from the piping so that it doesn't show on the front of your finished stocking. It looks neatest if your piping crosses over at the seam of the stocking.

05 Tuck the stocking inside the lining, RS together. Pin then sew around top edge through all layers, as close to the piping as possible. Trim seam allowance.

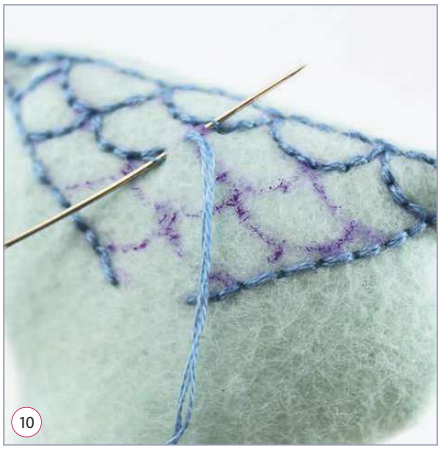
06 Turn RS out by pulling the stocking through the hole you left in the lining seam in Step 3.





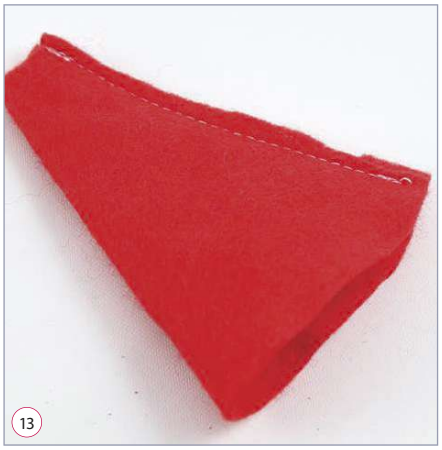
















## HOW TO MAKE… A FABRIC STOCKING WITH OWL MASCOT

07 Top stitch the hole closed and then push the lining back inside the stocking.

### MAKING THE OWL

08 Sew your tummy fabric piece to the front owl body piece using a small zig zag stitch. Sew the owl body pieces RS together, leaving an opening at the bottom. Trim the seam allowance and clip curves, then turn RS out. You can use a knitting needle or blunt pencil to push the points fully out.

09 Carefully fill the owl with toy stuffing and slipstitch the opening closed.

10 Draw a triangle of scallops on the owl's head from the points of the 'ears' to where the beak will be using an air erasable pen. Backstitch over the scallop pattern using three strands of blue embroidery thread.

11 Draw on the owl's eyes and beak. Embroider the eyes using three strands of dark grey thread, and the beak using three strands of yellow thread.

12 Sew on the wing using matching thread. Draw on the wing feathers using an air-erasable pen and embroider using three strands of blue floss.

13 To make the Santa hat, fold the hat piece of felt in half and sew down the long side using an 0.5cm (¼") seam allowance. Turn RS out.

14 Cut a strip of fur or fleece fabric 2.5cm (1") wide and 15cm (6") long. Fold raw edges under and pin, then hand stitch to the rim of the hat.

15 Sew a small pom pom onto the tip of the hat. Fold the hat over and stitch in place. Secure the hat on the owl's head using a few stitches under the edge of the fur to finish.

Now pop the owl in his pocket before filling the stocking with cute treats. If you're feeling creative you could make other felt critters to accompany him!



**Julia Staite**
Julia is a designer-maker with a background in fine illustration and pattern design. She lives in Essex with her husband and two daughters and works from her home studio, overflowing with paper, pencils, fabric, thread and paint, designing and creating playful products for her beautiful kids' decor and toy range.
*www.juliastaite.com*




# HOW MANY DAYS?

Count down to Christmas with Anna Alicia's Scandi-style advent calendar



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## HOW TO MAKE… A FABRIC ADVENT CALENDAR

### YOU WILL NEED

- 1m (39⅜") cotton canvas fabric in cream
- 50cm (19¾") patterned fabric, (we used Sevenberry Lightweight Canvas in Poco Black)
- Felt in blue, green, orange, pink and yellow
- Matching sewing thread
- Transfer paper
- Tailor's chalk
- Fabric glue
- Webbing, 1m (39⅜"), 1cm (⅜") wide
- Dowel, 60cm (23⅝"), 1cm (⅜") wide

This year, ditch the shop-bought advent calendar and replace it with this easy-sew version instead. Combining Scandi-look clean lines and monochrome prints with a pop of colour, not only will it look good hung in your home, but filling its pockets each year creates a lovely tradition, too.

Choose the treats as a family, or surprise little 'uns with a selection of mini toys, candy canes, and heartfelt festive messages. We love that these pockets are big enough to fit in plenty of goodies, but if you prefer, you can easily scale it down to make a smaller version.

01 Using the templates on page 146, cut out the numbers for each day – 1 through to 24 – from different coloured felt. We printed the templates onto transfer paper (visit www.molliemakes.com to download), ironed the transfers onto the felt, then cut out each shape. But, you can just draw around the templates if you prefer.

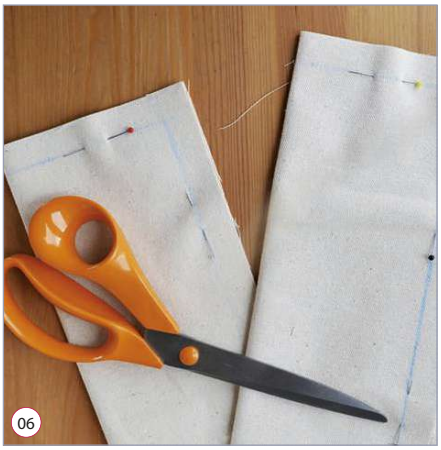
02 Cut out a 56 x 93cm (22⅛ x 36⅝") piece of cotton canvas. Cut a 56 x 14cm (22⅛ x 5½") piece of patterned fabric for the bottom trim, and a 56 x 16cm (22⅛ x 6⅜") piece for the top trim. On both pieces of patterned fabric, fold one long edge to the wrong side (WS) by 1cm (⅜") and press.

03 Lay the cotton canvas right side (RS) up, with the short edges at the top and bottom. Mark a horizontal line 13cm (5¼") up from the bottom edge, then place the bottom trim on top, RS up, and aligning the long raw

# SCANDI ADVENT


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edges. Fold up the bottom trim so the fabrics are RS together, then pin along the crease, making sure it stays in line with the chalk mark. Sew along the crease, then fold the fabric back down, aligning the long edges.

04 Repeat Step 3 with the top trim, this time draw the line 15cm (6") down from the top edge.

05 Turn over the main fabric so the WS is facing up. Fold the two long side edges and the bottom edge to the WS by 1.5cm (⅝"), then again by 1.5cm (⅝"), keeping the corners neat. Pin, then sew in place. Fold the top edge to the WS by 2.5cm (1"), then again by 2.5cm (1"). Pin, then sew 2cm (¾") down from the top edge, creating a channel.

06 Cut six 43 x 23cm (17 x 9⅛") pieces of cream canvas for the pockets and mark a 1.5cm (⅝") seam allowance along each edge. Fold one piece in half along the length, aligning the raw edges, then pin and sew one short edge and one long edge. Trim the excess seam allowance, and turn RS out. Fold the open short edge to the WS by 1.5cm (⅝") and press. Repeat with the remaining pieces.

07 With the main fabric RS up, mark several points 20.5cm (8⅛") down from the top edge. Fold one pocket in half along the length and mark the centre. With RS up, and the folded long edge at the top, align the bottom of the pocket with the marks, matching the centre points, then pin in place. Repeat with the other pockets, lining up each one below the pocket above.

08 Sew along the bottom and side edges of each pocket strip, 0.25mm (⅛") in from the edge.

09 Next, measure and pin a line vertically down the centre of each strip. Repeat 10cm (4") out from the centre on either side to make four pockets. Sew along the pinned lines, then press.

10 Use the fabric glue to stick the numbers centrally onto each pocket, then leave to dry.

11 Thread the dowel through the channel at the top of the calendar. Wrap one end of the webbing around a dowel end, sew to secure. Repeat at the other end and your calendar is finished and ready to hang.

Fill the square pockets with sweet treats or even minature wrapped gifts. This calendar would be so easy to personalise – simply add their name to the bottom in felt letters.



**Anna Alicia**

Anna is the designer-maker behind homeware and jewellery label A Alicia, which focuses on contemporary design and ethical materials. She and lives in East London with her artist husband and their bonny toddler. She is also the author of *Make it Your Own: 25 Stylish Projects for Your Home* and regularly contributes to craft mags. ***www.aalicia.bigcartel.com***

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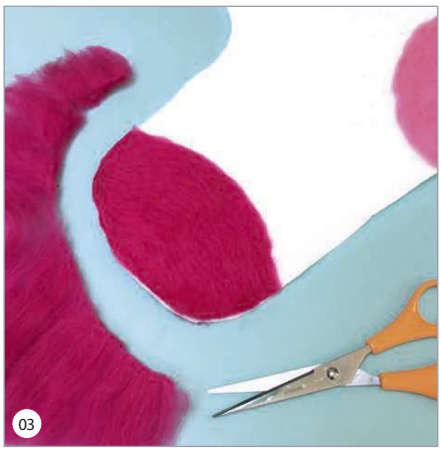
# SANTA'S BEEN!

Adorn a handmade stocking with tassels, trims and sequins – Christine Leech shows you how



# EMBELLISHED STOCKING


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## HOW TO MAKE… AN EMBELLISHED FABRIC STOCKING

### YOU WILL NEED

- 50cm (19¾") white felt
- Wool roving in dark pink, light pink, green, blue and turquoise
- Selection of trimmings, including ribbons, pom-pom trim and ric-rac
- Pink sewing thread
- Embroidery thread in gold, light green, dark pink and turquoise
- Crochet yarn in fuchsia, light pink, dark blue, light blue, turquoise and light green
- Crystal gems (we used Swarovski sew-on crystals)
- A6 piece of card
- Embroidery needle
- Yarn needle
- Felting needle
- Felting mat

Pom poms, tassels and bling – these are a few of our favourite things. And, they've all been incorporated into one jewel-coloured, texture-filled, yarn-tastic tactile stocking.

Using a range of techniques, from felting to embroidery, this project is so much fun to make. So, dig deep into your craft supplies, let your inner magpie fly, and pull out your brightest and boldest yarns, threads and trims. You could keep your version neutral using soft pastel hues, but we love the idea of bright, clashing shades adding a pop of colour to our mantel.

01 Using the templates on page 146, cut two stocking shapes and one cuff from the white felt.

02 Place one stocking right side (RS) up on the felting mat. Take a length of dark pink roving and spread it out over the toe area, shaping the right-hand edge to create a curve. Use the felting needle to secure the roving in place, pushing it down with quick motions to combine the fibres with the felt and create a solid layer. If any white felt is still showing, position another small piece of roving over the gap and repeat.

03 Repeat Step 2 with light pink roving to felt the heel, this time, creating a rounded curve at the left-hand edge, as shown on the picture. Cut away the excess roving from the felt.

04 Using zigzag stitch, add a pink border, 1cm (⅜") out from the roving at the heel. Position a length of blue pom pom trim 1cm (⅜") away from the roving at the toe, and sew with pink zigzag machine stitch.

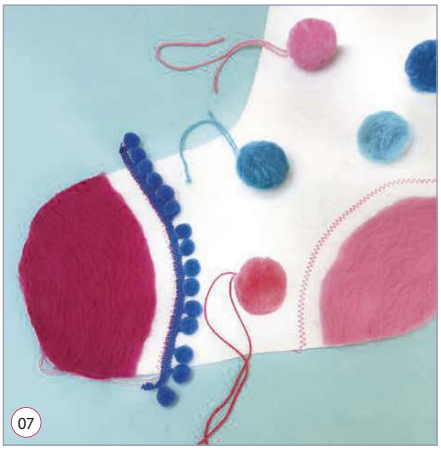
05 Drape a 20cm (7⅞") piece of light pink crochet yarn between the middle tines of a fork. Take a piece of light pink roving, roughly 3cm (1¼") thick and 18cm (7⅛") long, and wrap it around the fork prongs.

# EMBELLISHED STOCKING



















06 Tie the yarn around the roving to make a bundle. Slip it off the fork and cut both sides open. Work the bundle into a pom pom, then trim to neaten, leaving the lengths of crochet yarn uncut. Repeat with different coloured roving and yarn to make five pom poms.

07 Position the pom poms on the stocking, using the image as a guide to placement. Use the yarn tails to sew them in place.

08 Decorate the white spaces between the pom poms by sewing star shapes in gold embroidery thread. Work a large straight stitch, roughly 2cm (¾") long, then sew a cross stitch over the top. Vary the lengths of the stitches on each one to give a twinkly effect.

09 Next, embroider decorative borders around the roving at the heel. First, work a row of straight stitches in turquoise thread. Intersperse with gold stitches, worked at 90° angles, and going through the roving. Then, add a line of light green straight stitches in the area between the turquoise stitches and the pink zigzag stitch.

10 Embroider more decorative borders around the roving at the toe. Work a long running stitch in light green thread between the pom pom trim and the roving, then intersperse it with short vertical stitches in gold. Add hand-sewn zigzag stitch in dark pink thread to the edge of the roving, then work a row of turquoise French knots on the roving, inside each V-shape.

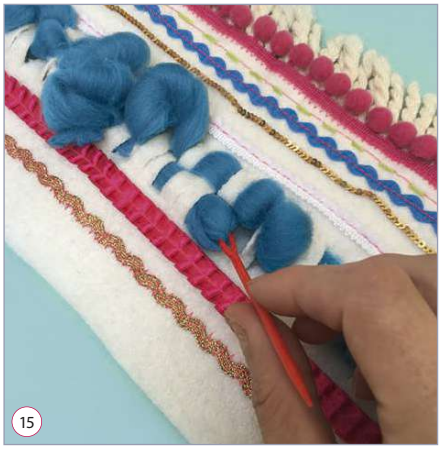
11 Sew five crystal gems to the roving on the heel of the stocking using matching thread, then repeat with the toe.

12 Pin the two stocking shapes with wrong sides (WS) together and use pink zigzag machine stitch to sew around the edges, leaving the top open.

13 Lay the cuff RS up, then position a selection of trimmings


















## HOW TO MAKE… AN EMBELLISHED FABRIC STOCKING

along the length in rows, leaving a 5cm (2") wide gap across the centre for the roving. Sew the trimmings securely in place using a bright pink thread.

(14) Fold the cuff fabric in half along the length. Make small 1cm (⅜") cuts along the fold, then open out.

(15) Thread a large yarn needle with a 1cm (⅜") thick length of roving and, starting at one end of the cuff, weave it through the cuts in the felt. Don't pull the roving too tightly, as the idea is to create texture. Work back along the cuff in the opposite direction, going under the cuts you went over, and over the cuts you went under. Thread the needle with more roving if you run out. Weave back across the cuff a third time.

(16) With the cuff RS up, pin it around the top of the stocking, aligning the top edges, and positioning the two short ends so they join at the back. Sew along the top edge using pink zigzag machine stitch.

(17) Pull the cuff up and away from the stocking, WS out. Manipulate the cuff so the two short edges sit with RS together and sew. Trim away any excess roving, then turn the cuff back down onto the stocking, with RS out.

(18) Cut three 30cm (11⅞") lengths of yarn. Lay an A6 piece of card horizontally on a flat surface and lay the yarn vertically across one end. Wrap yarn horizontally around the centre of the card, about 80 times in total, securing the cut pieces.

(19) Tie a double knot in the three lengths of yarn to hold the bundle together, then trim the ends. Take the bundle off the card. Cut three more 30cm (11⅞") lengths of yarn and wrap, then tie, around the bundle, 2cm (¾") down from the knot. Cut the yarn at the bottom of the loop to make a tassel, then plait the hanging cord. Repeat with different coloured yarn to create two more tassels, then sew them onto the top of the stocking at the right-hand seam.

(20) Cut a 10 x 1.5cm (4 x ⅝") piece of white felt. Sew zigzag machine stitch along the centre of the length, then fold in half across the width. Finally, pin the short ends inside the top of the cuff at the right-hand seam, then sew to make a hanging tab.

Now sit back and admire your one-of-a-kind stocking before digging out another bag of craft stash for the next one!



**Christine Leech**

Designer-maker Christine has written nine books on a selection of crafts such as paper, felt and embroidery. Her latest book, *Pompomania*, is full of clever pom pom projects you can try at home. Follow her on Instagram @sewyeah to share in her crafty lifestyle, projects and inspiration. *www.sewyeah.co.uk*

# ECO STYLE

Stitch scrap paper envelopes to hang with thread and sprigs – for an eco-friendly advent calendar design




Take Christmas décor back to basics and inject some scandi style with an advent calendar that doubles up as a decoration. Cut out 24 cards (5.5x8.5cm) and write an activity or message on each one. Make 24 envelopes by machine sewing around three edges of sandwiched scraps of paper (approx 9.5x23cm), leaving a side open for filling. Hang on your wall with twine and sprigs of foraged-foliage. Find more DIYs like this at www.hannahbullivant.com

MAKE A GINGERBREAD CAKE
AND TREE TOPPERS, PAGE 103















# HOSTING

Treat your guests to stylish tableware, delicious home-baked treats and playful festive attire – for a party they won't forget. Glass of fizz, anyone?


Lanta







# GATHER AROUND

Host a Christmas dinner to remember with
Becki Clark's easy-make tablescape



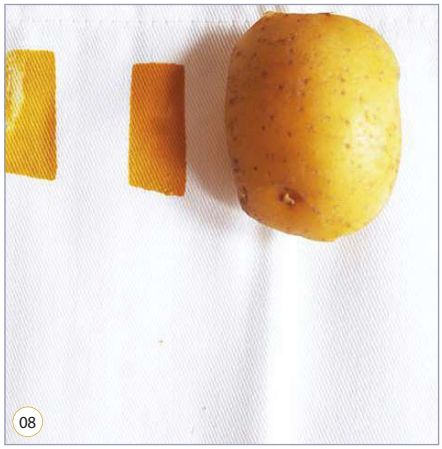
# BOTANICAL TABLE
















## HOW TO MAKE… A BOTANICAL-INSPIRED TABLESCAPE

### YOU WILL NEED

FOR THE TABLECLOTH
- Three avocados
- Linen tablecloth
- Large saucepan

FOR THE NAPKINS
- Potato
- Mustard yellow fabric paint
- Napkins

FOR THE PLATES
- Posca paint pens in blue and gold
- Plain plates

FOR THE BAUBLES
- Fillable baubles (ours were from www.hobbycraft.co.uk)
- Foliage sprigs
- Gold glitter

Special doesn't always have to mean fancy. This year, instead of dusting off the best china, we're embracing botanical vibes and a warm, gentle colour palette for a relaxed take on Christmas feasting. Think sprigs of greenery, natural dyeing and hand-drawn leafy details.

Forget fast-paced festivities – slow down and simplify the season, taking time out for a lazy avocado brunch and a brisk winter foraging walk to gather your materials.

# BOTANICAL TABLE



















**TABLECLOTH**

01 Cut the avocados in half and scrape them out so you're just left with the skins and stones. Give them a good wash and leave them to dry.

02 Fill a large saucepan with water and bring it to the boil. Drop the avocado skins and stones in and let the water simmer on a low heat. The water won't change much to begin with, but keep checking it every 10 minutes and you'll see the colour develop. To achieve a light blush colour, you'll need to simmer them for around 45 minutes.

03 You'll see the colour appears a lot darker than blush pink, but you can do a test with a scrap of linen fabric to see how the colour's looking. Once you're happy, strain the dye to leave just the liquid.

04 Pop the tablecloth into the saucepan with the dye and let the fabric absorb it. Remove it from the pan and leave to dry completely.

**NAPKINS**

05 Press the napkins and lay them out, right side up, on a flat covered surface.

06 Cut a medium-sized potato in half and cut a grid into one of the halves, as shown on the picture above, creating a rectangle shape in the centre.

07 Carve the surrounding edges away leaving just the central rectangle at its original height.

08 Apply paint to the potato stamp, making sure the rectangle is fully covered, then begin printing a design on the napkins using the image as a guide. Work your way across the napkin. You don't have to keep the prints in straight or horizontal lines – you can experiment first on a piece of paper to create a pattern you're happy with before committing to any printing.

**PLATES**

09 To draw a wreath design, work from the middle of the plate outwards so you don't risk smudging it. Start by using the blue pen to draw a small circle in the middle of the plate. You may find it helpful to use a small circular object as a template to draw around for this step.

10 Work around the circle adding teardrop shapes all the way around to create leaves, as shown on the pictures.

11 Next, draw another larger circle around the smallest motif, as shown – you can do this by eye. Continue to add more teardrop shapes as leaves, this time slightly larger than the previous ones.

12 Add a final circle around the edge of the plate and draw the same teardrop botanical leaves.

13 To finish, add delicate gold dots as berry accents onto the botanicals using the gold pen. You can work over the coloured leaves too, if you like.



**Becki Clark**

Becki is a designer and illustrator who specialises in hand drawn typography and surface design. She teaches workshops in brush lettering and painting and loves getting to share her creative passions. She also designs wedding stationery for her botanical-inspired brand, *Olive and Bramble.*

***www.beckiclark.com***

# BAKERS GONNA BAKE

Go kitsch this Christmas with Anna Alicia's retro pinny and tea towel set






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## HOW TO MAKE… A FABRIC PINNY AND TEA TOWEL

### YOU WILL NEED

- 75cm (29½") patterned fabric (we used Michael Miller Fabrics Llama Navidad in Red)
- 50cm (19¾") plain fabric
- White cotton tea towel
- Matching sewing thread
- Bias binding, 2m (2yd), 2.5cm (1") wide
- Pom pom trim with 1cm (⅜") pom poms
- Tailor's chalk

For foodie folks, December means plundering the spice rack, digging out the Christmas cookie cutters and generally indulging in extra time in the kitchen. We think this calls for suitably jolly kitchen accessories, and a llama apron and tea towel set definitely fits the bill.

The playful print, pom pom trim and contemporary flashes of mint add modern retro vibes that make this easy-sew set fun to create. Use them to add a festive feel to your kitchen, or give as a gift – if you can bear to part with them when you're done!

**FOR THE APRON**

01 Fold the patterned fabric in half along the width with right sides (RS) together, making sure the print runs horizontally across the piece.

02 Using the template on page 146, mark out the apron front with tailor's chalk, again, making sure the print runs horizontally across. Pin along the chalk line, then mark on an additional 1.5cm (⅝") seam allowance around the side and bottom edges. Cut out the apron along the outer chalk marks.

03 Sew the pinned chalk outline, leaving the top straight edge of the apron open, and removing the pins as you go along. Snip small triangles along the length of the seam allowance, as shown in the picture, to help keep the curves smooth. Turn the apron RS out and press neatly.

04 Measure and mark four 10cm (4") intervals along the top straight edge of the apron. At each marked point, fold the fabric to form a pleat roughly 1.5cm (⅝") wide, then pin the pleats flat with the fold pointing towards the centre of the apron. Sew along the top of the apron, 1cm (⅜") down from the raw edge, securing the pleats in place as you go.

05 Unfold one of the long edges of the bias binding. Starting at one top corner of the apron, and working along one side, pin the opened-out edge of the binding to the apron, with RS together, and positioning the crease in the binding 2cm (¾") in from the raw edge of the fabric. Continue working around the outside of the apron, finishing at the opposite top corner.

06 Sew along the crease in the binding, removing the pins as you go, then fold the binding back on itself. Press in place.

07 Turn the apron over and fold the overlapping binding down to cover the raw edge of the apron.

# BAKING SET



















Pin in place, then sew using small, neat stitches, being careful not to sew through to the front of the apron.

08 To make the apron ties, mark out two 90 x 90cm (35½ x 35½") strips on the plain fabric, then cut out using a 1.5cm (⅝") seam allowance. Place the two pieces with RS together, then sew along one short edge, 1.5cm (⅝") in from the end. Open out into one long strip.

09 Fold all four raw edges to the wrong side (WS) by 1.5cm (⅝") and press in place. Fold the strip in half along the length with WS together and press again.

10 Pin and sew along the open long edge, 0.5cm (¼") in. Fold the strip in half along the length to find the centre, pin it to the centre point of the top of the apron, aligning the top edges, and sew in place.

11 Measure the top straight edge of the apron, then draw a rectangle the same length, and 10cm (4") wide. Cut out using a 1.5cm (⅝") seam allowance. Fold all four raw edges to the WS along the seam allowance and press, then fold in half along the length with WS together and press again.

12 Pin the rectangle across the top of the apron, with the WS of the strip sitting against the RS of the apron fabric, and the central crease at the top. Now carefully sew along the side and bottom edges of the rectangle, 0.5cm (¼") in from the edge.

## FOR THE TEA TOWEL TRIM

13 Measure the width of the tea towel. Fold the patterned fabric in half with RS together, then mark out a rectangle the same width, and 12cm (4¾") long. Pin along the chalk lines, then cut out using a 1cm (⅜") seam allowance. Sew the short edges and bottom long edge, leaving the top edge open.

14 Turn the fabric RS out and press, then fold the long raw edges to the WS by 1cm (⅜") and press in place. Slip one short end of the tea towel into the rectangle and pin in place. Sew along the open long edge of the fabric, roughly 0.5cm (¼") down from the top, to secure it in place.

15 Cut a length of pom pom trim slightly wider than the tea towel. Sew in place along the bottom edge of the fabric rectangle, as shown in the picture, folding either end of the pom pom trim over twice and securing in place with a few stitches.



**Anna Alicia**

Anna is the designer-maker behind homeware and jewellery label A Alicia, which focuses on contemporary design and ethical materials. She and lives in East London with her artist husband and their bonny toddler. She is also the author of *Make it Your Own: 25 Stylish Projects for Your Home.*

***www.aalicia.bigcartel.com***

# MERRY AND BRIGHT

Upcycle your spangliest Christmas jumper yet with Christine Leech's easy-peasy iron-on vinyl masterpiece

















## HOW TO MAKE… A CHRISTMAS SWEATSHIRT

### YOU WILL NEED

- Selection of iron-on vinyls including glitter, flock, fluorescent and holographic finishes (ours were from www.happyfabric.co.uk)
- Greaseproof paper
- Coins
- Plain sweatshirt

Ready to embrace the Christmas jumper season? We're easing ourselves in with this playful confetti-spangled sweatshirt.

Grab a plain top, or jumper, and prepare to get excited about ironing, because iron-on vinyl is a game changer when it comes to customising. Unbelievably easy to use (not to mention super-easy to cut into shapes), it allows you to get creative and go as crazy as you like with glittery shapes and layering. Enjoy!

01 When using an iron to fix vinyl, it's better to use a really solid surface rather than an ironing board, so place a thick towel on a table then place the sweatshirt on top of this. Iron any creases out of the sweatshirt.

02 Begin by cutting a selection of small circles from the different vinyls, referring to the main image as a guide. If you're happy to cut them freehand, it's a good idea to cut a square of vinyl roughly the size of the circle first, then cut the circle away within it. This helps keep the circle round, plus it also creates a circular offcut to use in the design too. If you aren't feeling confident, draw around some coins then cut out the shapes. Don't worry about the perfect roundness of the cutting as the handmade feel all adds to the design.

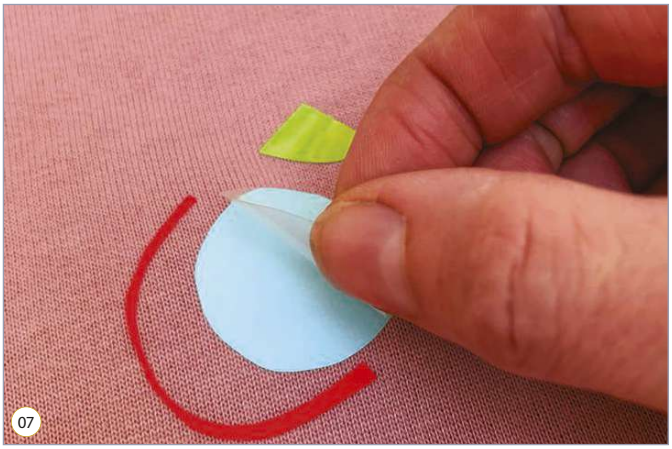
03 Next, cut some holly leaves. Draw the shape on the back of the vinyl first, using the templates on page 146.

# CHRISTMAS JUMPER













Again, you'll find it easier to cut a rectangle as a guide before cutting the leaf shape. Cut several holly leaves and berries in different colours and sizes.

04 Working on the front of the sweatshirt, take a selection of leaves and berries and position them in little groups, as shown. Gradually add in some of the offcuts until you're happy with the design. Make sure you're laying them with the protective plastic side up. You can layer up the vinyls, but it's best to not place anything over the glitters and flocks as they may not adhere so well.

05 Once you're happy with the design, remove anything that's layered up as you can only iron one layer at a time. You might find it helpful at this stage to take a photo of the design if you don't think you'll remember where the pieces go later!

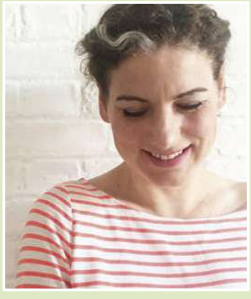
06 Place a piece of greaseproof paper over the area you're going to iron first and, with the iron on the cotton setting, press down onto the sweatshirt with a firm pressure for 10 seconds.

07 Remove the iron and the greaseproof paper. Wait a few seconds, then peel away the protective plastic layer. Work your way around the sweatshirt, ironing and peeling as you go. Some plastic layers are easier to remove when they're warm and some when they've cooled down, so if one shape is proving tricky to remove simply wait a little bit longer.

08 Once you've completed the first layer of the design, place the second layer of vinyl pieces in position, place the greaseproof paper on top again, and iron in place as per Steps 6-7.

09 Continue adding shapes in the same way until the whole vinyl design has been completed. Give the sweatshirt one final press, paying special attention to the edges of the vinyl pieces.

Finally, turn your sweatshirt inside out and iron all over again (from the back) to give your sweatshirt a crisp finish.



**Christine Leech**

Designer-maker Christine has written nine books on a selection of crafts such as paper, felt and embroidery. Her latest book, *Pompomania*, is full of clever pom pom projects you can try at home. Follow her on Instagram @ sewyeah to share in her crafty lifestyle, creative projects and inspiration. *www.sewyeah.co.uk*

# BRIGHT IDEA!

Get creative with cardboard shapes, metallic foil strips and a glue gun to create mini star piñatas for your next shindig





Get in the mood for glitzy parties with Teri Muncey's metallic star piñatas! Draw two star shapes on card, followed by ten rectangles, each the same length as one side of your star points. Cut out, then glue gun around the edges of one star at 90° angles. Glue the second star on, leaving one side open to fill with sweets. Cut strips of metallic foil, snip to create fringing and attach in overlapping rows. Find more DIYs like this at www.thelovelydrawer.com





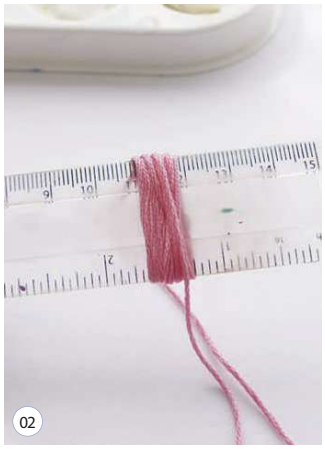
# HIDDEN TREASURES

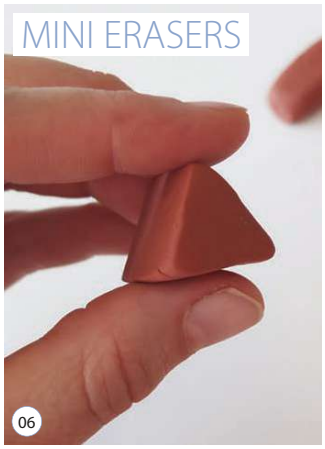
Say goodbye to dad jokes and hello to tiny treats with Chloe Hardisty's cracker gifts























## HOW TO MAKE… HANDMADE CRACKER FILLERS

### YOU WILL NEED

WINE CHARMS
- Four medium-sized wooden beads
- Four small wooden beads
- Acrylic paint
- Embroidery thread
- Ruler
- Baking tray

GINGERBREAD HOUSE ERASERS
- White oil-based marker pen
- Eraser clay in brown, blue and pink

KEYRINGS
- White faux leather
- Acrylic paints
- Masking tape
- Four D-shaped keyring findings
- Strong craft glue

### INGREDIENTS

Treats (makes 25)
- 200g (7oz) ground almonds
- 200g (7oz) caster sugar
- 1 egg
- Almond essence
- 300g (10½oz) white chocolate
- Macadamia nuts
- Edible gold and pink glitter
- Freeze dried strawberry pieces
- Parchment paper
- Baker's twine

Take Christmas dinner up a notch this year and wow family and guests with homemade crackers at the table. You can find out how to make your own crackers at *www.molliemakes.com/tutorials/diy-christmas-crackers/*, before filling with them with Chloe's selection of mini treats. We think that's much more impressive than a fortune telling fish and a paper hat! Each make is quick and easy, and simple to adapt. You could cover your marzipan treats in milk or dark chocolate if you prefer, and paint the wine charms to match your table décor.

Our favourites – and sure to be a hit with kids – are the mini erasers. We used Sculpey Eraser Clay, available from Amazon (what a find that was!), to make little houses that double up as rubbers. Genius. Pop a mini pencil inside your cracker too, and you've got an instant stationery set. You're welcome!

**WINE CHARMS**

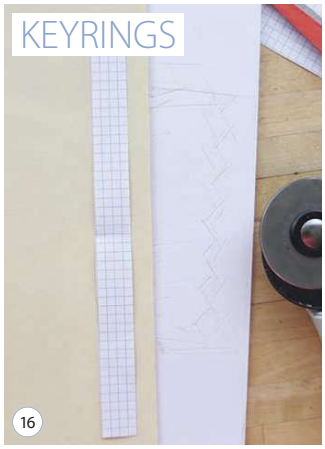
01 Paint your beads in a base coat colour, then leave to dry – we propped ours on the end of a pencil for ease of painting, but you could also use a wooden skewer or similar. Once they're dry, use paint in a contrasting colour to add a pattern onto the larger beads.

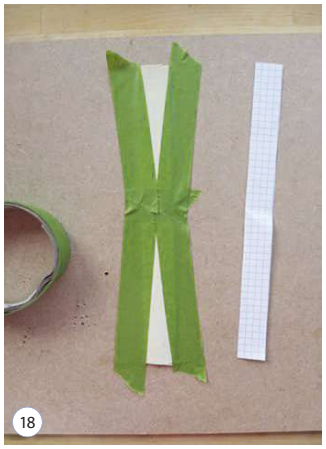
02 To make the tassel, wrap embroidery thread 10 times around the width of a ruler.

03 Remove the bundle of thread from the ruler. Tie a 15cm (6") length of thread around the top of the loop, cut the bottom of the loop, then trim to neaten.

04 Thread your larger bead over the top of the tassel, then thread on the smaller bead. Tie a knot at the top end of your thread. You can then attach the charm to a wine glass by looping it over the base, or by placing it round the stem and pulling the smaller bead through the two long pieces of thread.

# CRACKER TREATS



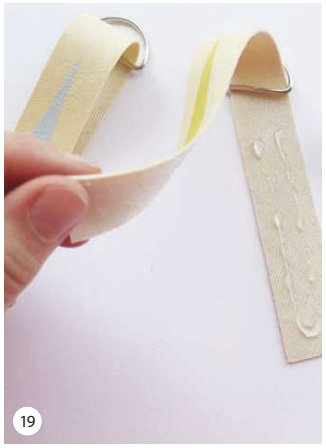



















**GINGERBREAD HOUSE ERASERS**

05 To make these erasers in bulk, build up layers of different coloured clay to make a longer house shape you can slice into. The pattern should run through the shape, like a stick of rock.

06 Start by moulding a piece of brown clay into a prism shape to create the pointed roof. Add a rectangle of brown clay below it to form the area between the roof and the windows.

07 Add alternate rectangles of brown, pink, brown, pink and then brown again below this to create the window section – use the picture above as a guide.

08 Sandwich a rectangle of blue clay lengthways between two rectangles of brown clay to form the bottom section, then add this below the window section. Squeeze the clay so the pieces are as close together as possible, being careful to keep the shape.

09 Use a knife to cut the shapes into 1cm (⅜.") wide slices. Place them onto a tray and bake for around 30 minutes at 120°C/250°F/Gas mark ½.

15 Leave to cool for an hour, then use the white pen to outline the windows and door, and add a icing effect to the roof.

**GEOMETRIC KEYRINGS**

16 Cut a 23 x 2.5cm (9⅛ x 1") strip from your faux leather.

17 Using the masking tape, mask off a triangle shape at one end of your leather, with the base of the triangle starting at the narrow end, and the point ending just short of halfway along the length (see picture 18).

18 Repeat Step 17 at the other end of the leather, then paint the triangle shapes. Leave to dry.

19 Pass the strip of leather through the D ring and fold in half lengthways, then apply glue to the wrong side. Fold in half along the length, aligning the edges, and press together.

**MACADAMIA AND MARZIPAN TREATS**

20 Combine the ground almonds, caster sugar, egg and a couple of drops of almond essence in a bowl, mixing well until it forms a marzipan dough. Refrigerate for at least a couple of hours, or preferably overnight.

21 Divide the marzipan into 25 equal pieces – each one should weigh approximately 15g (½oz). Shape the pieces into a small flat circle, then put a macadamia nut in the middle. Shape the marzipan around the nut, roll into a small ball and put aside.

22 Melt the chocolate in a bowl over a pan of simmering water. Remove the bowl from the pan, then coat each ball thoroughly – use a cocktail stick to remove it from the chocolate. Place on a piece of parchment paper.

23 While the chocolate is still liquid, sprinkle each one with a combination of edible glitter and freeze-dried strawberries.

24 Leave to set, then wrap each treat in a square of parchment paper, tying the ends with baker's twine to finish.



**Chloe Hardisty**

Stylist, maker, craft Kit designer and occasional blogger, Chloe loves making stuff – particularly out of thread and fabric. She lives in Loughborough (where she went to art college) with her husband and two children, and spends her evenings making cute craft kits for her *Cotton Clara* Etsy shop. ***www.cottonclara.wordpress.com***

# FORAGE AND FEAST

Create a delicate festive tablescape inspired by nature – Teri Muncey shows you how




Sarah

# NATURAL TABLE

























## HOW TO MAKE… A NATURE-INSPIRED TABLESCAPE

### YOU WILL NEED

FOR THE CRACKERS
- White paper
- Black ink pad
- Toilet roll tubes
- Cracker snaps
- Ribbon
- Pencil with a rubber
- Double-sided tape
- Scallop-edged scissors
- Craft knife
- Metal ruler
- Small cracker gifts

FOR THE PLACEMATS
- Leaves
- Blush pink linen
- Two ink rollers
- Black fabric paint
- Paint brush
- Scrap paper

FOR THE CANDLES
- 250g soy wax flakes per candle
- Dried rosemary
- Rosemary essential oil
- Black porcelain paint
- Candle wicks
- Glass jars
- Glass bowl
- Glass jug
- Saucepan
- Paint brush

Forget stately, majestic settings – when it comes to our Christmas dinner table, we're all about simple Scandi chic, accented with a handful of winter foliage.

### MAKING THE CRACKERS

01 Using the template on page 146, draw a cracker shape onto white paper, transferring on the markings. Press the rubber end of the pencil onto the black ink pad, then stamp it onto the paper, creating a dotty pattern. Leave to dry.

02 Cut the two short edges of the cracker with scallop-edged scissors, then fold the paper along the six lines across the width.

03 Using a craft knife and metal ruler, cut around the cracker shape. Next, cut out the diamond shapes marked within the three parallel lines at either end.

04 Stick a length of double-sided tape across the centre of the cracker, parallel to the folds.

05 Remove the backing from the tape and position a toilet roll tube along one long edge of the paper, aligning the tube ends with the folds. Roll the tube along the width of the cracker, wrapping the paper around it, and keeping the ends in line with the folds. Secure the end with a piece of double-sided tape.

06 Push the cracker snap through the tube, trimming at the ends if it's too long. Tie one end with ribbon, drawing together the diamond cut-outs, then insert a gift into the other end. Draw the second end closed with a length of ribbon, then repeat Steps 1-6 to make as many crackers as required.

### MAKING THE PLACEMATS

07 Cut a 30 x 45cm (11⅞ x 17¾") piece of linen, then gently pull away a few threads along all four edges to fray them.

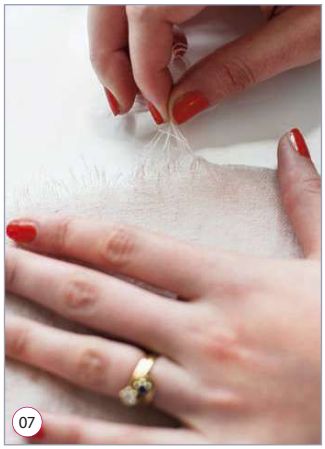
08 Protect a flat surface with scrap paper and lay a leaf on top.

# NATURAL TABLE

























Use a paint brush to cover one side in black fabric paint.

09 Use an ink roller to lightly roll over the painted side of the leaf, removing any excess paint. At this point, you might want to practise printing on a scrap piece of linen, experimenting to see which leaves print the best impression.

10 Lay a sheet of paper onto a flat surface and place the linen flat on top. Position a leaf on the linen, ink side facing down.

11 Lay another sheet of paper on top of the leaf, then use the clean ink roller to gently roll over the paper, transferring the paint from the leaf onto the linen.

12 Continue printing in this way, using different leaves and alternating their angles. You'll need several leaves, as they can only be used a few times.

13 Once you're happy with the pattern, leave the ink to dry, then repeat Steps 7-12 to make as many placemats as required.

**MAKING THE CANDLES**

14 Start by decorating a glass jar. Use a paint brush and black porcelain paint to cover the jar with a dotty pattern. Start at the top, working in sections and spacing the dots evenly. Once finished, leave to dry.

15 Boil water in a large saucepan, then turn it down to a low heat. Carefully lower a glass bowl into the pan, and pour the soy wax flakes into the bowl. Stir them occasionally as they melt.

16 Place a peg at the top of the wick and position it across the centre of the jar, making sure the wick touches the bottom. Trim the top of the wick to fit. Dip the metal base of the candle wick into the melted wax, then position it back in the jar with the metal base resting on the bottom. Hold in place until the wax is dry.

17 Add 15 drops of rosemary essential oil to the jar, dripping it down the sides and into the base, then fill the jar halfway with the melted wax. Add 15 more drops of rosemary essence and a sprinkling of dried rosemary on top.

18 Fill the rest of the jar with the remaining wax, covering the outside of the jar with a tea towel to stop the wax from cooling down too quickly. Leave to set, then trim the wick. Repeat Steps 14-18 to make as many candles as required for your table size.

Now gather sprigs of greenery in a jar and your nature-inspired table set-up is complete.



**Teri Muncey**

Teri runs award winning business The Lovely Drawer from her a mezzanine studio in her London home. She originally trained in print and surface pattern design, and now spends her free time dreaming up craft tutorials, drinking copious amounts of tea and cooking up a storm in the kitchen.

*www.thelovelydrawer.com*

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# FESTIVE FOREST

Earn your Star Baker badge with Laura Mitchell's Christmas gingerbread cake and reusable clay tree toppers



# GINGERBREAD CAKE













## HOW TO MAKE… A GINGERBREAD CAKE AND CLAY TOPPERS

### YOU WILL NEED

- Polymer clay in mint, turquoise, green, white and gold colours (we used Fimo)
- Christmas tree-shaped biscuit cutters in various sizes
- Craft knife
- Rolling pin
- Wooden skewers
- Baking tray
- Baking paper
- Craft glue

### INGREDIENTS

FOR THE CAKE

- 190g (6½oz) plain flour
- 1½ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- ½ tsp ground cloves
- 115g (4½oz) unsalted butter
- 100g (4oz) granulated sugar
- 75g (2½oz) dark brown sugar
- 125ml (4 fl oz) treacle
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 125ml (4 fl oz) buttermilk
- 2 large eggs

FOR THE FROSTING

- 225g (8oz) unsalted butter
- 170g (6oz) full fat cream cheese
- 500g (17½oz) icing sugar
- 1 tbsp lemon zest
- Juice of half a lemon
- 30g (1oz) desiccated coconut

### EQUIPMENT

- Three 15cm (6") cake tins
- Baking paper
- Bowl
- Serrated knife
- Palette knife

Even after tucking into Christmas dinner with all the trimmings, there's always room for cake. Especially if that cake is a light, spiced gingerbread sponge, slathered with fresh cream cheese frosting and topped with coconut. Sounds good, right?

Decorated with a forest of evergreen (and everlasting) tree toppers, this show-stopping alternative to a traditional heavy fruit cake is sure to impress, plus it won't you take days to create. And, as it serves 10 people, there might even be enough leftover for seconds.

### MAKING THE TOPPERS

01 Break off a piece of green clay, and twist it together with the white clay to marble them.

02 Roll out the five different shades of clay to roughly 0.25cm (⅜") thick. Use the cutters to cut five tree shapes in a variety of sizes and colours. Create a diagonal dotty pattern across two trees with the point of a skewer, as shown on the main picture. (You coud use the skewer to add lettering to the trees at this stage if desired.)

03 Preheat the oven to 110°C/230°F/Gas Mark ¼ and line a baking tray with baking paper. Place the shapes onto the lined tray and bake for 30 minutes, then leave to cool.

04 Glue a skewer onto the back of each tree, then leave to dry.

### MAKING THE CAKE

05 Preheat the oven to 175°C/350°F/Gas Mark 4. Grease the tins, then line with baking paper.

# GINGERBREAD CAKE













06 Whisk the flour, baking powder, salt and spices together in a bowl, then put to one side.

07 Using an electric whisk, beat the butter until it's smooth. Add the sugar and beat together until the mixture is pale and fluffy.

08 Add the eggs to the mixture, one at a time, fully incorporating each one before adding the next. Add the treacle and vanilla and continue mixing until incorporated.

09 Alternate adding the dry ingredients and buttermilk, beginning and ending with the dry ingredients, and fully incorporating each ingredient before adding the next. Take care not to overmix.

10 Spread the batter evenly into the three tins and smooth the tops with a spatula. Bake for 30-35 minutes, or until a skewer inserted into the centre of the comes out clean.

11 Place the cakes on a wire rack to cool for 10 minutes, then turn out of the tins and let them cool completely.

12 To make the frosting, beat the butter and cream cheese until fluffy. Add the icing sugar a little at a time. Add the lemon zest and juice, then continue beating the mixture until fluffy again.

13 To assemble, use a serrated knife to trim each cake into even layers. Place one layer on a cake stand and top with a generous amount of icing, using a palette knife to spread it evenly. Repeat with the remaining two layers. Place the cake in the fridge for 30 minutes to chill.

14 Use the palette knife to apply a generous coating of icing over the cake. Once completely covered, use the palette knife to remove some of the icing, allowing the cake to show through. If the cake looks uneven or patchy, apply more icing to that area and scrape around the cake again, making sure all the edges are straight.

15 Scatter desiccated coconut across the top of the cake. Using the image as a guide, arrange the clay trees on top of the cake.



**Laura Mitchell**

*Kit and Nancy* blogger Laura is an Australian baker. Her blog is named after her grandmothers, who inspired her love for baking. In 2013, she followed her heart to Holland and now lives with her Dutchman and adopted pup in Rotterdam. Find her latest makes on Instagram @kitandnancy. ***www.kitandnancy.blogspot.com***













# GIFTING

Bring joy to your family and friends on Christmas morning with handmade gifts – and bespoke wrapping – that they'll want to treasure forever.



KNIT A CUDDLY POLAR BEAR
AS A COSY WINTER GIFT, PAGE 133



# WINTER WONDERLAND

Create an air of seasonal magic with Mount Royal Mint's enchanting heirloom polar bear



# POLAR BEAR

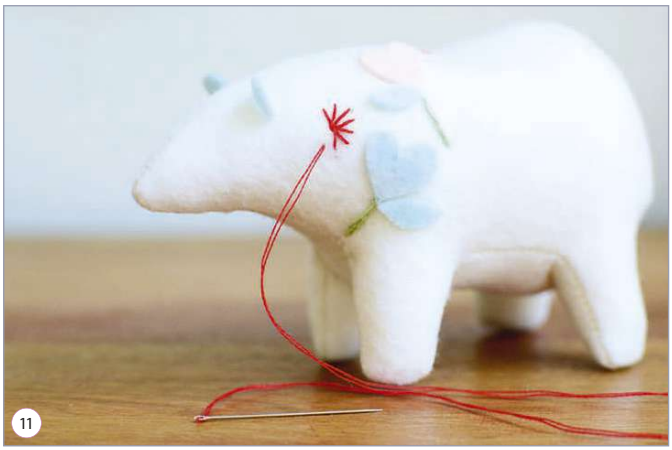
## HOW TO MAKE… A FELT POLAR BEAR ORNAMENT










### YOU WILL NEED

- White felt
- Scraps of felt in pale pink, pale blue and mint
- Erasable fabric marker
- Embroidery threads in white, black, red, pink, blue and mint
- Soft toy stuffing
- Fabric glue

Straight from the pages of a fairytale, this little polar bear might come from colder climes, but he's adept at melting hearts.

Make for a friend or someone special for Christmas or a even a birthday – this soft sculpture is too precious to be manhandled by the sticky fingers of a toddler. You could give him as a gift for a newborn though, as these bears are beautiful collector's pieces. Or, construct your own winter wonderland on a shelf for all to admire.

01 Cut out all pattern pieces from the templates on page 146. Cut the body from white felt, adding the markings onto the side body pieces using a fabric marker. Cut the ears, tail and leaves from mint felt, and the hearts from blue and pink felt.

02 Place one body piece on top of the underside piece with right sides (RS) together, aligning the edges and making sure either end of the underside piece aligns with the markings. Pin and sew all the way along the underside.

03 Neatly pin the second body piece to the sewn body piece with RS together. Sew from the nose to where the underside joins at the back.

04 With RS facing, pin the underside to the second body piece, aligning the edges and markings. Sew, starting at the nose and leaving a gap for turning at the back.

05 Turn through to the right side, using a chopstick or similar to

# POLAR BEAR

push out the legs and nose.

06 Stuff your bear, using smaller pieces, and use the chopstick to fill the legs and nose firmly. Then, close up the open seam using ladder stitch.

07 Turn your bear over so the underside is facing up. Fold one leg in towards the body, then sew in place using a few small ladder stitches. Repeat with the other three legs so your bear stands up.

08 Arrange your coloured felt shapes around the bear's collar using the guide above. Bear in mind you'll be embroidering stems to the hearts, so leave enough space for these between each heart. Carefully pin the shapes in place once you're happy with the placement.

09 Stick down each shape using fabric glue, then glue the ears and tail in place where marked. If you prefer, you could attach the ears and tail using ladder stitch.

10 Following the guide above, embroider stems from the bottom of the hearts using straight stitch and mint thread, then use straight stitch to add detail to your leaves.

11 Use red thread and straight stitch to add the embroidered flowers. Using straight stitch and mint thread, stitch tiny accent lines in the gaps all the way around the collar.

12 Knot the end of a length of black thread a few times, then take the needle down on one side of the face and out under the chin to create an eye. Tie a knot to secure, then trim the excess thread. Repeat on the opposite side for the other eye. Use straight stitch and red thread to add the nose and mouth.

13 Use straight stitch and pink thread to add cheeks below each eye. Then, use blue thread to make a loop around the snout, sewing in and out of the seam to make sure it's fully secure.

Now your delicate polar bear is finished, it's time to find a place to display him. You could use pom pom balls and felt to craft a migical wintery landscape for him – just like we have.





**Mount Royal Mint**

As well as creating heirloom toys for Mount Royal Mint, Sabina Gibson also illustrates children's books. Using needle and thread to tell stories, she brings characters to life with clever photography and settings – we love *Little Bird, Be Quiet!*, illustrated by Sabina for Kirsten Hall. See her latest makes on Instagram @mountroyalmint

***www.mountroyalmint.etsy.com***



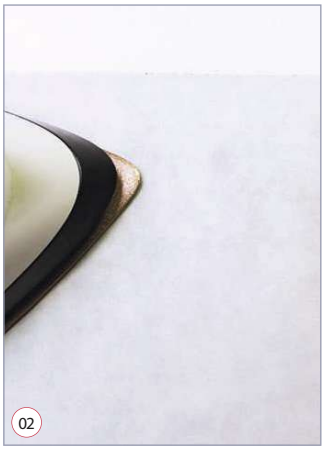
# WINTER CUDDLES

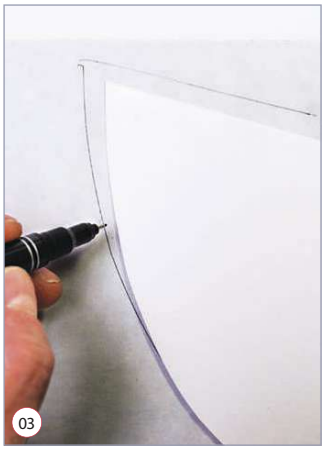
Upcycle simple baby vests into fun festive outfits for the big day with Kirsty Hartley's easy-peasy sewing projects

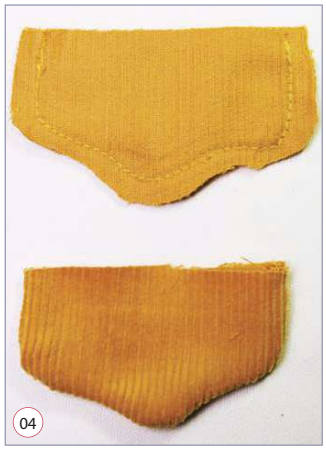


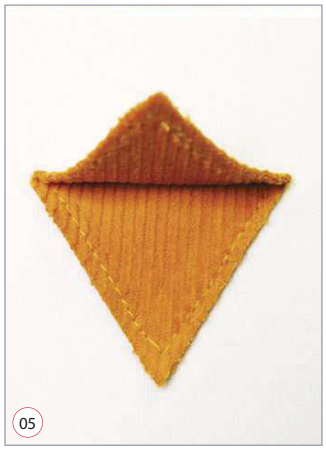
# BABY VESTS


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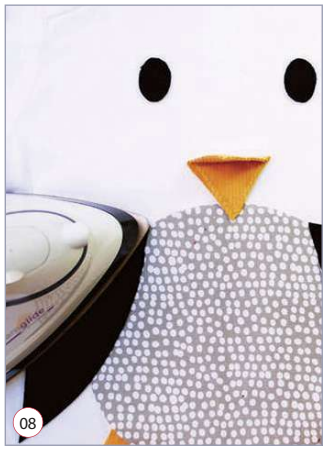

03


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06


08

## HOW TO MAKE… WINTER APPLIQUÉ BABY VESTS

### YOU WILL NEED

- Long or short sleeved baby vest
- Fabric scraps, approx 20cm (8")
- 30cm (12") square iron-on fusible web or interfacing
- Three buttons (for the snowman)
- Matching sewing threads
- Tailor's chalk or pencil
- Sewing machine
- Good quality shears/ dressmaking scissors
- Pins

Thanks to a certain singing snowman (we're looking at you, Frozen's Olaf), tiny tots have shown to be particularly enamoured with this playful snowman design!

The templates (see page 146) are designed to fit ages 1-2 years, but can be easily enlarged for older children, or reduced to fit the tiniest of newborns. We prefer organic cotton vests, and here's the safety bit: Always remember to take extra care when finishing your design, in case of loose buttons or threads.

Feel free to create your own characters. The penguin template can easily be adapted into a robin, if you're able to source a brown top. Then use orange for the beak, red for the tummy, and create little feet using the template for the snowman arms. You could also adapt the webbed feet to add to the toes of a babygrow by carefully cutting away the toe seam and inserting feet using the step-by-step instructions.

Like our materials? The spotty fabric used here is part of Dashwood studio's Flurry quilters' cotton range, which comes in a broad spectrum of colours (we got ours from (www.thehomemakery.co.uk). If you'd prefer an even simpler make then use felt instead of fabric, as it can be simply cut and applied with or without bonding web. Just remember it won't wash as well if the fabric pieces aren't completely sewn on.

01 Gather together your materials. Press your vest and the fabric scraps to prepare them.

023 Take the templates on page 146 and scale them up or down to fit comfortably on the front of your vest. Carefully cut out all the pieces. Prepare the scraps by backing them with fusible web or interfacing, following the manufacturer's instructions.

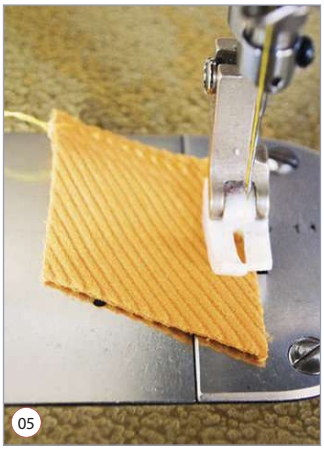
03 Trace the template pieces onto the bonded paper backing and cut out. For the penguin you'll need two eyes, one pair of wings, one beak (see Step 5) and a contrast tummy. For the snowman you'll need two eyes, one beak, one scarf, a hat and 5mm (¼") strips for the feet. Carefully peel the backing paper away and set aside.

04 To prepare the penguin, cut two pairs of feet using the template. A seam allowance of 5mm (¼") has been added all around. If you're using felt, remove the seam allowance from the outer edges.

Place each pair of feet right sides (RS) together and, with your machine on a small setting, sew 5mm (¼") from the curved edges, back stitching at the start and finish and leaving the straight edge open. As you sew around the curve, rotate the fabric with the machine needle in a downward position.

# BABY VESTS





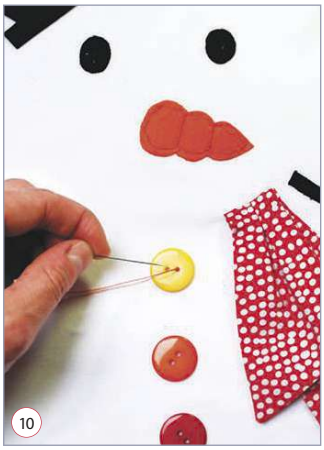













This allows you to move the fabric without losing the line of the seam. Turn each foot through RS out and press. Set aside for later.

05 To make the beak, back an 8cm (3") square of yellow fabric with fusible web. Remove the paper backing, fold in half and press again, creating a thick fabric from which to cut the beak. This will be stable enough to leave with raw edges, however topstitching all around will give a good finish. Fold and press in half. Position on the vest and sew into place through the centre of the beak.

06 To prepare the snowman, cut one scarf from the template in a bright spotty fabric. Fold in half RS together and sew around the edges, leaving a small 2.5cm (1") opening. Trim away the pointed edges to reduce bulk, then turn RS out and press. Now fold and carefully sew a 2cm (¾") pleat through the centre. Open out and press flat.

07 Assemble the appliqué, adhesive side down.

08 If making the penguin, pin the feet underneath the tummy. Carefully heat press into place, covering with a light cloth for added protection.

09 Topstitch into place 2mm (⅛") from the edge using matching thread. Be careful to manoeuvre the vest as you sew to avoid accidentally sewing the vest together. Carefully trim away loose threads.

10 If you're making the snowman, prepare bonded fabric for the hat in the same way as the beak (see Step 5). The arms are created using cut and bonded strips of fabric arranged into place. Add the pre-made scarf by pinning into position first. Finally, sew the buttons into place securely to finish.

Ta-da! Now your baby can join in the Christmas jumper fun with their very own festive outfit.



**Kirsty Hartley**
Lancashire-based Kirsty is the founder of children's brand Wild Things Dresses, creating funky wearable creatures and critters that add a new dimension to both playtime and everyday clothing. She's written two books – *Wild Things Funky Little Clothes to Sew* and *Wild Things To Make* – packed with playful projects you can sew yourself at home. ***www.wildthingsdresses.com***

# PASS THE PARCEL

Lana Red's leading the charge on creative giftwrap that's good enough to 'gram






HOHOHO

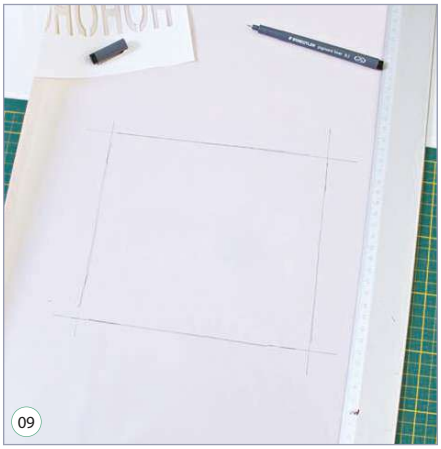

01


02


03


07


08


09

## HOW TO MAKE… HANDMADE GIFT WRAP

### YOU WILL NEED

- Wrapping paper
- Sticky tape
- Washi tape
- Velvet ribbon

FOR THE CONFETTI PARCEL
- Sheets of colourful paper
- Circle hole punch
- Cellophane

FOR THE POM POM PARCEL
- Wool roving
- Washing-up liquid
- Glue

FOR THE PAPERCUT PARCEL
- Patterned wrapping paper
- Craft knife
- Cutting mat

Once the Christmas shopping, making or baking is done, it's time to unleash your inner paper artist. Playing with colour combos, pattern vs texture and all the ribbons, that's the kind of wrapping we're here for. These three ideas will inspire you to ramp up the fun factor for this year's Christmas gifts, and you can go wild raiding your paper and trimmings stash to come up with your own signature parcel style for winter 2018.

Paper confetti and cellophane makes a present you can shake like a snow globe, then there are teeny felt pom poms to make, and stencils to cut for your favourite festive mottos. And once you've made a good batch of paper confetti, you can add a sprinkle of it inside each of your parcels as a little extra festive surprise too.

**CONFETTI PARCEL**

01 To make the confetti, use a circular hole punch to cut shapes from red, gold, pink and white paper, or your choice of colours. A handful of paper confetti will be enough for 10 or so medium-sized gifts.

02 Wrap the gift with plain wrapping paper and sticky tape first, then wrap it with a layer of the cellophane, this time securing with contrasting washi tape, and leaving one side open.

03 Insert the handmade confetti between the plain gift wrap and the cellophane layer. Shake the gift slightly to move the confetti around so it's evenly distributed.

04 Once you've added the desired amount of confetti, finish wrapping the cellophane layer and close the final side with washi tape. Tie with coordinating velvet ribbon to finish.

**POM POM PARCEL**

05 Wrap the gift with a layer of

# GIFT WRAP


04


05


06



11


12


13

plain wrapping paper.

06 To make a felted pom pom, cut a small piece of roving and place it into a bowl of water. Add a couple of drops of washing-up liquid and let it soak up the water. Remove the roving from the bowl and squeeze out the water. Rub the roving in between your hands in a circular motion, creating a small felted pom. Repeat this process to make as many pom poms as needed to reasonably cover the gift. Once made, leave them to dry for approximately 24 hours.

07 Apply a small drop of glue to one of the felted pom poms and attach it to the top of the wrapped gift. Repeat, attaching pom poms to cover the top, then let the glue dry. Once the glue has dried, turn the gift to another side and attach a few pom poms to that side. Repeat until you've attached all the pom poms, leaving the underside of the gift free so it sits flat, and leaving enough space between the pom poms to tie with ribbon.

08 Tie coordinating velvet ribbon around the gift to finish.

**PAPERCUT PARCEL**

09 Cut a piece of wrapping paper large enough to wrap your item. Place the piece of wrapping paper right side (RS) down on a flat surface. Place the gift on top and centre it. Trace the outline of the gift onto the paper.

10 Create a stencil to fit the outline drawn in the previous step by resizing the template on page 146, or by drawing and cutting out your own stencil design. With a craft knife and cutting mat, carefully cut away the main letters or shapes from your stencil, leaving the negative space intact.

11 Place the stencil RS down – the text or image should be mirrored – in the centre of the pencil outline on the wrapping paper. Place the cutting mat underneath and follow the outlines of the stencil with the craft knife, cutting all of the design out. Once you've finished with the stencil, remove it from the paper.

12 Wrap the gift with a layer of contrasting or coordinating patterned wrapping paper first.

13 Place the wrapping paper with the cut-out design on top of the wrapped gift, RS up. Centre the design and keep it in place while you flip the gift over. Wrap the gift neatly and secure the paper with washi tape to finish.



**Lana Red**

Lana's the founder of craft and lifestyle blog *Lana Red Studio* and her aim is always to encourage people to be creative. When she's not busy with sewing or photography, she's fully occupied with serious cat cuddling. You can see more of her latest makes on Instagram @lanaredstudio.

*www.lanaredstudio.com*



# COMFORT & JOY

Take your Christmas crafting up a notch with Kirsty Hartley's fun cracker cushion

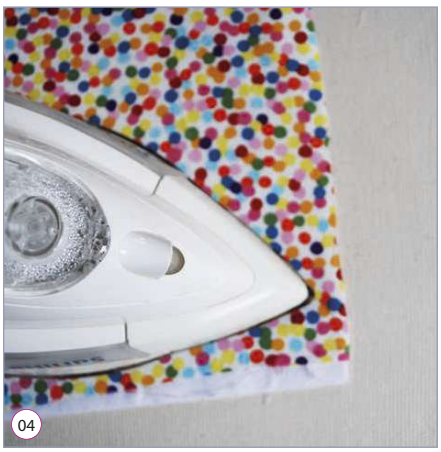


# CRACKER CUSHION



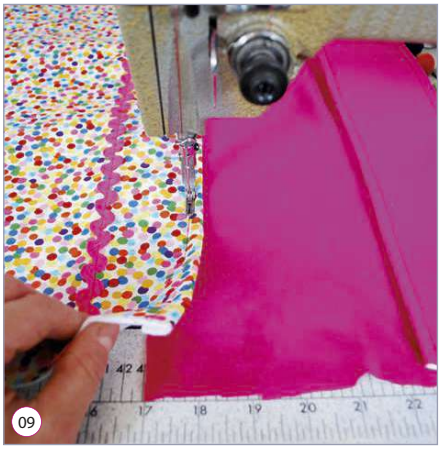
















## HOW TO MAKE… A FABRIC CRACKER CUSHION

### YOU WILL NEED

- 50cm (19¾") white calico fabric
- 50cm (19¾") patterned fabric
- 15cm (6") pink cotton fabric
- 85cm (33⅝") fusible web
- 65cm (25⅝") white felt
- 20cm (7⅞") pink jersey fabric
- 20 x 20cm (7⅞ x 7⅞") silver glitter fabric
- Piece of yellow cotton fabric
- 400g soft toy stuffing
- Multi-coloured pom pom trim, 120cm (47¼")
- Pink ric rac, 120cm (47¼")
- 2cm pink ribbon, 150cm (591/8 ")
- Yarn in pink, red and yellow
- Pom pom maker
- Matching sewing thread
- Tailor's chalk

This year, let Christmas fill every corner of your home. The festive season is a brilliant excuse to let your inner magpie fly and decorate your nest, and this oversized, over-the-top cracker cushion is a great place to start.

Pull out your jazziest fabrics and trimmings (hello pom poms and glittery stars) and give them pride of place on this playful accessory that'll bring cheer to any home. Use it to fancy up a kids' bedroom, or for lazing on while watching box sets and scoffing Christmas chocolates. Kirsty's included details of how to make the bolster cushion insert, but if you prefer you could buy a pre-made version and skip these steps.

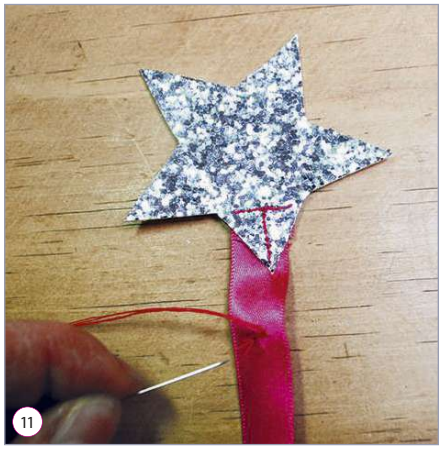
# CRACKER CUSHION















01 To make the bolster cushion pad, cut a 42 x 62cm (16½ x 24⅜") piece of calico for the main cushion panel and two 19cm (7½") diameter circles for the cushion ends. Fold the main panel in half along the length with right sides (RS) together, aligning the raw edges. Sew the two short ends using a 1cm (⅜ ") seam, leaving a 10cm (4") gap in the centre.

02 Pin one cushion end to one end of the loop of fabric, with RS together and aligning the raw edges. Sew, then repeat with the other cushion end.

03 Turn RS out, stuff the cushion through the gap left for turning, then slip stitch the gap closed.

04 To make the cover, cut one 42 x 62cm (16½ x 24⅜ ") piece of patterned fabric, two 16 x 62cm (6⅜ x 24⅜ ") pieces of pink cotton fabric, and two 19 x 62cm (7½ x 24⅜ ") pieces of pink jersey fabric. Back the patterned fabric and the pink cotton pieces with felt using fusible web, following the manufacturer's instructions.

05 Fold the long edges of the patterned and pink cotton pieces to the WS by 1cm (⅜ ") and sew in place, as far away from the folded edge as possible.

06 Cut the length of ric rac in half. Pin each length to the RS of a long edge of the patterned fabric, 7cm (2¾") in from the edge, and sew in place.

07 Cut the length of pom pom trim in half. Pin each length along the wrong side (WS) of one long edge of a pink cotton piece and sew in place.

08 Using the templates on page 146, cut one large star and four small stars from the silver glitter fabric. Back the small stars with yellow fabric using fusible web and place to one side. Sew the large star onto the centre of the RS of the patterned fabric, using pink thread.

09 Place a piece of pink jersey fabric RS up, with the short edges at the top and bottom. Position one long edge of the patterned fabric so it slightly overlaps one long edge of the pink jersey, then repeat with a pink cotton piece along the remaining long edge. Pin and sew along the seams on the patterned fabric and pink cotton panels.

10 Repeat Step 9 along the remaining long edge of the patterned fabric, then fold the cracker along the length with RS together. Pin and sew along the long raw edge, using a 1cm (⅜ ") seam, and going over the panel joins to strengthen them. Turn the cracker RS out and press.

11 Cut the ribbon in half along the length, then sew a small star onto each ribbon end. Make four pom poms and sew one onto each ribbon end.

12 Stuff the cracker with the bolster cushion by pushing it through one open end. Tie a ribbon around either end of the cushion, using it to gather the pink jersey fabric and create the cracker shape, to finish.



**Kirsty Hartley**

Lancashire-based Kirsty is the founder of children's brand Wild Things Dresses, creating funky wearable creatures and critters that add a new dimension to everyday clothing. Her books – *Wild Things Funky Little Clothes to Sew* and *Wild Things To Make* – are packed with playful projects you can sew at home. ***www.wildthingsdresses.com***

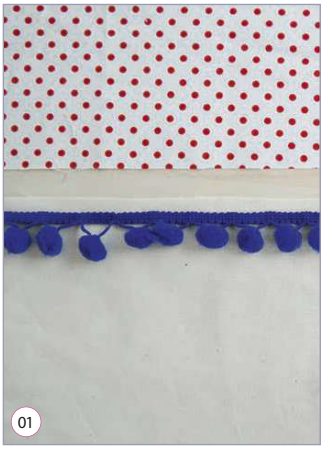

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# PRESENTS PLEASE!

Make sure Santa knows exactly where to leave your gifts with Super+Super's pom pom-tastic gift sacks



# PRESENT SACKS

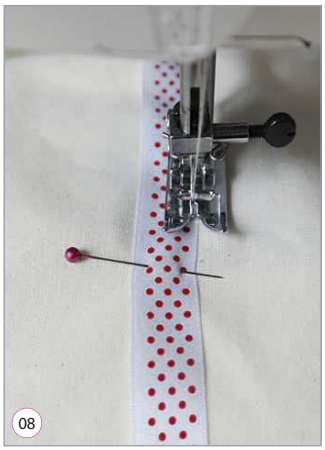

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## HOW TO MAKE… FABRIC AND APPLIQUÉ PRESENT SACKS

### YOU WILL NEED

- Two pieces of calico fabric for the large sack, 42 x 60cm (16½ x 235/8")
- Two pieces of patterned fabric for the large sack, 42 x 15cm (16½ x 6")
- Two pieces of calico fabric for the small sack, 42 x 45cm (16½ x 17¾")
- Two pieces of patterned fabric for the small sack, 42 x 12cm (16½ x 4¾")
- Pom pom trim, 1m for each sack
- Ribbon, approx 80cm (31½") for each sack
- Coordinating thread
- Yarn needle
- Different coloured scrap felt
- Pom pom makers
- Erasable fabric marker
- Fabric glue
- Paint brush
- Yarn

If you think this year's presents deserve more than being stuffed inside a pillow case or carrier bag on Christmas morning, up your game and have a go at making these colourful drawstring festive sacks. Combining simple sewing machine skills, decorative appliqué lettering and a liberal helping of easy-to-make pom poms, they're a thoughtful way to add a handmade touch.

01 With your calico fabric right side (RS) up, place the pom pom trim along the seam allowance at the bottom with pom poms facing inwards. Tack in place.

02 With RS facing, place your patterned fabric on top of the calico fabric and pom pom trim, aligning the raw edges that are both the same length. Now carefully pin in place.

03 Sew together along the length of the pom pom tape, making sure you keep the pom poms on the inside. Repeat Steps 2-3 with the remaining pieces of calico and patterned fabric, minus the pom pom trim.

04 Place front and back pieces with RS together and sew up both sides of your sack, matching the seams where plain and patterned panels meet. Zigzag stitch over the outer seam area to strengthen.

05 Sew along the patterned open edge to close the bag. Zigzag stitch over the seam area.

06 Fold the open top edge of the sack to the wrong side (WS) by 0.5cm (¼") and press. Fold over the top edge to the WS again by 1cm (3/8") and sew in place.

07 Take a length of plain or patterned ribbon, fold the raw edge under, and pin to a side seam on the WS of your sack, 8cm (4¾") down from the top edge. Continue to pin in place along the width of the sack, then when you reach the seam you started at, cut, fold the raw edge under and pin in place on the reverse of the seam.

08 Sew along the top and bottom edges of the ribbon all the way round the width of the sack to create a channel for your drawstring, then thread through a length of yarn for the drawstring. Make a small hole in one of the side seams along of your drawstring channel, and thread the two yarn ends through to the RS of the sack.

09 Turn the sack RS out and press along the seams. Draw your chosen letters onto the different coloured felt pieces using an erasable marker, cut out, then position and pin in place in your sack. Appliqué the letters on using straight stitch and matching thread.

10 Make a selection of pom poms in different sizes for each sack following the pom pom maker instructions, and thread onto the ends of your drawstring with a needle. Tie securely, and trim off any excess yarn to finish.



# HAPPY MITTS

Keep your hands toasty and your look quirky-cute with Amy Philip's penguin mittens

## HOW TO MAKE… KNITTED PENGUIN MITTENS








### YOU WILL NEED

- Sublime Superfine Alpaca DK, 100% alpaca, 50g/120m per ball, one ball each in Soft Grey (433) (Yarn A), Tusk (430) (Yarn B) and Flannel (434) (Yarn C)
- Drops Fabel 4 ply, 25% polyamide/75% wool, 50g/205m per ball, small amount in Mustard (111) (Yarn D)
- 3.25mm (UK 10, US 3) circular knitting needles
- 4mm (UK 8, US 6) circular knitting needles
- 4mm (UK 8, US 6) double-pointed needles
- Scrap yarn
- Stitch markers
- Tapestry needle

### TENSION

22 sts and 28 rows to 10cm (4") over stocking stitch on 4mm needles

### ABBREVIATIONS

**st(s)** stitch(es)
**k** knit
**p** purl
**M1R** make one right, pick up the bar between the sts on the right and left needles by bringing the left needle through from back to front, then knit into the front of this st
**M1L** make one left, pick up the bar between the sts on right and left needles by bringing the left needle through from front to back, then knit into the back of this st
**PM** place marker
**ssk** slip one st, slip one st, knit slipped sts together
**k2tog** knit 2 sts together
**dpn** double-pointed needle

### FINISHED SIZE

Approx. 23cm (9⅛") long and 9cm (3⅝") wide

You may think mittens have one sole purpose – keeping hands cosy – but these playful penguins will are also here to put a big grin on your face.

Adding a fun feel to any winter outfit, and knitted in alpaca yarn for the softest finish, you'll wonder how you survived winter without them.

### INSTRUCTIONS

These are knitted in the round on circular needles, but you can use double-pointed needles instead. Divide the sts evenly over the needles, cast on two extra stitches for a seam allowance, and sew up the mittens at the end.
The steps for the left and right mittens are the same, except the thumb gusset. Add the face detail at the end, using duplicate stitch.

### CUFF

Using Yarn A and 3.25mm needles, cast on 42 sts. Join to work in the round. Work 16 rounds

# MITTENS







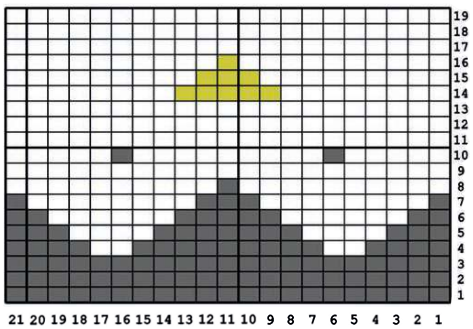

in k1 p1 rib until cuff measures 5cm (2") long.

**LOWER HAND**
Change to 4mm needles and k 8 rounds

**LEFT HAND THUMB GUSSET**
**Round 9** k14, M1R, k2, M1L, k to end of round [44 sts]
**Round 10** k
**Round 11** k14, M1R, k4, M1L, k to end of round [46 sts]
**Round 12** k
**Round 13** k14, M1R, k6, M1L, k to end of round [48 sts]
**Round 14** k
**Round 15** k14, M1R, k8, M1L, k to end of round [50 sts]
**Round 16** k
**Round 17** k14, M1R, k10, M1L, k to end of round [52 sts]
**Round 18** k
**Round 19** k14, M1R, k12, M1L, k to end of round [54 sts]
**Round 20** k
**Round 21** k14, M1R, k14, M1L, k to end of round [56 sts]
**Round 22** k
**Round 23** k14, M1R, k16, M1L, k to end of round [58 sts]
**Round 24** k14, slip next 18 sts onto scrap yarn holder, cast on 2 sts using the backward loop method, k to end of round [42 sts]

**RIGHT HAND THUMB GUSSET**
**Round 9** k4, M1R, k2, M1L, k to end of round [44 sts]
**Round 10** k
**Round 11** k4, M1R, k4, M1L, k to end of round [46 sts]
**Round 12** k
**Round 13** k4, M1R, k6, M1L, k to end of round [48 sts]
**Round 14** k
**Round 15** k4, M1R, k8, M1L, k to end of round [50 sts]
**Round 16** k
**Round 17** k4, M1R, k10, M1L, k to end of round [52 sts]
**Round 18** k
**Round 19** k4, M1R, k12, M1L, k to end of round [54 sts]
**Round 20** k
**Round 21** k4, M1R, k14, M1L, k to end of round [56 sts]
**Round 22** k
**Round 23** k4, M1R, k16, M1L, k to end of round [58 sts]
**Round 24** k4, slip next 18 sts onto scrap yarn holder, cast on 2 sts using the backward loop method, k to end of round [42 sts]
You may find there is a slight hole between the thumb gusset and the hand, but don't worry about that for now – this can be sewn up while weaving in the ends when finishing.

CHART




**UPPER HAND**
K 10 rounds
**Next round** change to Yarn B, k21, PM on the 22nd st (to mark st 1 of the chart when working the penguin design), k to end of round
K 11 rounds
**Next round** k21, PM (for mitten top shaping), k to end of round

**SHAPE MITTEN TOP**
**Round 1** k1, ssk, k to 3 sts before marker, k2tog, k2, ssk, k until 3 sts remain, k2tog, k1 [4 sts decreased]

HOW TO MAKE… KNITTED PENGUIN MITTENS

Work Round 1 a total of 8 times until 10 sts remain. Cut yarn leaving a 15cm (6″) tail. Using a tapestry needle, thread the tail through the 10 sts to close the top of the mitten.

**ADDING THE FACE**

Cut a 130cm (51¼″) length of Yarn C. Following the chart, add the penguin face in duplicate stitch, matching the tension of the mitten.

Stitch 1 of the chart is the stitch marked with the stitch marker.

Use two more 130cm (51¼″) lengths of Yarn C to finish off the head.

Next, cut two 30cm (11⅞″) lengths of Yarn C for the eyes and a 35cm (13¾″) length of Yarn D for the orange beak.

**THUMB**

Transfer the 18 sts on scrap yarn to 4mm needles, rejoin Yarn A, and k 12 rounds

**Next round** (k2tog) all around [9 sts]

Cut yarn leaving a 15cm (6″) tail. Thread the tail through the remaining 9 sts to close the thumb.

**MITTEN CORD**

Using Yarn A and 4mm double-pointed needles, cast on 3 sts, leaving a 15cm (6″) tail.

After casting on, knit the sts, then instead of turning, slide the sts to the other end of the dpn. The working yarn is now at the left of the sts. Start knitting again from the right st, pulling the working yarn gently across the back of the sts. Continue knitting each row in this way, sliding the sts back along the needle at the end of each row, rather than turning, to form a narrow i-cord tube.

Work an i-cord 137cm (54″) long. Cut the yarn, leaving a 15cm (6″) tail, and thread through the 3 sts to cast off.

Using the yarn tails, sew the i-cord to the centre point of the inside back of each mitten. Weave in any loose ends.

To finish, block the mittens, carefully pinning them into shape, then leave to dry.





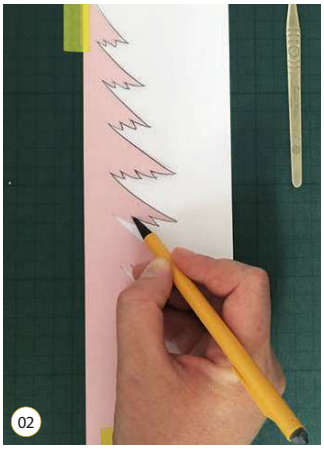
**Amy Philip**

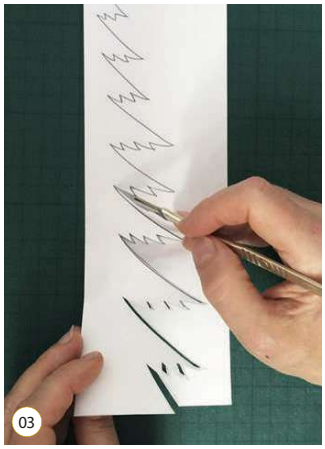
Amy is a Brighton-based mum of three, and the designer-maker behind Button and Blue, a knitwear brand known for its sweet designs, all handmade from beautiful natural fibres. Find readymade items and DIY kits for kidswear and accessories in her shop and see more of her work on Instagram @buttonandblue. *www.buttonandbluestore.etsy.com*

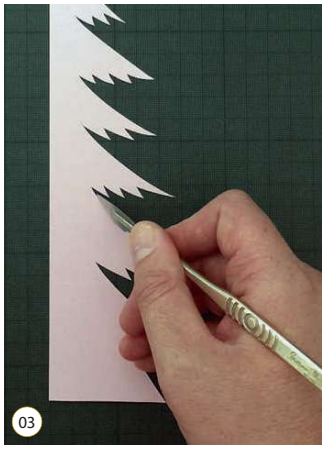
# ENCHANTED FOREST

Add fairy tale magic to your home with Emily Hogarth's papercut winter wonderland display dome




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## HOW TO MAKE… A WOODLAND PAPERCUT DISPLAY DOME

### YOU WILL NEED

- Six sheets of A4 white paper, 120gsm
- One sheet of blush pink card
- One sheet of A4 metallic card
- Double-sided tape
- Cutting mat
- Scalpel and blades
- Pencil
- Glass dome, approx. 30cm (11⅞") high. We used a Large Bevin Beech Based Glass Dome from www.rowanandwren.co.uk

Glass domed bell jars are our top pick for showing off precious treasures and collectables, and we can't think of a better piece to draw attention to than this festive woodland papercut. Whether set up on a sideboard, or taking centre stage on your dining table (move over, turkey!), it's guaranteed to be a talking point on Christmas Day.

If you've never tried papercutting before, practise your technique on scrap paper first. Hold the scalpel like a pen, keeping the blade at a 45º angle, and hold the paper with your other hand. Rotate the paper as you work, cutting away from your body, and making sure to change the blade regularly to get a clean cut. Start with the detailed parts of the design first. You can also copy the templates at a different percentage to suit the size of your dome – try a mini version displayed in a large jam jar for a snowglobe-style effect.

01 Photocopy and cut out the templates from page 146.

02 Fold a sheet of white paper in half vertically and place your tree template on top, aligning the centre of the tree with the centre fold. Use small pieces of tape to keep the template in place and trace around it with a pencil.

03 Carefully cut out your tree through both layers of your folded paper, then repeat another five times with the remaining sheets.

04 Attach the deer templates to the metallic card with small pieces of tape, trace round, and carefully cut out each one. Repeat twice with the border template and the pink card to give two borders, then repeat with the star template, this time folding a piece of metallic card in half with wrong sides (WS) facing so you cut out two stars.

05 To make the tree, stick small pieces of tape to one side of your folded tree and attach it to another of your trees. Keep repeating this process until all six trees are attached together.

06 At the bottom of each deer are two flaps, one on the left side and one on the right. Bend these behind to the WS and attach small pieces of double sided tape to them. Play around with the placement of each deer between the tree branches, and when you're happy, remove the backing from your tape and attach in place.

07 To create your border, attach both your cut out pieces together at either end using small pieces of tape – this will create a continuous border that fits all the way around your tree. Place around the base to finish.

08 With WS facing, stick the two stars together. Cut a small slit in the base, then slot the star on top of the tree. Make sure your glass dome is smudge-free and carefully place your papercut inside it to finish.



# BEAR HUG

Knit Louise Walker's cuddly polar pal and add serious cuteness to a kid's room

## HOW TO MAKE… A KNITTED POLAR BEAR



### YOU WILL NEED

- Cygnet Seriously Chunky yarn, 100% acrylic, 100g/48m per ball, 10 balls in Cream (288) (Yarn A, one ball in Black (217) (Yarn B)
- 9mm (UK 00, US 13) knitting needles, 33cm (13") long (alternatively, circular needles used as straight needles)
- Two 2.5cm (1") toy safety eyes
- Soft toy stuffing
- Yarn needle
- Scrap yarn markers in two different colours (Yarn C and Yarn D)
- Pom pom maker

### TENSION

8 sts and 11 rows to 10cm (4") on 9mm needles. This is not the standard tension for this yarn, but the tension needed for the project. Knit a tension square before starting and adjust your needle size if needed, as knitting in the wrong tension could use additional yarn.

### ABBREVIATIONS (UK)

**st(s)** stitch(es)
**k** knit
**kfb** knit into the front and back of the same st, increasing from one to two sts
**kfbf** knit into the front, back and front again of the same st, increasing from one to three sts
**p** purl
**skpo** slip a st, knit a st, pass slipped st over, decreasing by one st
**k2tog** knit two sts together, decreasing by one st
turn turn midway through a row
**RS** right side
**WS** wrong side

### FINISHED SIZE

Approx. 80 x 100cm (31½ x 39⅜")

If you want to win a little one over this Christmas, there's no better gift than this knitted polar bear, guaranteed to be the biggest cuddly toy in their bedroom by a mile. Children can use him as a cosy throw to keep warm on winter nights, snuggle up to him on the sofa, or lie him on the floor for cosy toes. In fact, we think you'll be hard-pressed to find anyone who wouldn't enjoy receiving this cuddly critter as a gift this Christmas. We're thinking: retro armchair cover, or cuddly neck cushion?

Worked in super chunky yarn on 9mm needles, this oversized plushie will knit up in no time at all. We've used acrylic yarn to keep him affordable (and hard-wearing), but you could swap it out for a more tactile natural yarn instead – it depends how often you think he'll visit the washing machine. Just make sure the eye details are stitched on securely before washing.

# POLAR BEAR








**INSTRUCTIONS**
When sewing the sections together, pull the yarn tightly to make sure they're secure. If you're making this for a young child, we'd recommend embroidering on the eyes or sewing on scraps of felt instead.

**HEAD**
Make two, but only add the scrap yarn markers to one, which will form the top side of the rug.
Cast on 3 sts using Yarn A and 9mm needles.
**Row 1** (RS) k
**Row 2** and all even rows unless otherwise stated, p
**Row 3** kfb repeated to end (6 sts)
**Row 5** (kfb, k1) repeated to end (9 sts)
**Row 7** (kfb, k2) repeated to end (12 sts)
**Row 9** k
**Row 11** k
**Row 13** k
**Row 15** (kfb, k2) repeated to end (16 sts)
**Row 17** k
**Row 19** (kfb, k3) repeated to end (20 sts)
**Row 20** p, adding scrap yarn markers in Yarn C to the 6th and 14th sts
**Row 21** k
**Row 23** (kfb, k4) repeated to end (24 sts)
**Row 25** k
**Row 27** k
**Row 29** k
**Row 30** p, adding scrap yarn markers in Yarn D to the 4th, 10th, 15th and 21st sts
**Row 31** k
**Row 33** (k4, k2tog) repeated to end (20 sts)
**Row 35** (k3, k2tog) repeated to end (16 sts)
**Row 37** (k2, k2tog) repeated to end (12 sts)
**Row 39** kfbf twice, k to the last 3 sts, kfbf twice, k1 (20 sts)
**Row 41** kfbf twice, k to the last 3 sts, kfbf twice, k1 (28 sts)
**Row 43** kfbf twice, k to the last 3 sts, kfbf twice, k1 (36 sts)

**FRONT LEGS**
**Rows 45-65** increase the sts by casting on either side of the row, while Rows 67-103 cast off the rows
**Row 45** At the beginning of the row cast on 14 sts, k all sts (50 sts)
**Row 46** At the beginning of the row cast on 14 sts, p all sts (64 sts)
You may find it easier to switch to circular 9mm needles at this point, as you will have a lot sts on the needles. Use the circulars as straight needles.
**Row 47** kfb, k to the last two sts, kfb, k1 (66 sts)
**Row 49** kfb, k to the last two sts, kfb, k1 (68 sts)
**Row 51** k
**Row 53** k
**Row 55** k
**Row 57** k
**Row 59** k1, skpo, k to the last 3 sts, k2tog, k1 (66 sts)
**Row 61** k1, skpo, k to the last 3 sts, k2tog, k1 (64 sts)
**Row 63** cast off 20 sts, k to the end of the row (44 sts)

## HOW TO MAKE… A KNITTED POLAR BEAR

**Row 64** cast off 20 sts purlwise, p to the end of the row (24 sts)
**Row 65** k1, skpo, k to the last 3 sts, k2tog (22 sts)
**Row 67** k
**Row 69** k
**Row 71** k
**Row 73** kfb, k to the last 2 sts, kfb, k1 (24 sts)
**Row 75** k
**Row 77** k
**Row 79** k
**Row 81** kfb, k to the last 2 sts, kfb, k1 (26 sts)
**Row 83** k
**Row 85** k
**Row 87** k
**Row 89** kfb, k to the last 2 sts, kfb, k1 (28 sts)
**Row 91** k
**Row 93** kfb, k to the last 2 sts, kfb, k1 (30 sts)
**Row 95** kfb, k to the last 2 sts, kfb, k1 (32 sts)
**Row 97** kfb, k to the last 2 sts, kfb, k1 (34 sts)
**Row 99** kfb, k to the last 2 sts, kfb, k1 (36 sts)
**Row 101** kfb twice, k to the last 3 sts, kfb twice, k1 (40 sts)
**Row 103** kfb twice, k to the last 3 sts, kfb twice, k1 (44 sts)

### RIGHT BACK LEG

**Row 105** kfb twice, k15, turn (19 sts). Place the remaining 27 sts onto a stitch holder or scrap yarn to be worked later.
**Row 106** cast off one st purlwise, p to the end of the row (18 sts)
**Row 107** kfb, k to the end of the row (19 sts)
**Row 108** cast off one st purlwise, p to the end of the row (18 sts)
**Row 109** kfb, k to the end of the row (19 sts)
**Row 110** cast off 2 sts purlwise, p to the end of the row (17 sts)
**Row 111** kfb, k to the end of the row (18 sts)
**Row 112** cast off one st purlwise, p to the end of the row (17 sts)
**Row 113** k
**Row 114** cast off one st purlwise, p to the end of the row (16 sts)
**Row 115** k
**Row 116** cast off one st purlwise, p to the end of the row (15 sts)
**Row 117** kfb, k to the end of the row (16 sts)
**Row 118** cast off 2 sts purlwise, p to the end of the row (14 sts)
**Row 119** k1, skpo, k to the end of the row (13 sts)
**Row 120** cast off 2 sts purlwise, p to the end of the row (11 sts)
**Row 121** k1, skpo, k to the end of the rows (10 sts)
**Row 122** cast off 3 sts purlwise, p to the end of the row (7 sts)
**Row 123** cast off all sts

### LEFT BACK LEG

**Row 105** (second half) place the 27 sts on the stitch holder back onto the needle ready to be worked. Reattach the yarn and cast off 10 sts, k15, kfb twice (19 sts)
**Row 107** cast off one st, k to the last 2 sts, kfb, k1 (19 sts)
**Row 109** cast off 2 sts, k to the last 2 sts, kfb, k1 (18 sts)
**Row 111** cast off one st, k to the last 2 sts, kfb, k1 (18 sts)
**Row 113** cast off one st, k to the end of the row (17 sts)
**Row 115** cast off one st, k to the end of the row (16 sts)
**Row 117** cast off one st, k to the last 2 sts, kfb, k1 (16 sts)
**Row 119** cast off 2 sts, k to the last 3 sts, k2tog, k1 (13 sts)
**Row 121** cast off 2 sts, k to the last 3 sts, k2tog, k1 (10 sts)
**Row 123** cast off 3 sts, k to the end of the row (7 sts)
**Row 124** cast off purlwise all sts

### JOINING THE RUG

Weave in all loose ends. With both pieces of the rug WS together, pin or tack. Using Yarn A and mattress stitch, sew around the body, head and legs, leaving a hole on the side of the body for stuffing the head.
Fill the head with the toy stuffing, following the shaping of the knit and being careful not to overstuff.

### INSERTING THE EYES

Place the eyes over the scrap markers in Yarn C. These are for guidance only, so you can change the placement if you wish. Once the eyes are put in place, remove the markers and secure the eyes with the washers.
Using Yarn A and mattress stitch, sew up the hole in the body and weave in the loose ends.

### EARS (MAKE 4)

Cast on 9 sts using Yarn A and 9mm needles.
**Row 1** (RS) k
**Row 2** p
**Row 3** k
**Row 4** p
**Row 5** skpo, k5, k2tog (7 sts)
**Row 6** p
**Row 7** skpo, k4, k2tog (5 sts)
**Row 8** p
**Row 9** Cast off all sts
Take two ear panels and with WS together, pin. Using Yarn A and mattress stitch, sew around the outside, leaving the cast on edges open. Add a tiny handful of stuffing and repeat for the second ear.
Place an ear between the two scrap markers in Yarn D on the right hand side of the head. Pin in place, then sew using Yarn A from the cast on edge into the head. Weave in the loose ends, repeat for the left ear and remove markers.

### NOSE

Cast on 3 sts using Yarn B and 9mm needles.
**Row 1** (RS) k
**Row 2** p
**Row 3** kfb twice, k1 (5 sts)
**Row 4** p
**Row 5** skpo, k1, k2tog (3 sts)
**Row 6** p
**Row 7** Cast off, leaving a long tail. Weave in the cast on loose end.
Place the nose centrally at the bottom of the snout. Sew neatly to the head using the long tail left after the cast off and weave in the loose end once secure.

### CLAWS (MAKE 12)

Cast on 3 sts using Yarn B and 9mm needles.
**Row 1** k
**Row 2** k
**Row 3** k
**Row 4** k
**Row 5** cast off, leaving a long tail for sewing up.
Starting with the front right leg, take three claws and pin to the end of the leg. Using the long tails left after casting off, sew each claw into the leg. Repeat for the remaining legs and weave in the loose ends.

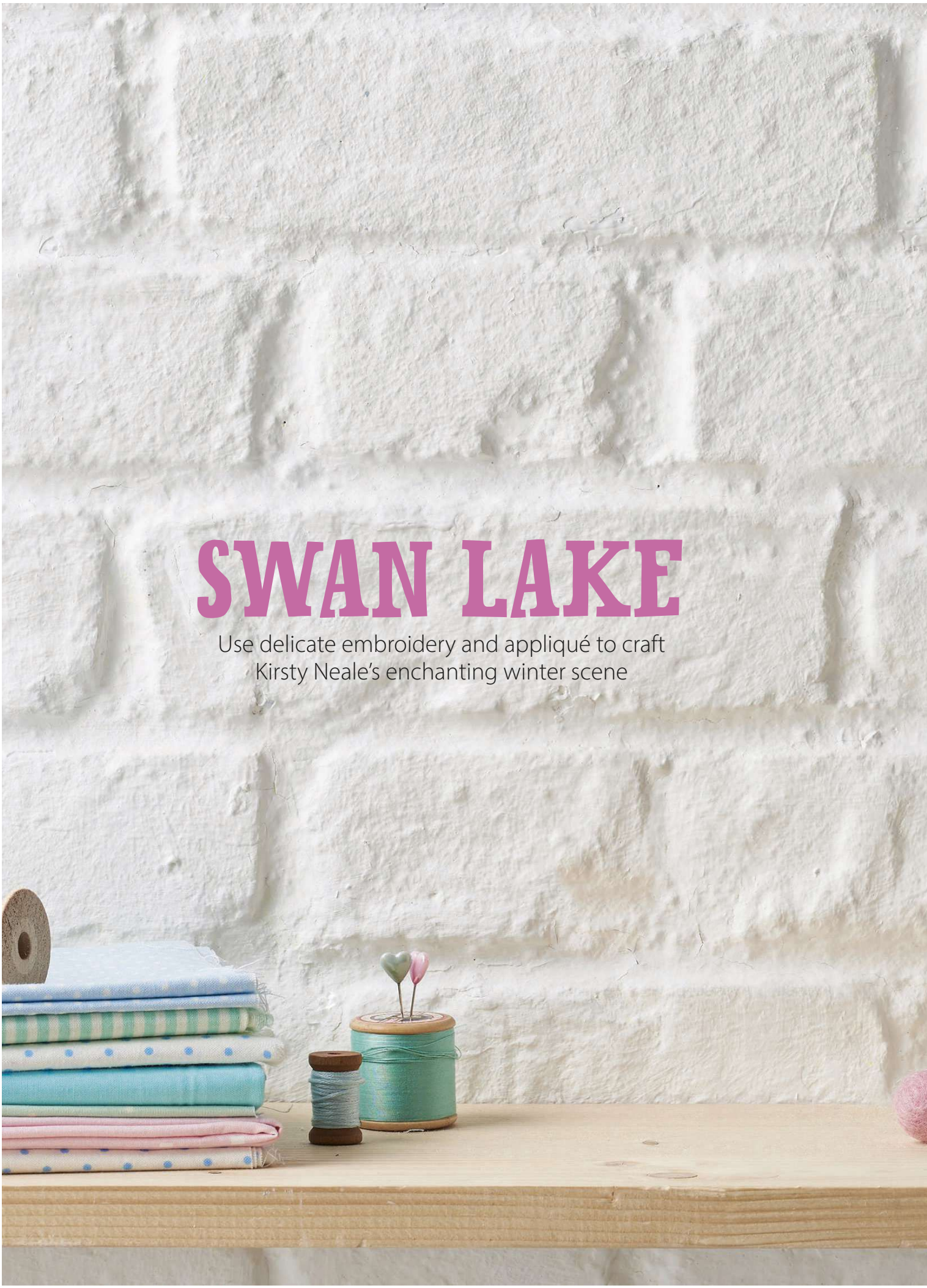
### TAIL

Using Yarn A, make a pom pom following the instructions on the pom pom maker. Place in the centre of the cast off edge (between the back legs) and sew in place. Weave in all the loose ends to finish.



**Louise Walker**
Louise is a knitting designer and photography graduate who can be found running her business, Sincerely Louise, from her Brixton studio. She loves creating animal-inspired pieces, particularly 'faux taxidermy'. She's also an aspiring gardener, tending to new plants (once she's killed the old ones!).
*www.sincerelylouise.co.uk*





# SWAN LAKE

Use delicate embroidery and appliqué to craft Kirsty Neale's enchanting winter scene



# SWAN HOOP


01


02


03


07


08


09

## HOW TO MAKE… EMBROIDERED SWAN HOOP ART

### YOU WILL NEED

- Light blue linen, 26cm x 12cm (10¼ x 4¾")
- Light grey linen 26cm x 20cm (10¼ x 7⅞")
- Matching sewing thread
- Embroidery thread in black, light blue, silver, green, light green, orange, pink and white
- White felt, 15 x 15cm (6 x 6")
- Wooden embroidery hoop, 18cm (7⅛")
- Fine silver glitter
- Iron-on interfacing
- Water-soluble fabric marker

'Tis the season for all things sparkly, and we've found the prettiest excuse to get out your metallic threads and glitter. Filled with intricate details, this magical scene uses a dreamy combination of appliqué and embroidery to create a fairytale-worthy design. And, from the starry night sky to the majestic swan's tiny crown, you'll be indulging your inner child with each sparkly stitch.

For this design you'll need to use three strands of thread for the embroidery stitches, unless stated otherwise.

# SWAN HOOP



















01 Place the blue and grey fabric with right sides (RS) together, aligning one long edge. Sew along the edge, using a 1cm (⅜") seam allowance. Open out and press, then position with the grey linen at the top. Using the stitch guide on page 146, trace the background design detail – the lilies, reeds, stars, moon and swan crown – onto the linen, aligning the base of the reeds with the join in the fabrics.

02 Using the templates on page 146, trace the swan body and wing onto the paper side of the interfacing. Cut out of white felt.

03 Following the stitch guide, draw the stitching detail onto the swan. Press the swan body onto the background fabric, positioning it over the join of the linen, then press on the wing.

04 Place the fabric into the hoop, keeping the design central. Using all six strands of orange thread and satin stitch, embroider the swan's beak. Using four strands of black thread and satin stitch, embroider the top of the beak and the eye.

05 Use two strands of silver thread and stem stitch to outline the crown. Fill in the crown with more vertical rows of stem stitch.

06 Following the stitch guide, add detail to the swan's wing and neck in two strands of silver thread.

07 Embroider the water lily flowers in pink satin stitch, and the leaves in green stem stitch. Use two strands of light pink thread and single stitches to add the flower centres.

08 Work the reed stems in green backstitch and the reed heads in light green satin stitch.

09 Embroider the moon in silver running stitch. Create stars by working cross stitches in silver, then add white cross stitches on top at an angle. Work white French knots for snowflakes.

10 Sew single straight stitches below the swan using light blue thread. Remove the fabric from the hoop and press.

11 Apply glue to the front and side edges of the embroidery hoop and shake the glitter over it. Leave to dry, then repeat to add a second layer. Leave to dry, then place back into the hoop.

12 Trim the fabric at the back so it measures 3cm (1¼"). Sew gathering stitch around the edge of the fabric, pull tight, then knot to secure. Cut a circle of white felt, slightly smaller than the hoop, and stick to the back to cover the gathered fabric.



**Kirsty Neale**

Kirsty is a writer, maker, author and illustrator. She lives in London with her partner and their prawn-obsessed cat, Albert. She loves colour, pattern and fabric, and is the author of two craft books; *Paperie, 100 Creative Papercraft Ideas* and *Hoop-La: 100 Things To Do With Embroidery Hoops.*

***www.kirstyneale.co.uk***

# EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY

Stocking fillers don't get much cuter than Lauren Espy's festive amigurumis



# AMIGURUMI

## HOW TO MAKE… FESTIVE AMIGURUMI ORNAMENTS









### YOU WILL NEED

- Paintbox Yarns Cotton DK, 100% cotton, 125m/137yd per 50g, one ball each in Coffee Bean (411) (Yarn A), Champagne White (403) (Yarn B), Racing Green (428) (Yarn C), Pillar Red (415) (Yarn D), Lime Green (429) (Yarn E), Dusty Rose (442) (Yarn F), Soft Fudge (410) (Yarn G) and Paper White (401) (Yarn H)
- 3.25mm (UK 10, US D/3) crochet hook
- Three pairs of 9mm black safety eyes
- Two pairs of 6mm black safety eyes
- Black embroidery thread
- Embroidery needle
- Soft toy filling
- Stitch marker
- Yarn needle

### TENSION

Tension isn't important for this project, just make sure to keep stitches tight to prevent stuffing from showing through

### ABBREVIATIONS (UK)

**st(s)** stitch(es)
**ch** chain
**ch-sp** chain space
**dc** double crochet
**inc** increase by working 2 dc in the given st
**htr** half treble
**tr** treble
**dtr** double treble
**yrh** yarn round hook
rep repeat
**BLO** work stitch through back loop only
**invdec** insert hook into front loops of the next two sts in turn, yrh, pull through two loops on hook (the two front loops), yrh, pull through last two loops on hook (counts as one dc)
**magic ring** hold yarn in your hand, wrap working yarn around forefinger twice to create ring, slip ring off your finger and insert hook to pick up first st, ch1, then work the necessary sts for Round 1 and close ring tightly by pulling the loose end
**clean closure** to close the piece with the tail and the yarn needle, work from the centre to the outside, insert needle into the front loop of the first stitch and of the remaining stitches. At the end, pull yarn tail and the hole will close. Insert the needle into the centre of hole and secure with a knot

### FINISHED SIZE

Christmas pudding approx. 8 x 8cm (3⅛ x 3⅛")
Sprout approx. 5 x 8cm (2 x 3⅛")
Hot chocolate approx. 9 x 8cm (3⅝ x 3⅛")

### INSTRUCTIONS

These projects are made in pieces and sewn together in the order given. Pieces are worked in the round in a continuous spiral, amigurumi style, unless stated otherwise. Use a stitch marker at the end of each round.

### CHRISTMAS PUDDING

**Pudding**
Worked from top to base
**Round 1** using Yarn A, work 6dc into a magic ring and pull yarn tight [6 sts]
**Round 2** 1inc in each st around [12 sts]
**Round 3** (1dc, 1inc) 6 times [18 sts]
**Round 4** (2dc, 1inc) 6 times [24 sts]
**Round 5** (3dc, 1inc) 6 times [30 sts]
**Round 6** (4dc, 1inc) 6 times [36 sts]
**Round 7** (5dc, 1inc) 6 times [42 sts]
**Round 8** (6dc, 1inc) 6 times [48 sts]
**Rounds 9-18** 1dc in each st around
Add 9mm safety eyes, placing them between Rounds 13 and 14,

## HOW TO MAKE… FESTIVE AMIGURUMI ORNAMENTS









6 sts apart
For the mouth, use six strands of black embroidery thread and stitch a V in between the eyes
**Round 19** work this round only in BLO, (6dc, 1invdec) 6 times [42 sts]
**Round 20** (5dc, 1invdec) 6 times [36 sts]
**Round 21** (4dc, 1invdec) 6 times [30 sts]
**Round 22** (3dc, 1invdec) 6 times [24 sts]
Begin stuffing and continue until the end
**Round 23** (2dc, 1invdec) 6 times [18 sts]
**Round 24** (1dc, 1invdec) 6 times [12 sts]
**Round 25** 6invdec [6 sts]
Fasten off and use yarn tail to close, weave in ends

**Icing**
Using Yarn B, work Rounds 1-7 of Pudding
**Round 8** *4dc, (1htr, 1tr) in next st, (1tr, 1htr) in next st, 5dc, (1htr, 1tr) in next st, 2dtr in next st, (1tr, 1htr) in next st; rep from * twice more [57 sts]
Fasten off, leaving a long tail for attaching to pudding
Pin the icing on top of the pudding. Using the yarn tail, sew to the top of the pudding with running stitch along the entire edge of the icing.

**Holly leaf (make 2)**
**Foundation** using Yarn C, ch11
**Row 1** 1dc in 2nd ch from hook, then work along the ch as follows: 1dc, 2htr, 2tr, 2htr, 2dc, turn to work along the underside of the ch, ch1, 2dc, 2htr, 2tr, 2htr, 2dc
Fasten off, leaving a long tail for attaching to icing
Sew the two holly leaves near the centre top of the icing.

**Berry**
**Round 1** using Yarn D, work 4dc into a magic ring and pull yarn tight [4 sts]
**Round 2** 1inc in each st around [8 sts]
**Round 3** (1dc, 1inc) 4 times [12 sts]
**Rounds 4-5** 1dc in each st around
Begin stuffing and continue until the end
**Round 6** (1dc, 1invdec) 4 times [8 sts]
**Round 7** 4invdec [4 sts]
Fasten off and use yarn tail to close. Leave a tail for attaching to the icing.
Sew the red berry to the centre of the icing, positioned slightly on top of the holly leaves.

**SPROUT**
**Sprout centre**
Using Yarn E, work Rounds 1-6 of Pudding
**Rounds 7-12** 1dc in each st around
Add 9mm safety eyes, placing them between Rounds 9 and 10, 6 sts apart
For the mouth, use six strands of embroidery thread and stitch a small V in between the eyes.
**Round 13** (4dc, 1invdec) 6 times [30 sts]
**Round 14** (3dc, 1invdec) 6 times [24 sts]
Begin stuffing sprout and continue until the end
**Round 15** (2dc, 1invdec) 6 times [18 sts]
**Round 16** (1dc, 1invdec) 6 times [12 sts]
**Round 17** 6invdec [6 sts]
Fasten off and use yarn tail to close. Weave in ends.

**Sprout leaves (make 3)**
Using Yarn E, work Rounds 1-6 of Pudding
**Round 7** 1dc in each st around
Fasten off, leaving a long tail for attaching to sprout
Position one of the leaves on the back of the sprout with the right side facing out. Using the yarn tail, sew the leaf to the sprout with running stitch, making sure to only sew about halfway up the leaf.
Position the second leaf on the side, then repeat the same running stitch halfway up. Place the third leaf on top of the other two and sew with running stitch. The leaves

# AMIGURUMI









act as a cup for the sprout to sit in.

**HOT CHOCOLATE**

**Mug**

Worked from base upwards
Using Yarn F, work Rounds 1-7 of Pudding
**Rounds 8-20** 1dc in each st around
Fasten off and weave in ends
Add 9mm safety eyes, placing them between Rounds 14 and 15, 5 sts apart
For the mouth, use six strands of black embroidery thread and stitch a small V in between the eyes

**Top**

Using Yarn G, work Rounds 1-7 of Pudding
Fasten off, leaving a long tail for attaching to mug
Using the yarn tail, sew the hot chocolate top to the mug. Weave the needle through the horizontal row of stitches behind the dc from Round 20 of the mug and the top 2 loops of dc from Round 7 of the hot chocolate. Stuff the mug before sewing the piece closed.

**Handle**

**Round 1** using Yarn F, work 7dc into a magic ring and pull yarn tight [7 sts]
**Rounds 2-20** 1dc in each st around
Fasten off, leaving a long tail for attaching to mug. Do not stuff.
Position the handle on the side of mug, and pin at the top and bottom to hold in place. Using the yarn tail, sew the bottom part of the handle to the mug. Weave the needle and yarn tail up to the top and finish sewing the handle to the mug.

**Base**

Using Yarn F, work Rounds 1-5 of Pudding
**Round 6** 1dc in each st around
Fasten off, leaving a long tail for attaching to mug
Using the yarn tail and the needle, weave through the sts on the underside until you reach Rounds 2 and 3. Pin these into place. Use running stitch to sew the saucer base to the bottom of the mug.

**Marshmallow (make 2)**

**Round 1** using Yarn H, work 5dc into a magic ring and pull yarn tight [5 sts]
**Round 2** 1inc in each st around [10 sts]
**Round 3** (1dc, 1inc) 5 times [15 sts]
**Round 4** work this round only in BLO, 1dc in each st around
**Rounds 5-9** 1dc in each st around
Add 6mm safety eyes, placing them between Rounds 3 and 4, 3 sts apart
For the mouth, use three strands of embroidery thread and stitch a small V in between the eyes
Begin stuffing and continue until the end
**Round 10** work this round only in BLO, (1dc, 1invdec) 5 times [10 sts]
**Round 11** 5invdec [5 sts]
Fasten off and use yarn tail to close. Leave a tail for attaching.
Using the yarn tail, sew the marshmallows to the hot chocolate.



**Lauren Espy**
Lauren' is a self-taught crochet designer who lives with her husband and two dogs in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Besides crocheting, she also enjoys knitting and embroidery. Her shop, *A Menagerie of Stitches*, is packed with adorable amigurumi patterns and finished handmade toys.
*www.amenagerieofstitches.com*

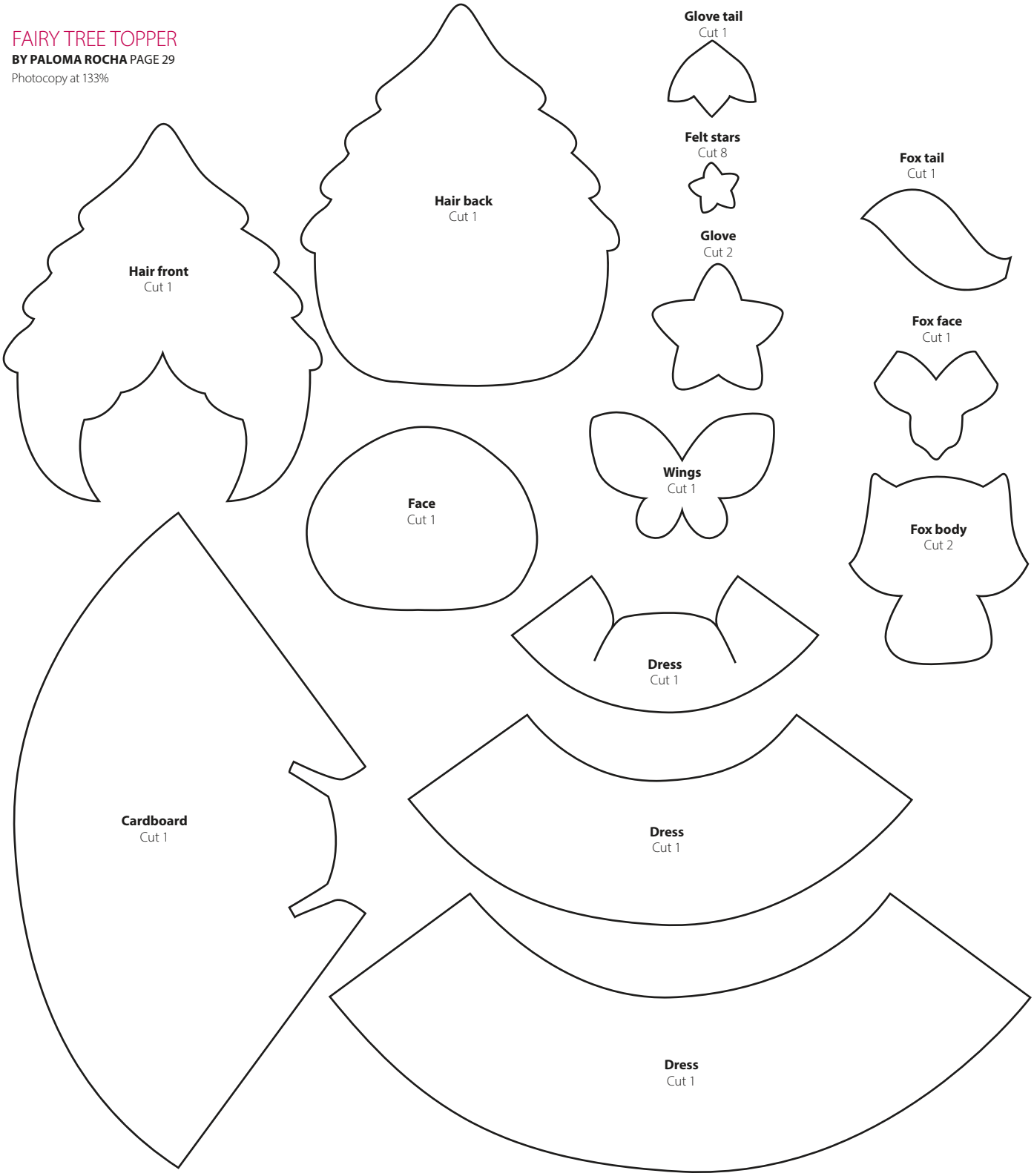
# LET'S SEW!

Here are templates for the sewing and embroidery projects, shown at 100% unless otherwise stated

## FAIRY TREE TOPPER

**BY PALOMA ROCHA** PAGE 29

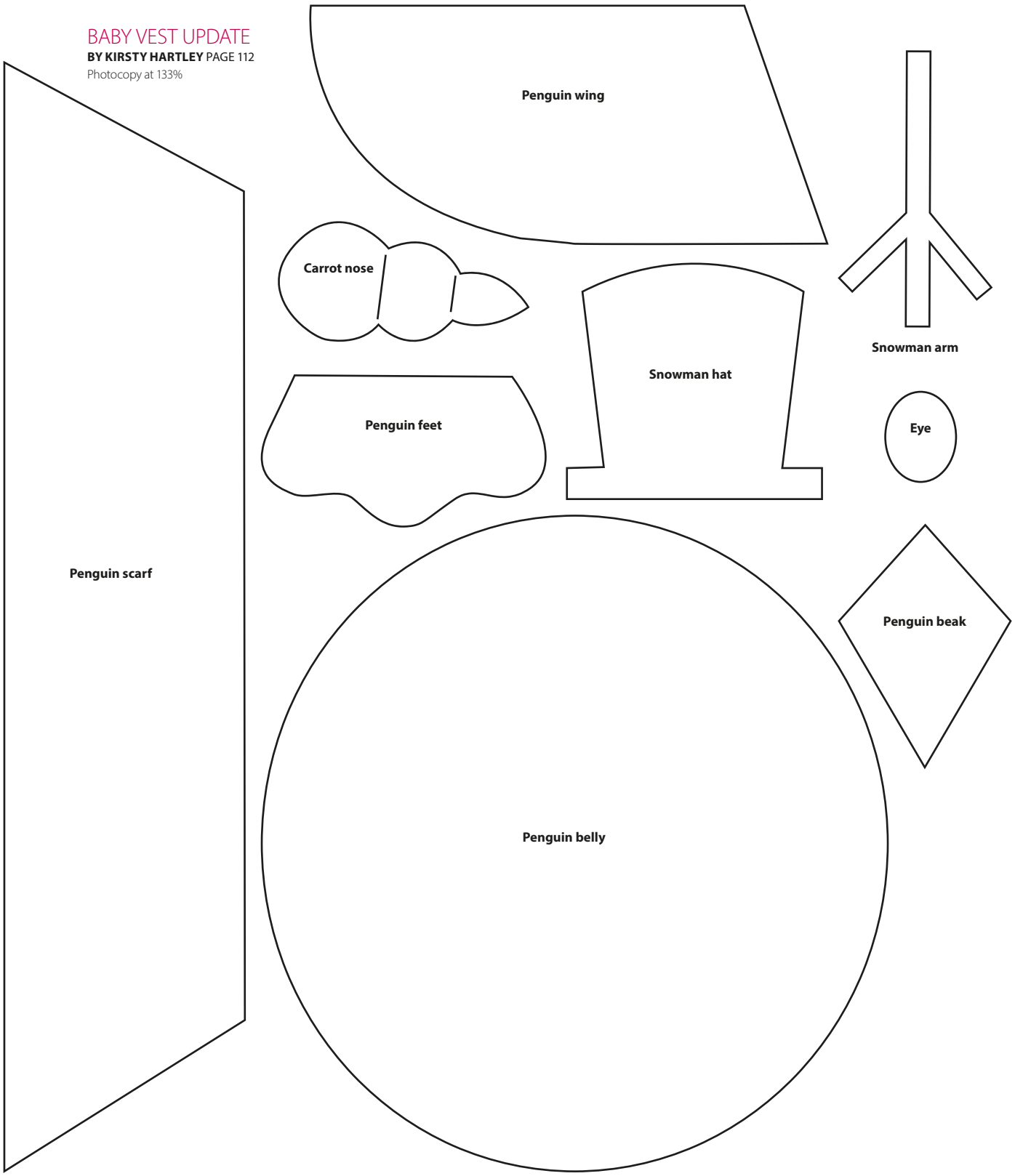
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## BABY VEST UPDATE

**BY KIRSTY HARTLEY** PAGE 112

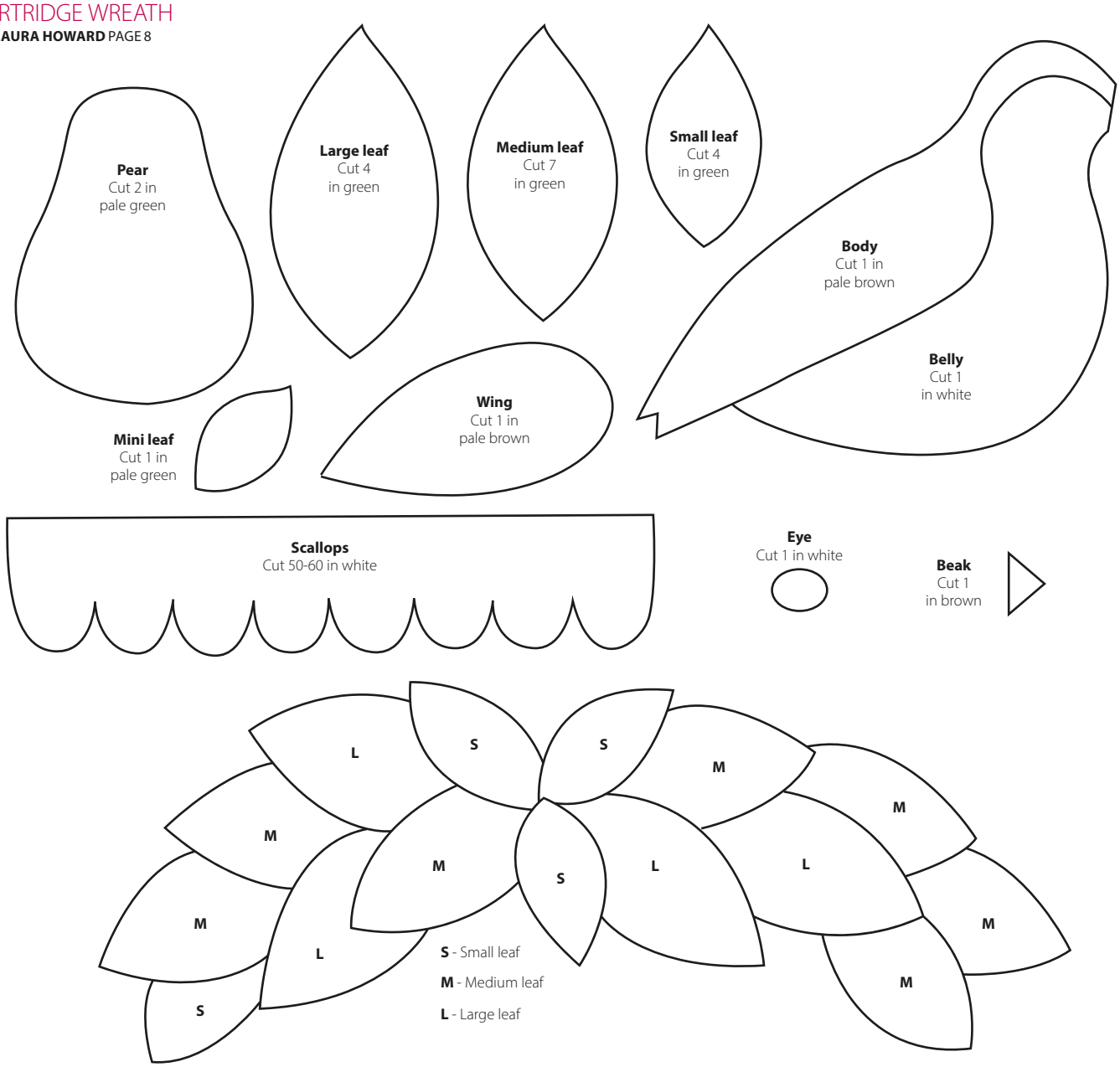
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## PARTRIDGE WREATH

**BY LAURA HOWARD** PAGE 8



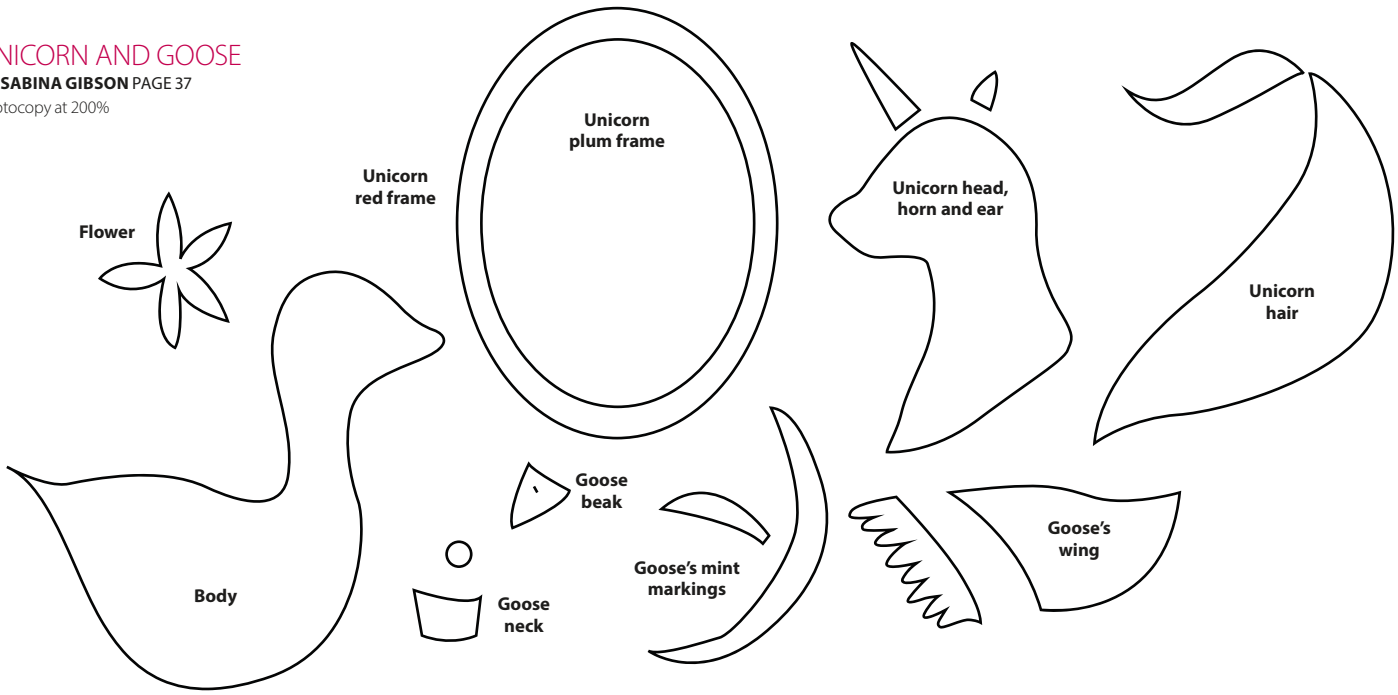




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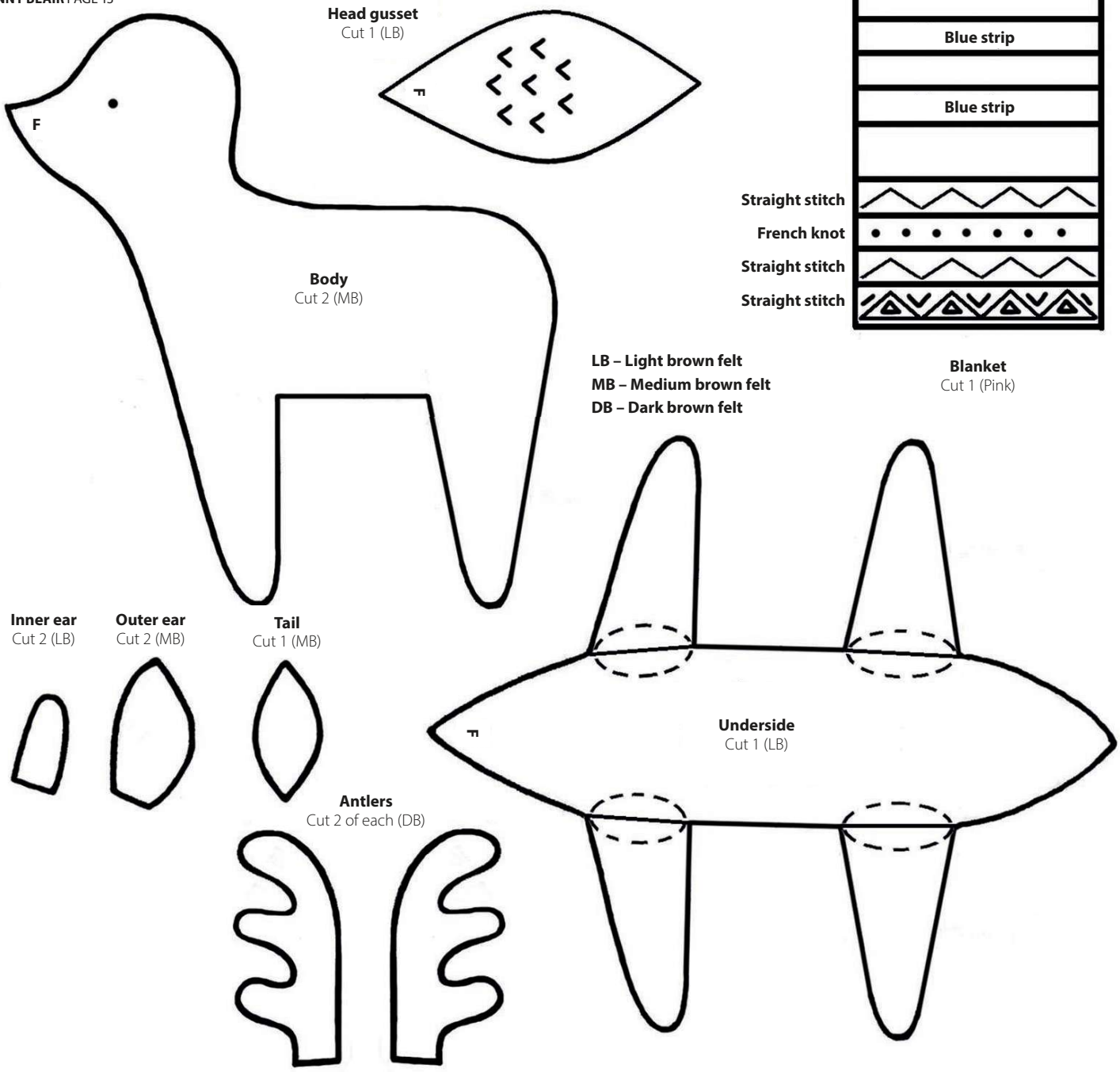
**BY SABINA GIBSON** PAGE 37

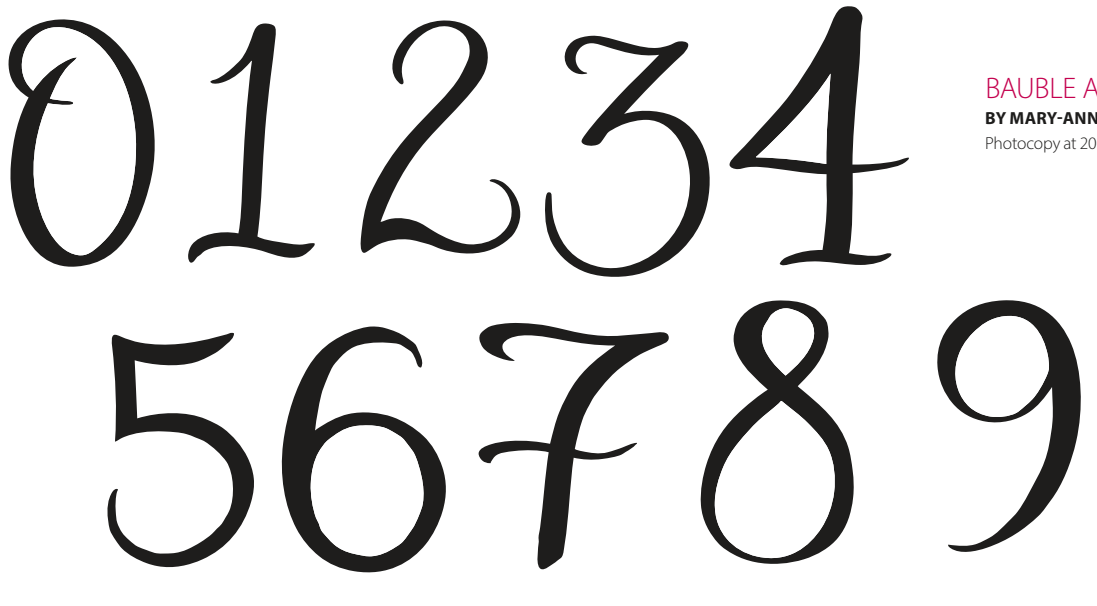
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## REINDEER ORNAMENT

**BY JENNY BLAIR** PAGE 13




## BAUBLE ADVENT

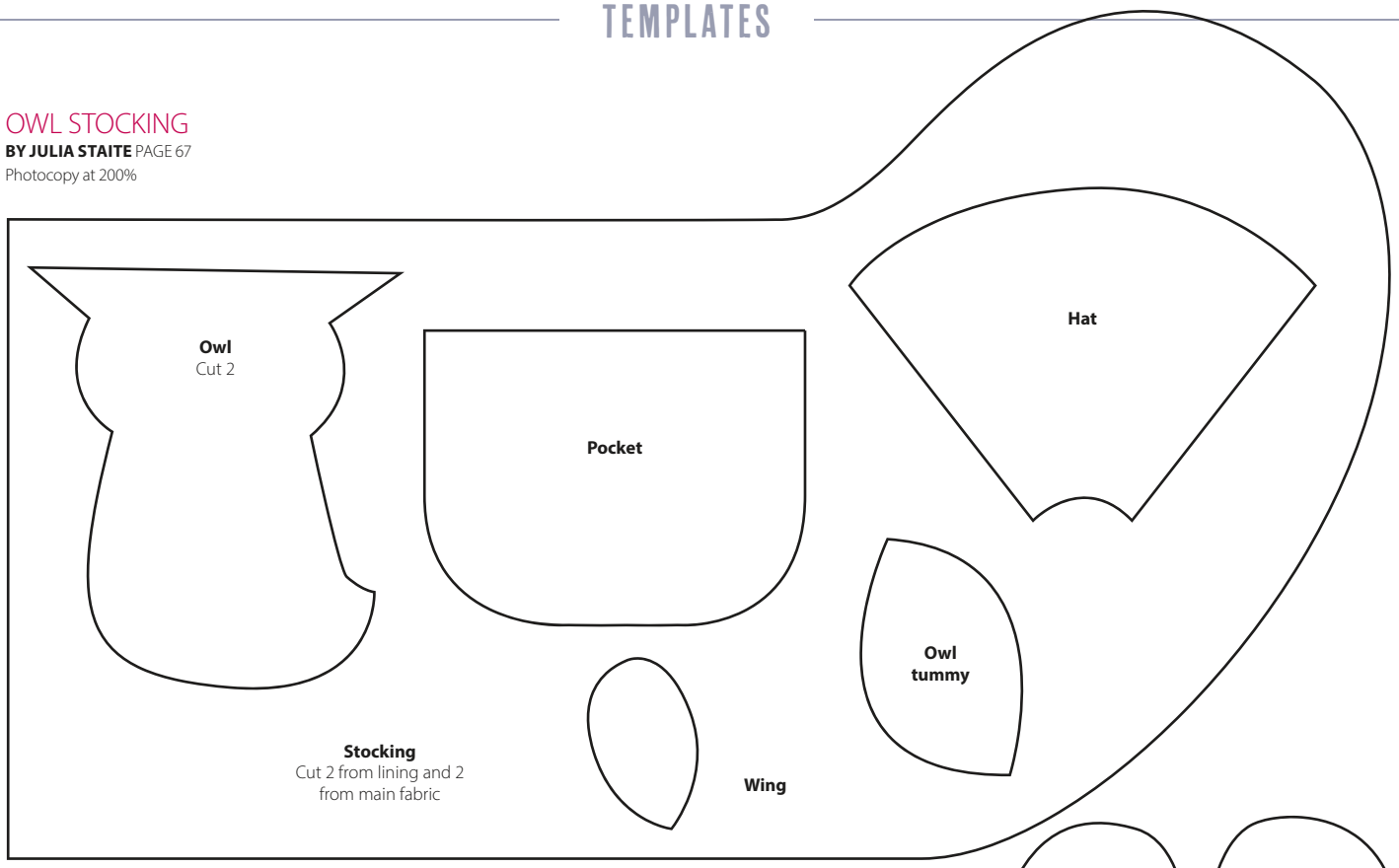
**BY MARY-ANN AVELINE** PAGE 62

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## OWL STOCKING

**BY JULIA STAITE** PAGE 67

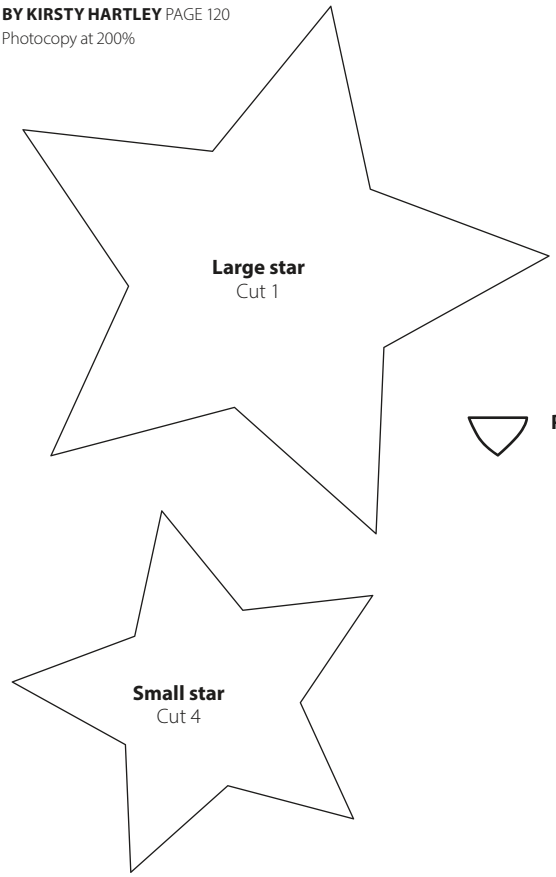
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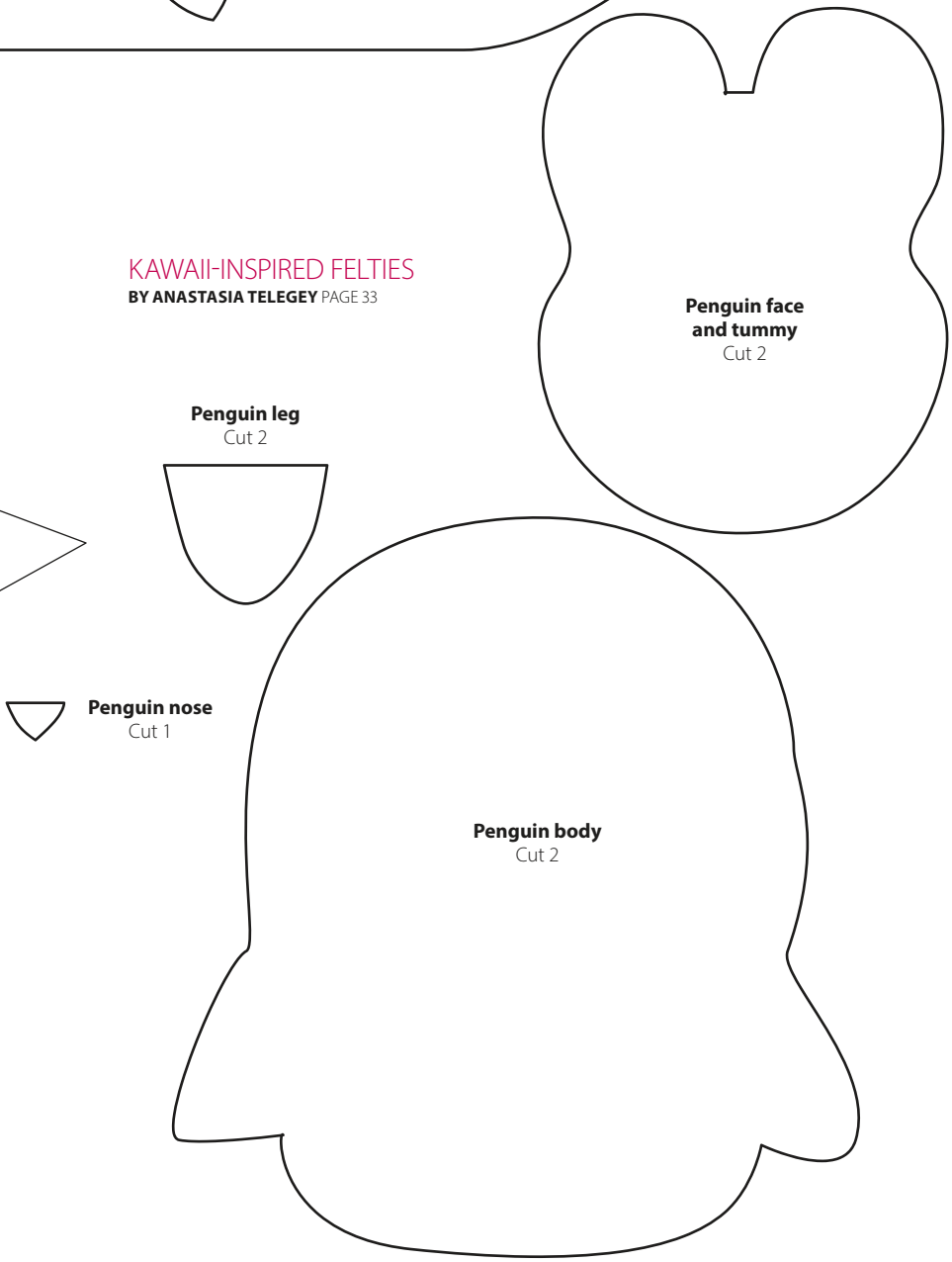
**BY KIRSTY HARTLEY** PAGE 120

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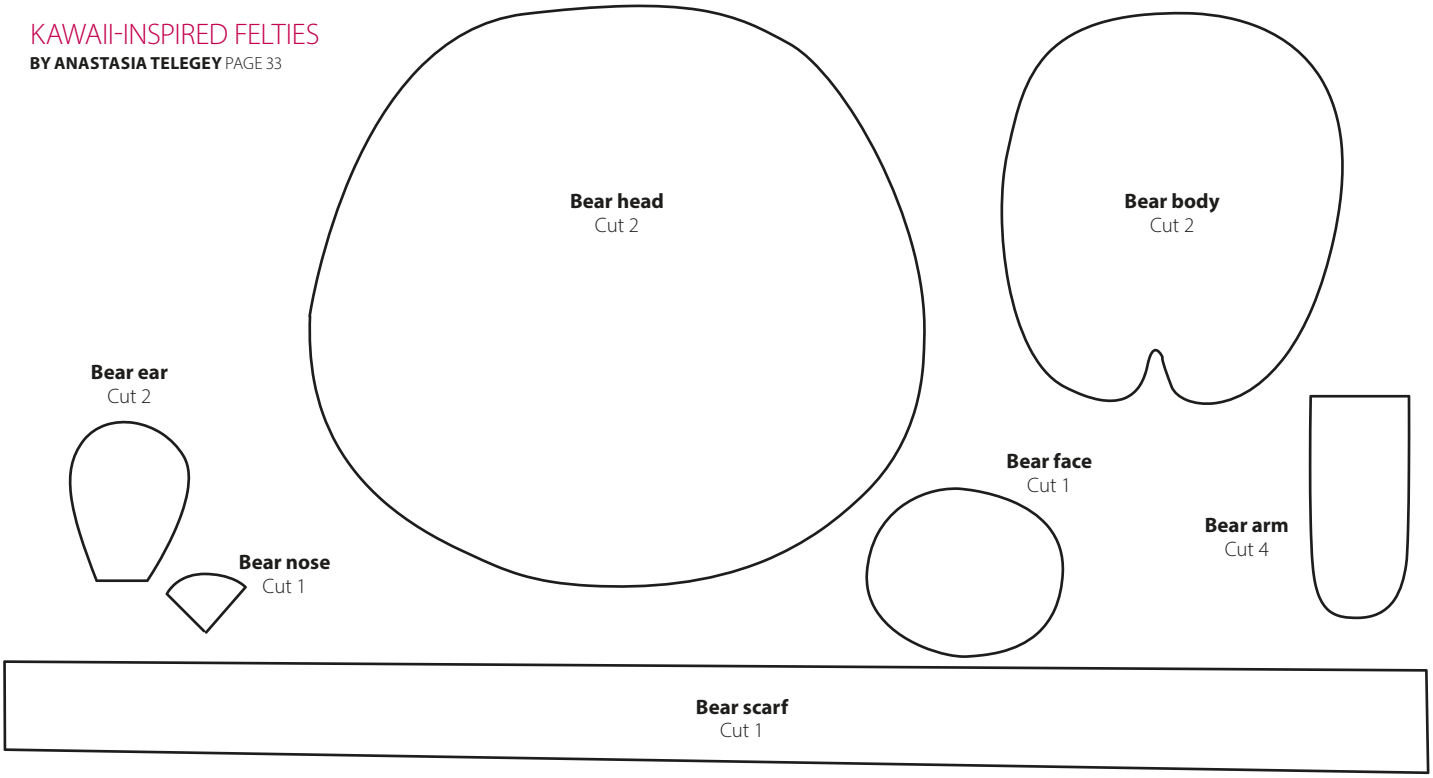

## KAWAII-INSPIRED FELTIES

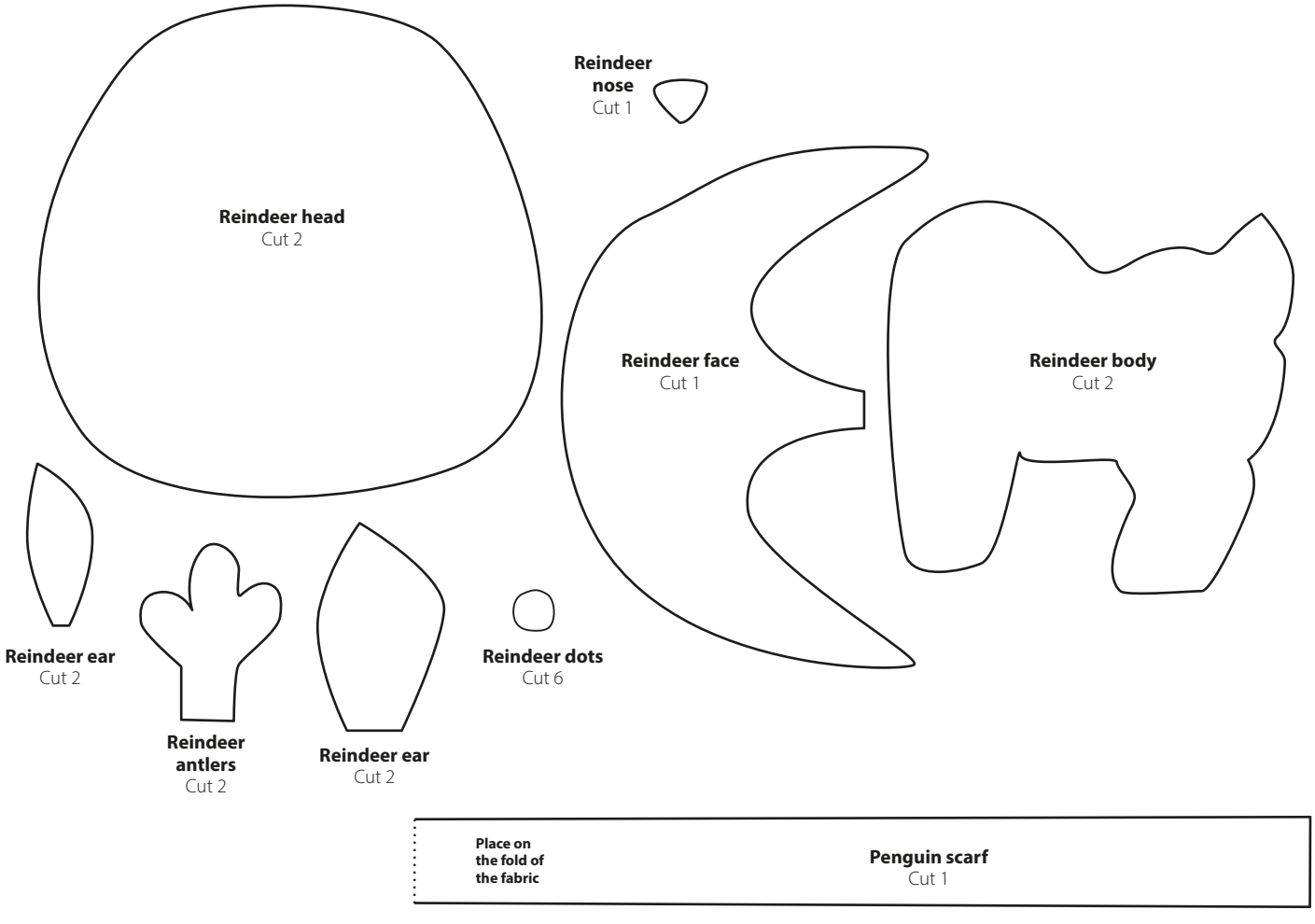
**BY ANASTASIA TELEGEY** PAGE 33



## KAWAII-INSPIRED FELTIES

**BY ANASTASIA TELEGEY** PAGE 33

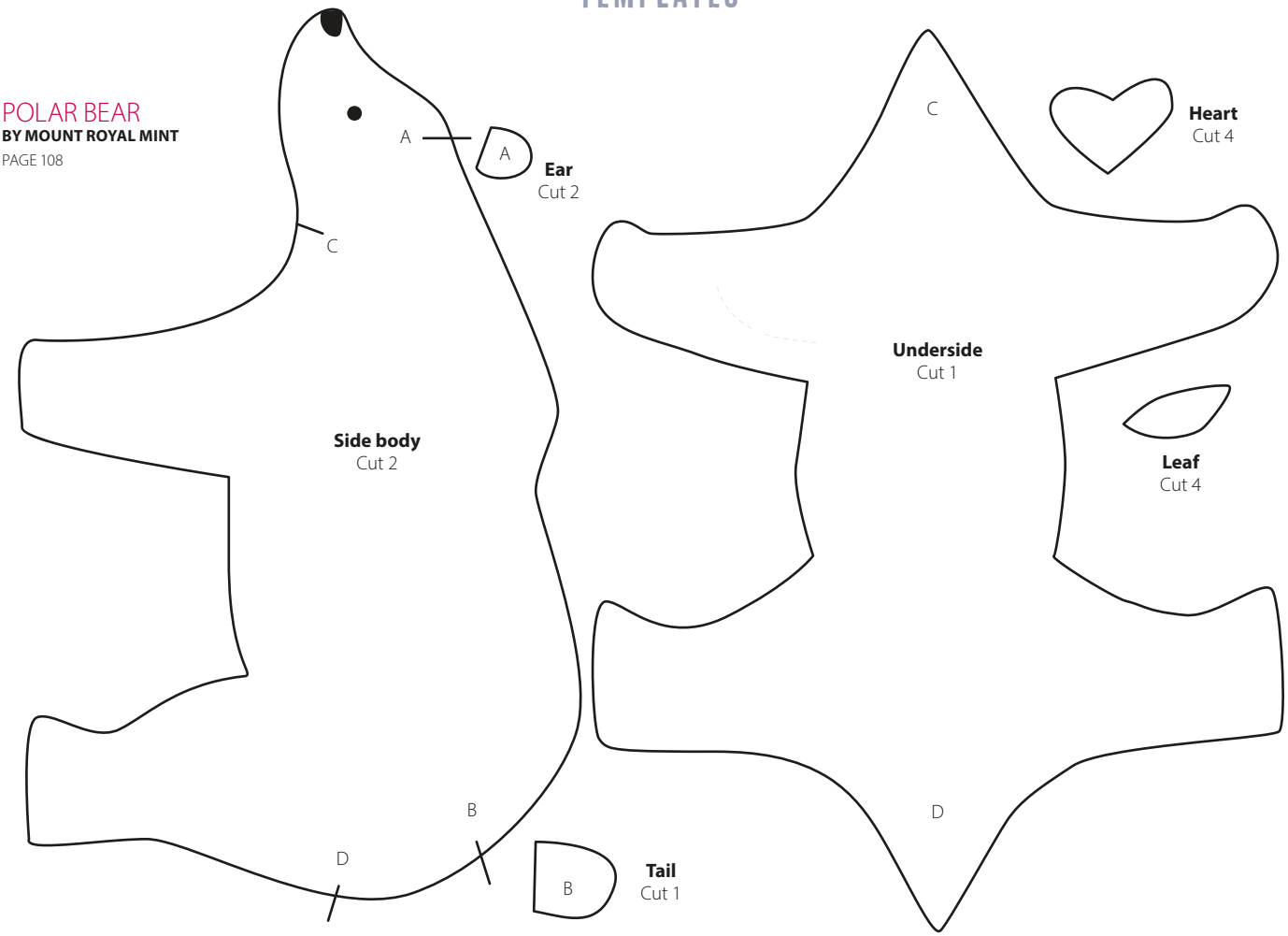


## POLAR BEAR

**BY MOUNT ROYAL MINT**

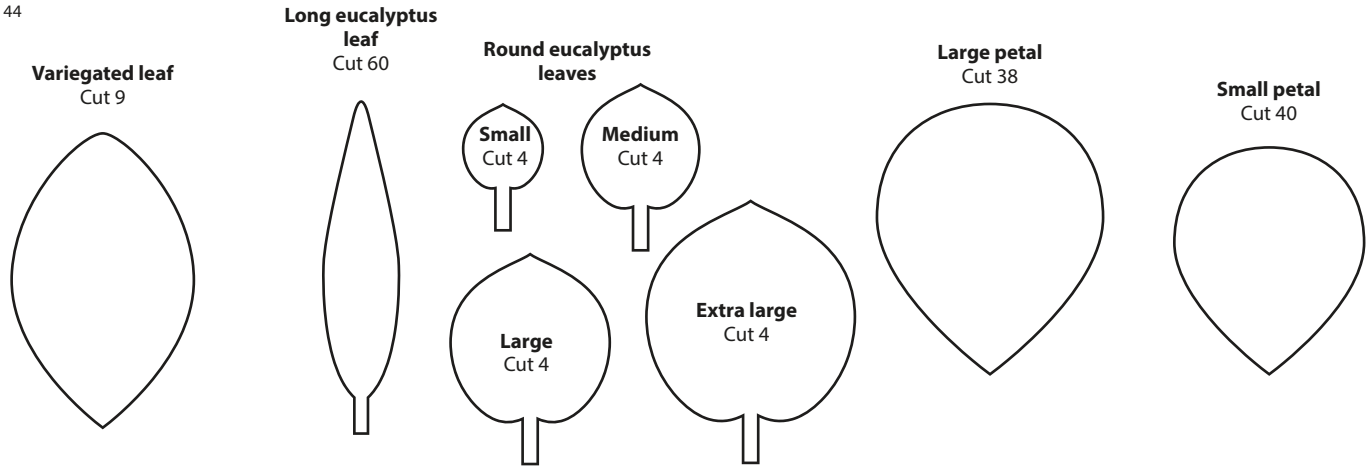
PAGE 108




## FLORAL WREATH

**BY SARAH LOUISE MATTHEWS**

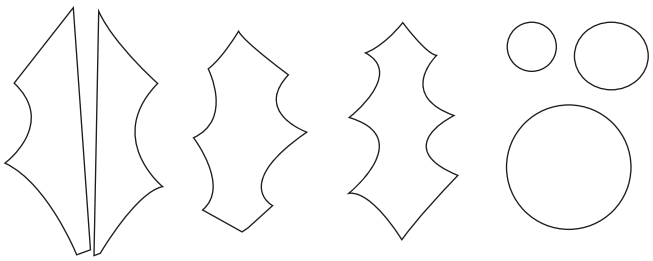
PAGE 44




## CHRISTMAS JUMPER

**BY CHRISTINE LEECH** PAGE 90

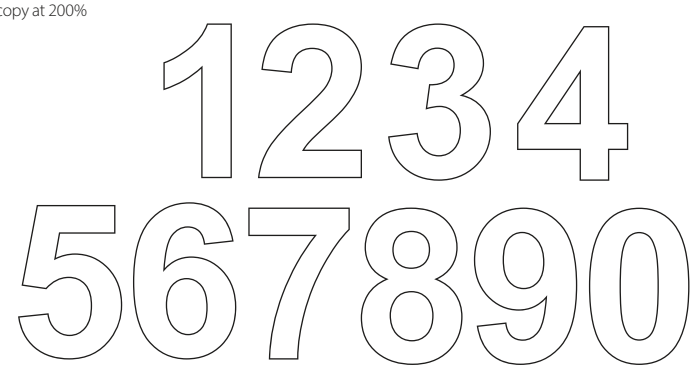
Photocopy at 200%



## ADVENT CALENDAR

**BY ANNA ALICIA** PAGE 71

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## SWAN HOOP

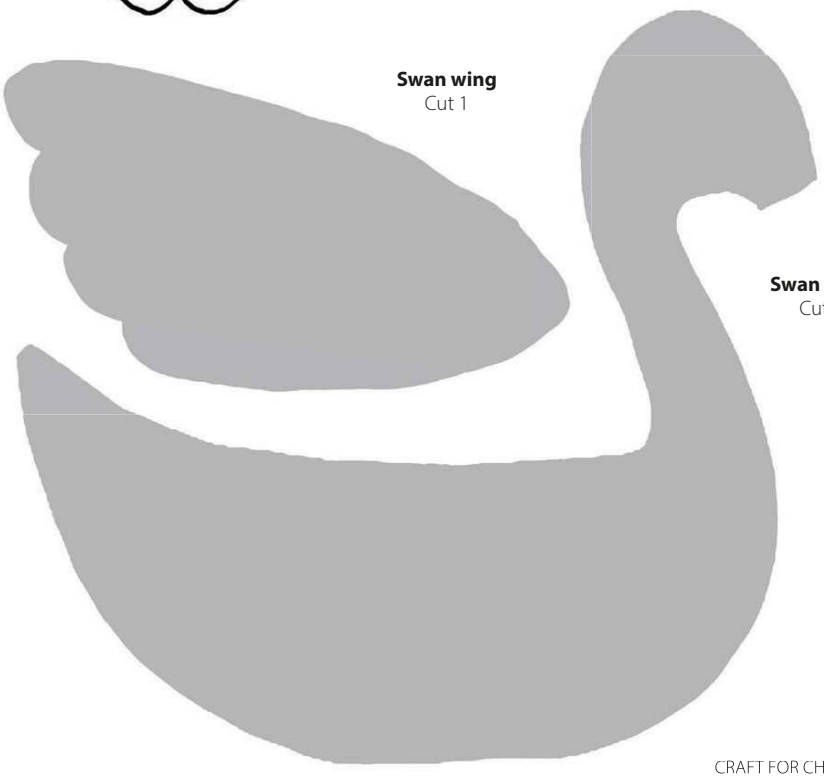
**BY KIRSTY NEALE**

PAGE 138



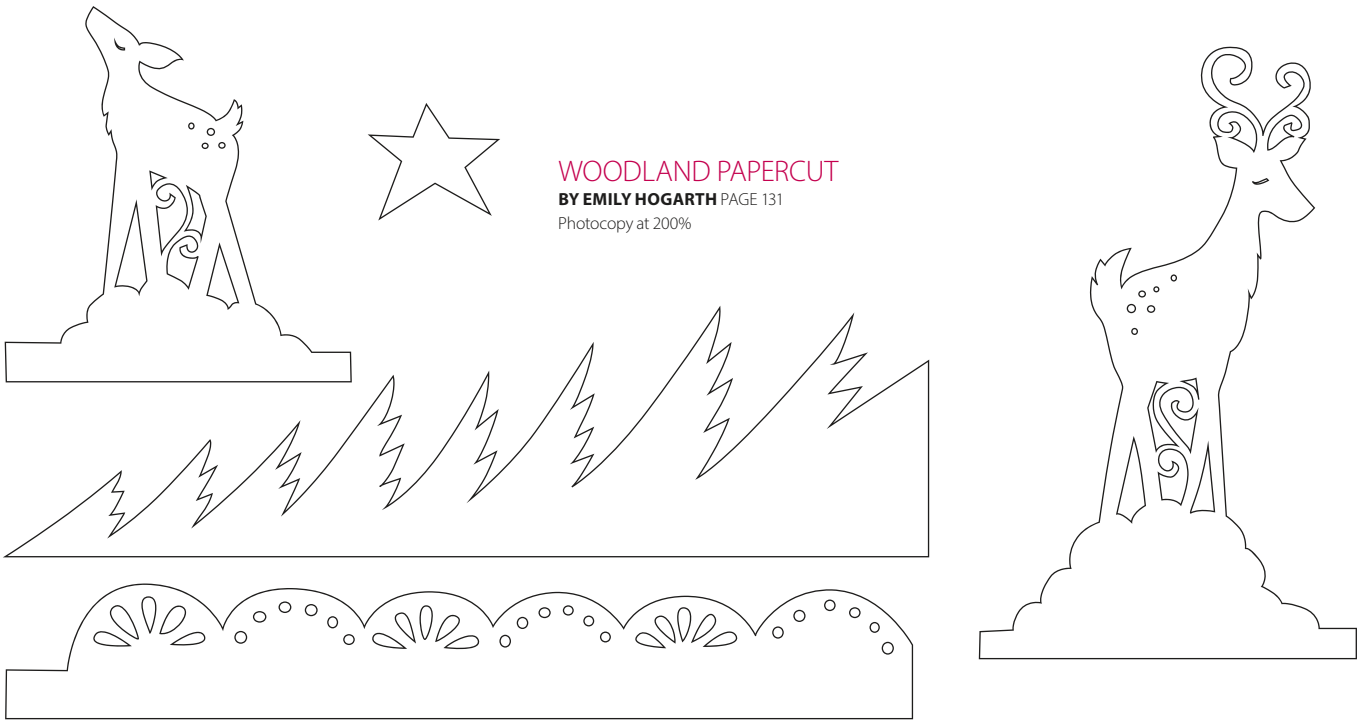
**Stitch guide for the swan**

- Straight stitch
- Running stitch
- Cross stitch
- Backstitch



**Swan wing**
Cut 1

**Swan body**
Cut 1



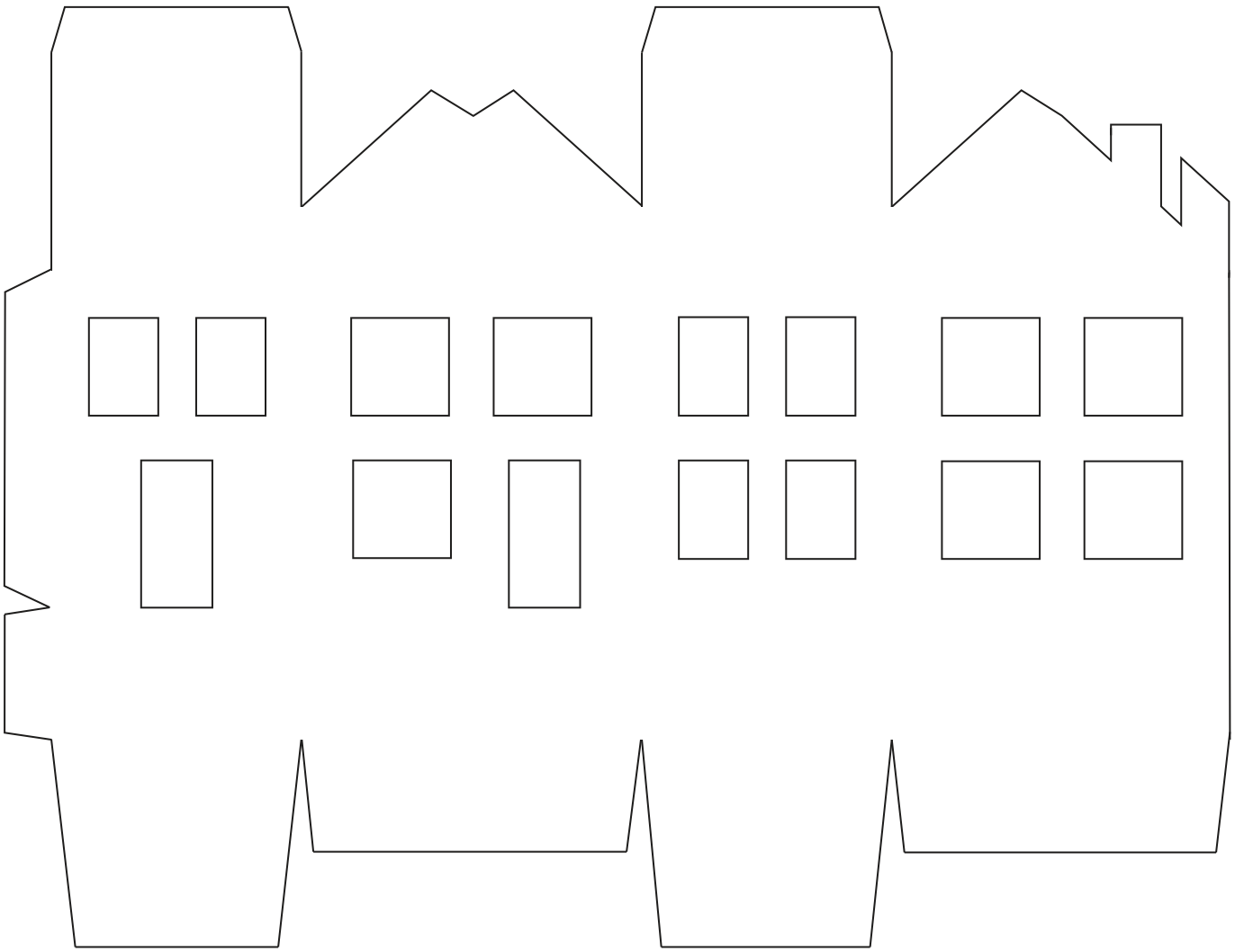
## WOODLAND PAPERCUT

**BY EMILY HOGARTH** PAGE 131

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## PAPER VILLAGE ADVENT

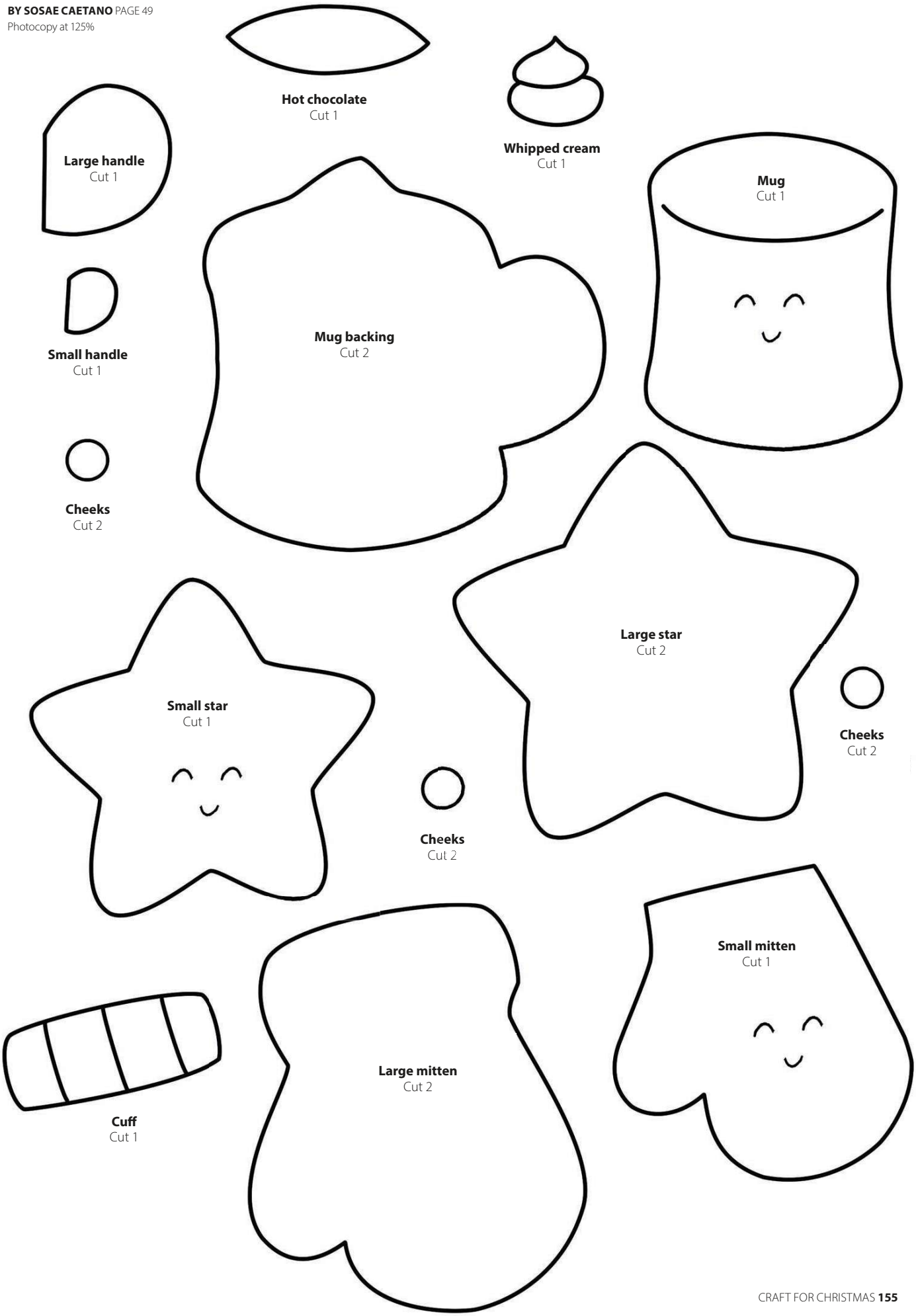
PAGE 66



## FELT FOODIE DECORATIONS

**BY SOSAE CAETANO** PAGE 49

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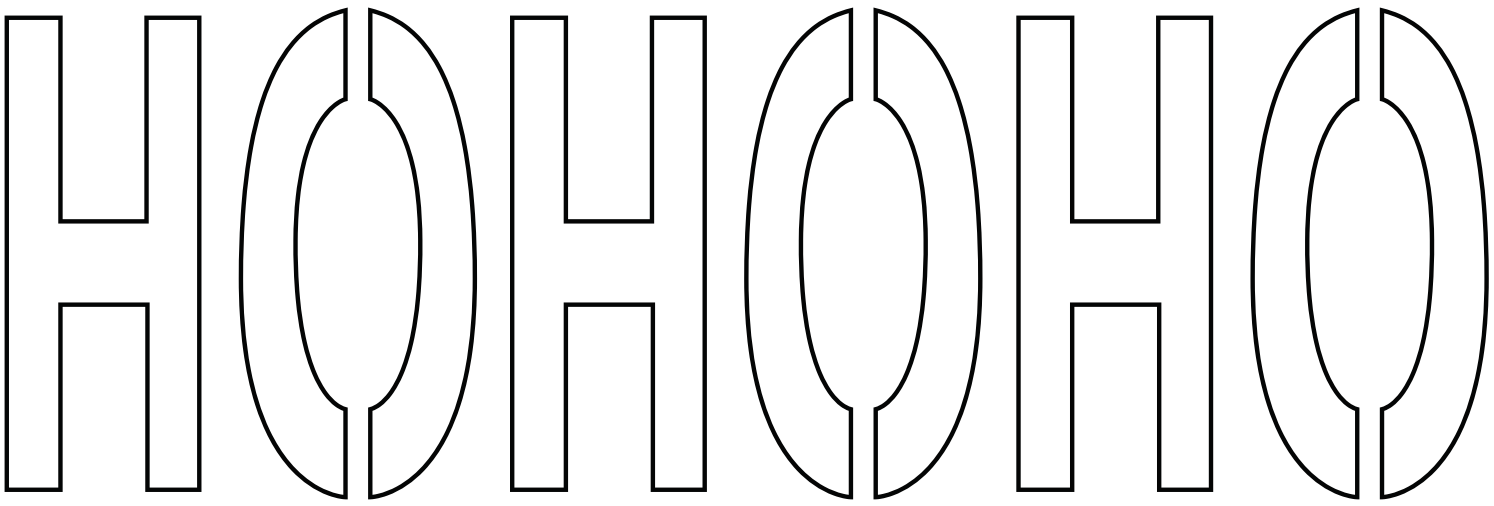
## DOVE HOOP

**BY GEORGIE K. EMERY** PAGE 25



## WRAPPING IDEAS

**BY LANA RED** PAGE 116

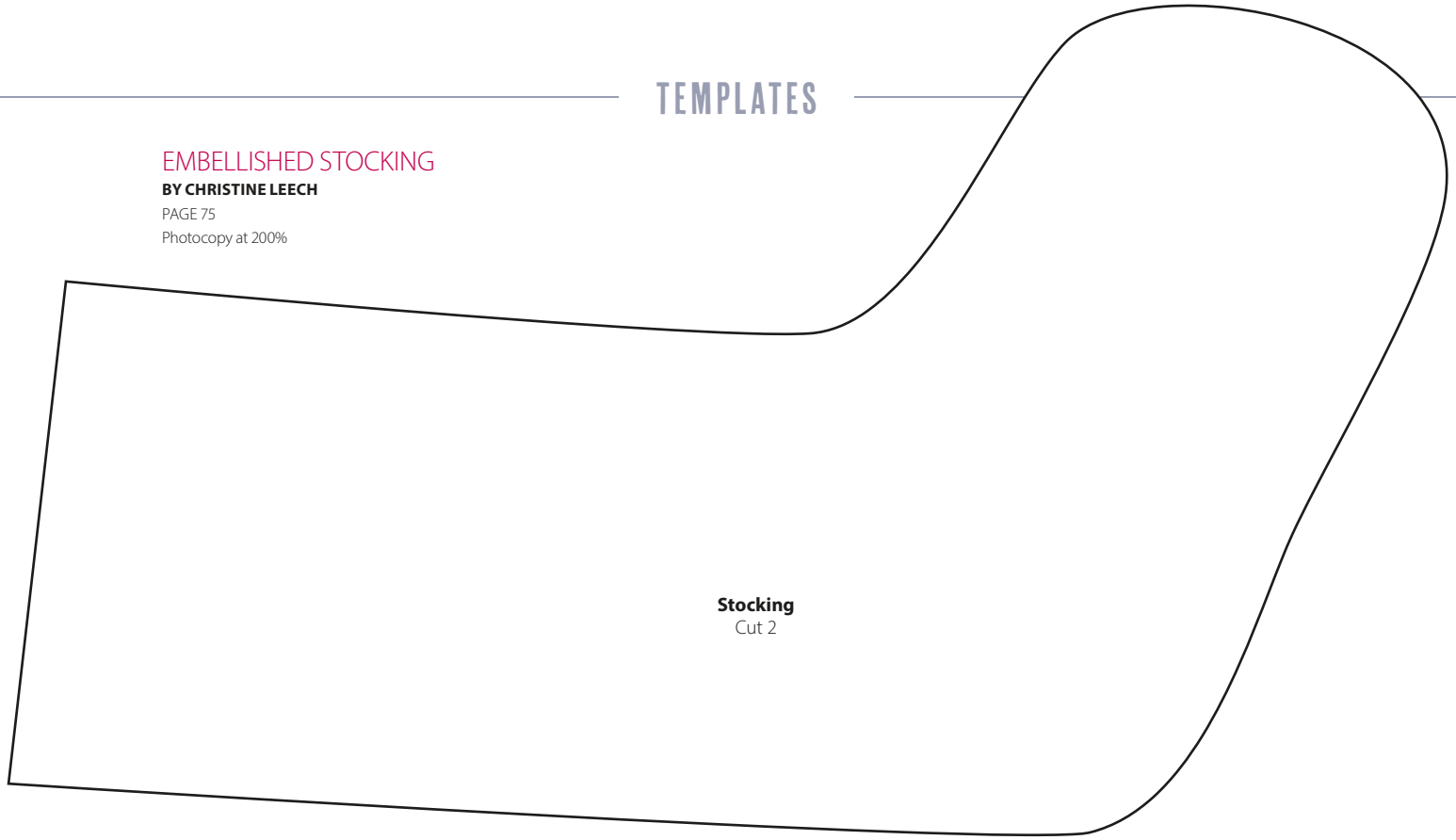


## EMBELLISHED STOCKING

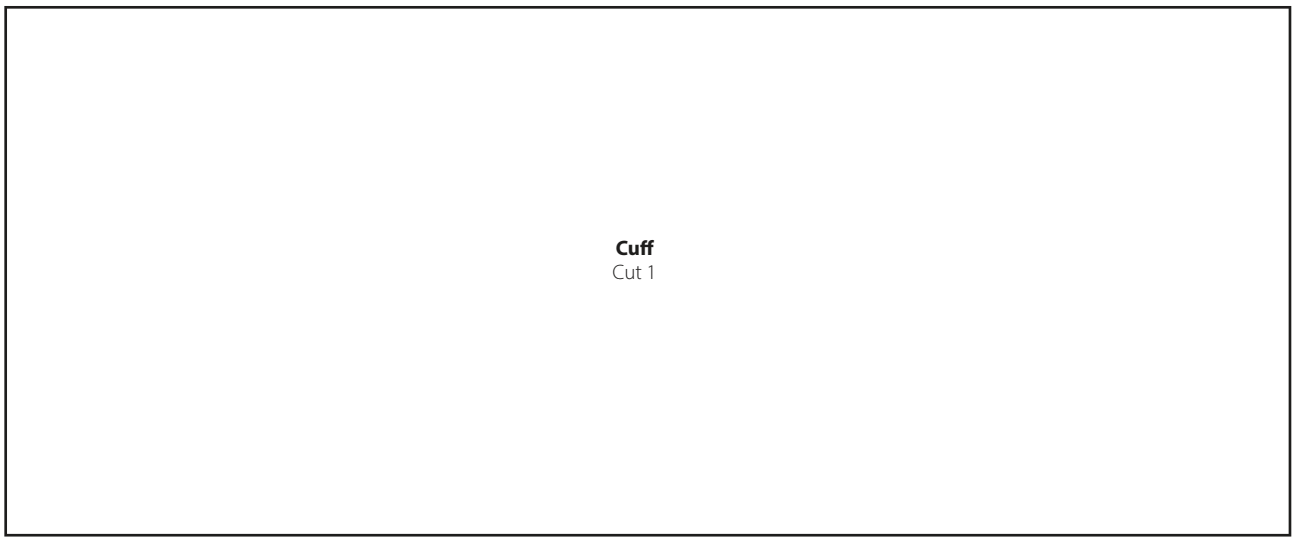
**BY CHRISTINE LEECH**

PAGE 75

Photocopy at 200%



**Stocking**
Cut 2

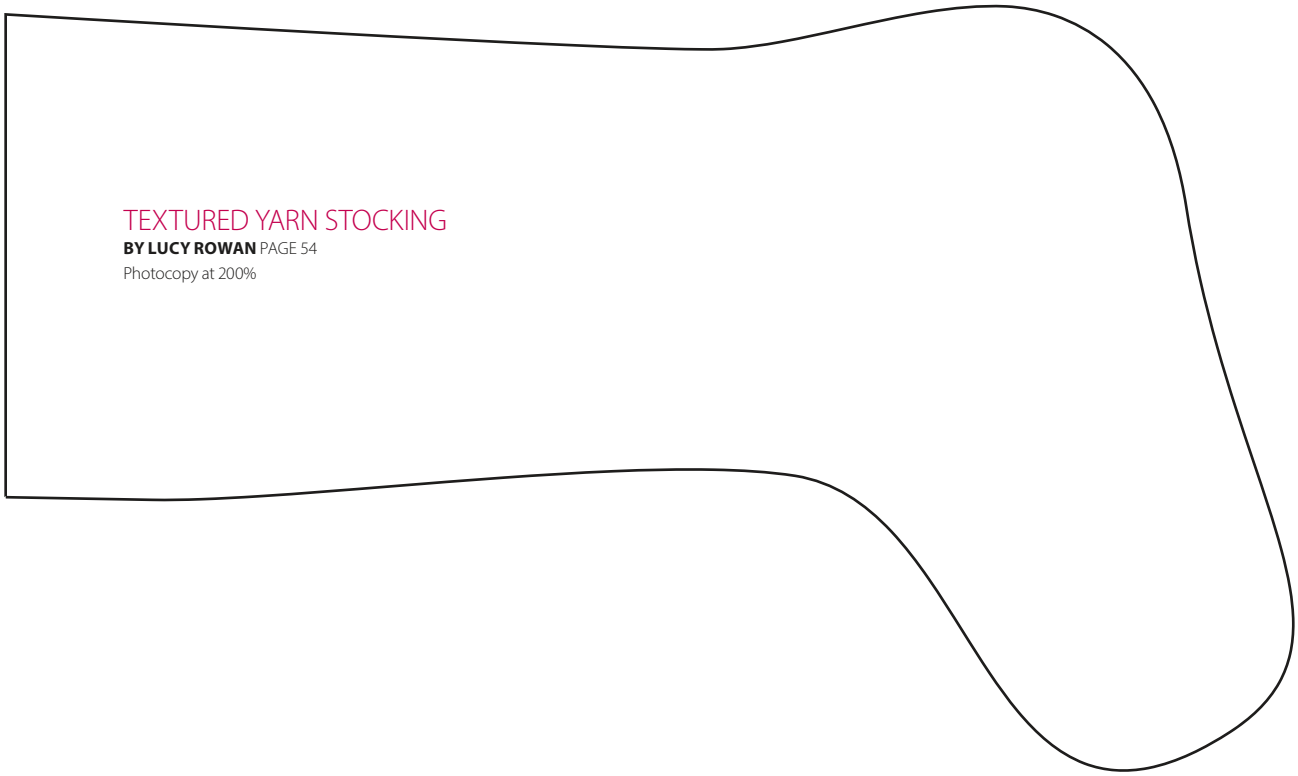


**Cuff**
Cut 1

## TEXTURED YARN STOCKING

**BY LUCY ROWAN** PAGE 54

Photocopy at 200%

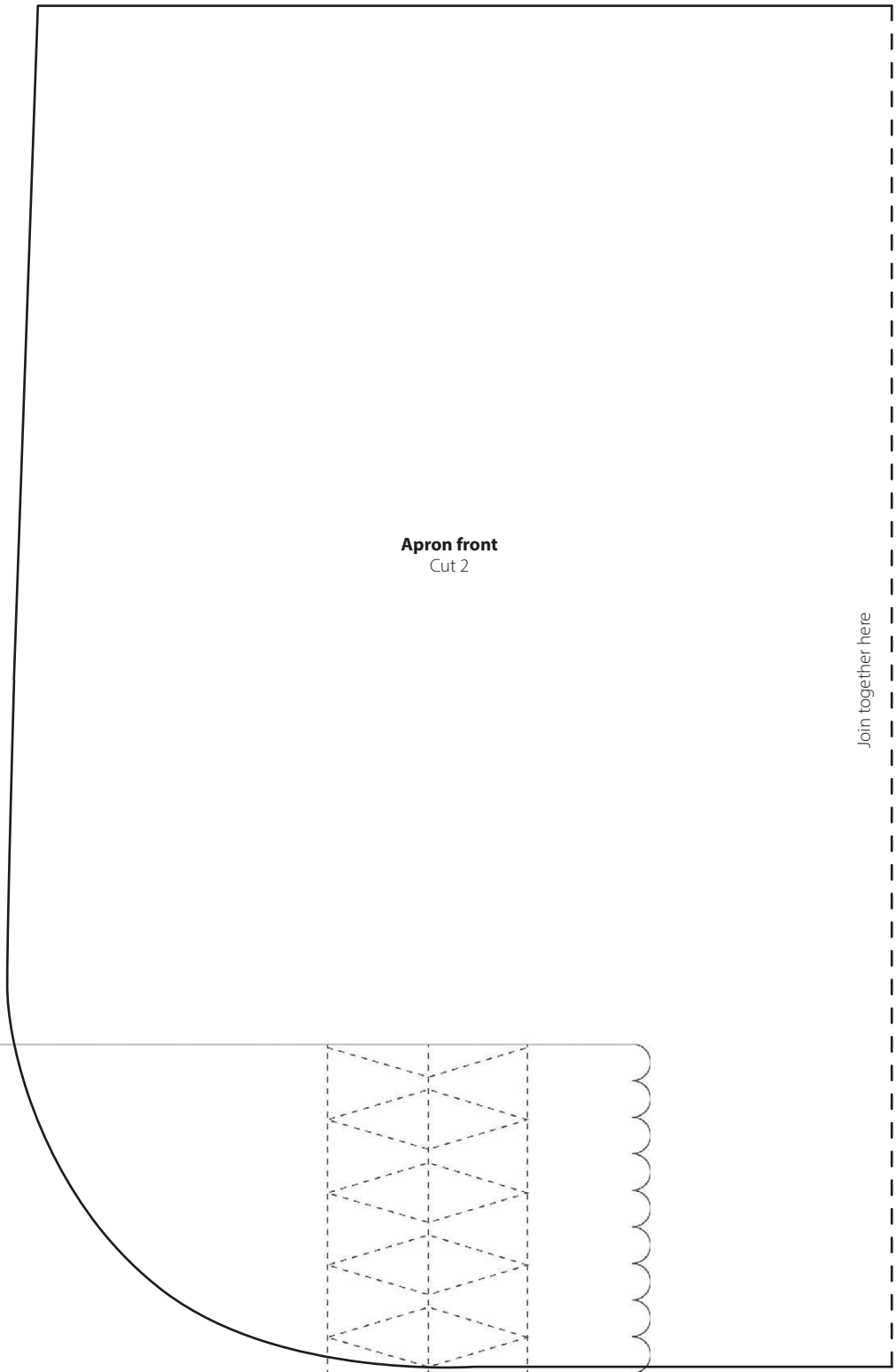


## APRON

**BY ANNA ALICIA**

PAGE 86

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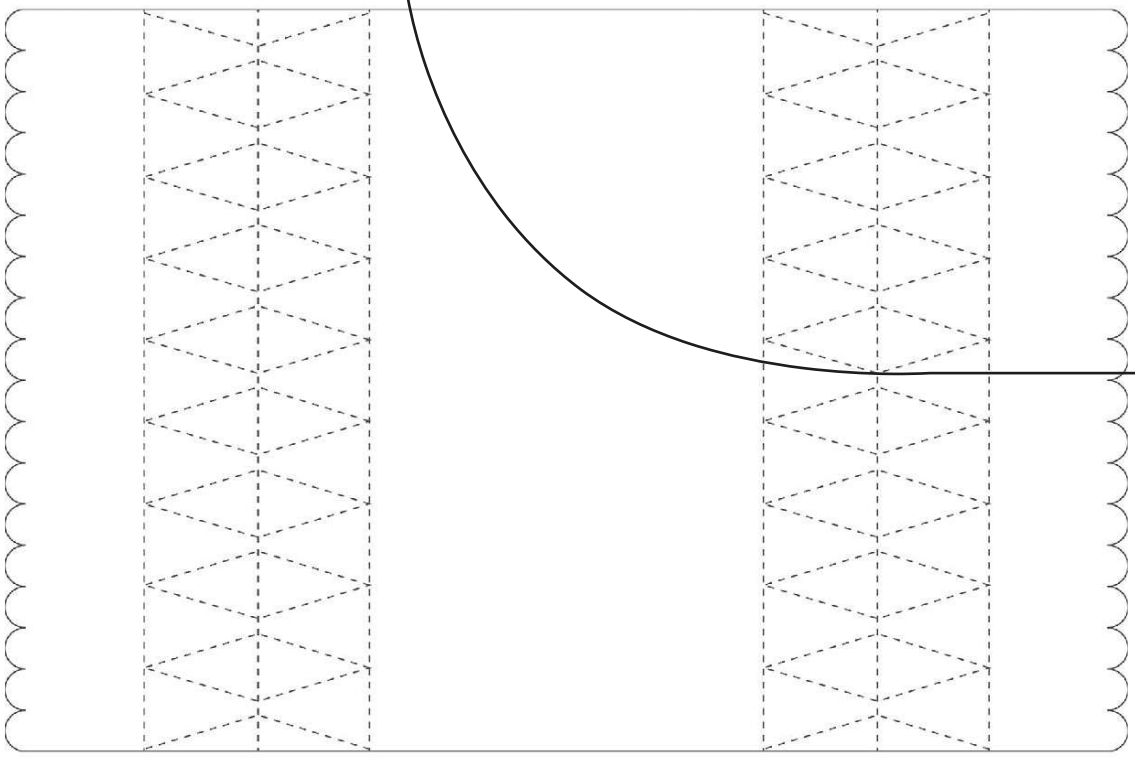



## CRACKER

**BY TERI MUNCEY**

**PAGE 98**

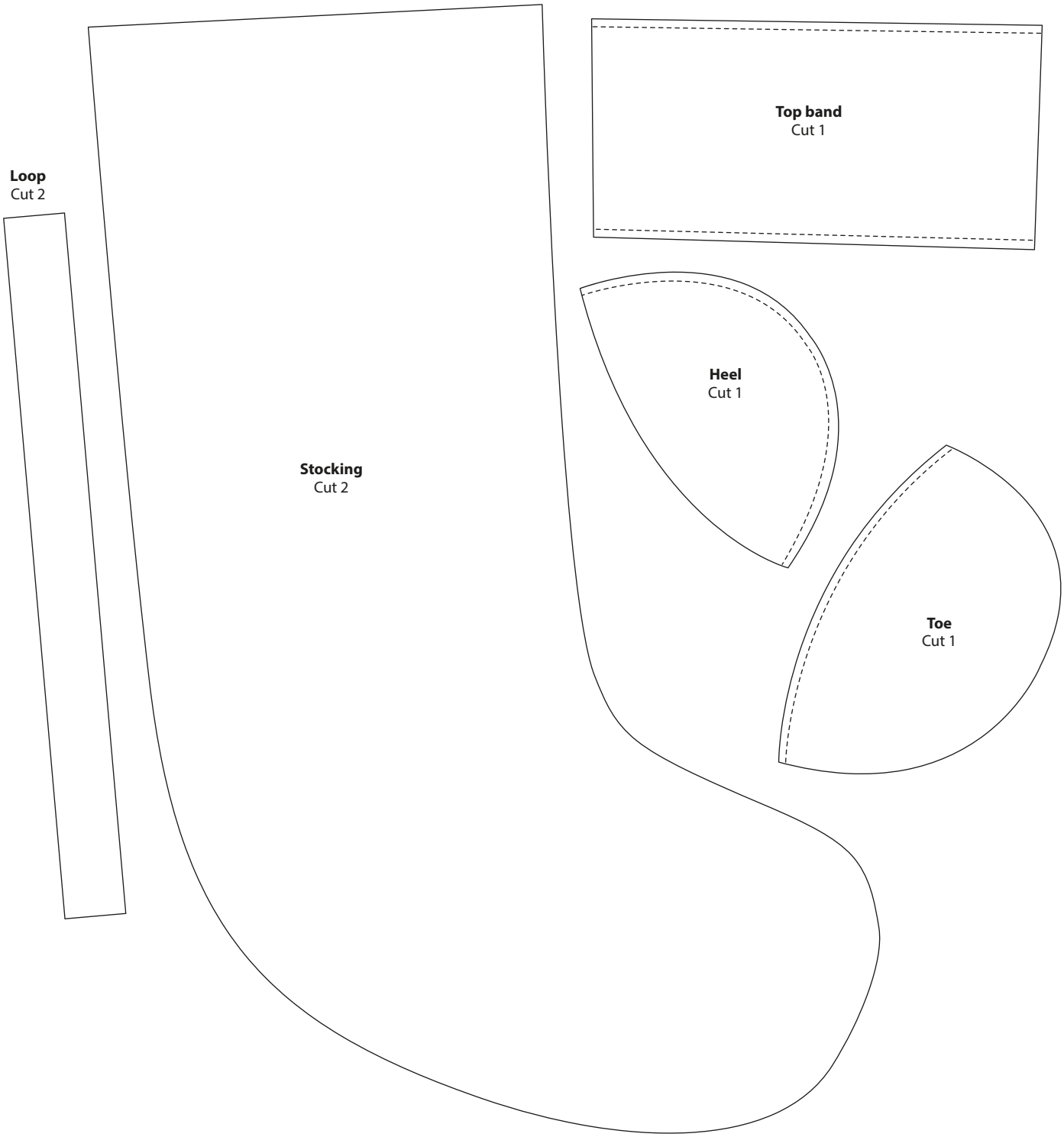
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## KITSCH RETRO STOCKING

**BY LAURA HOWARD** PAGE 59

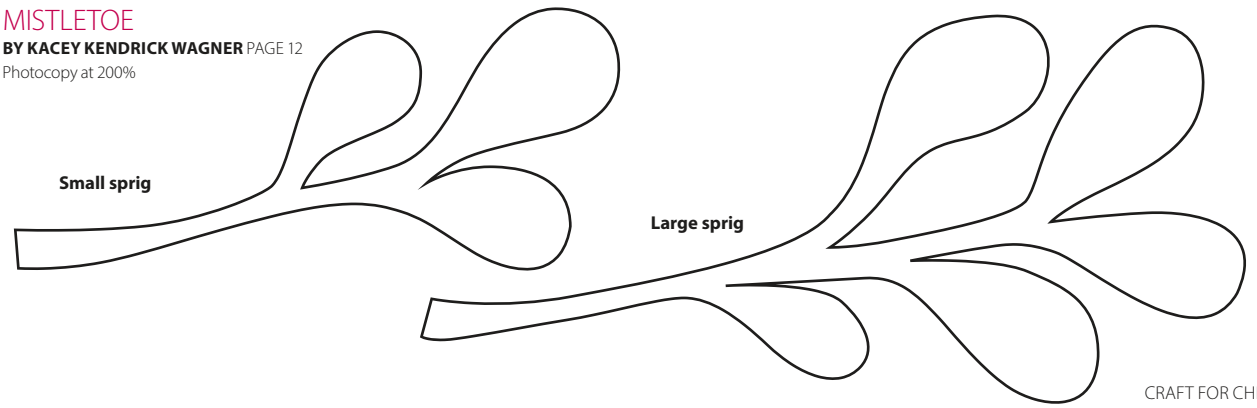
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## MISTLETOE

**BY KACEY KENDRICK WAGNER** PAGE 12

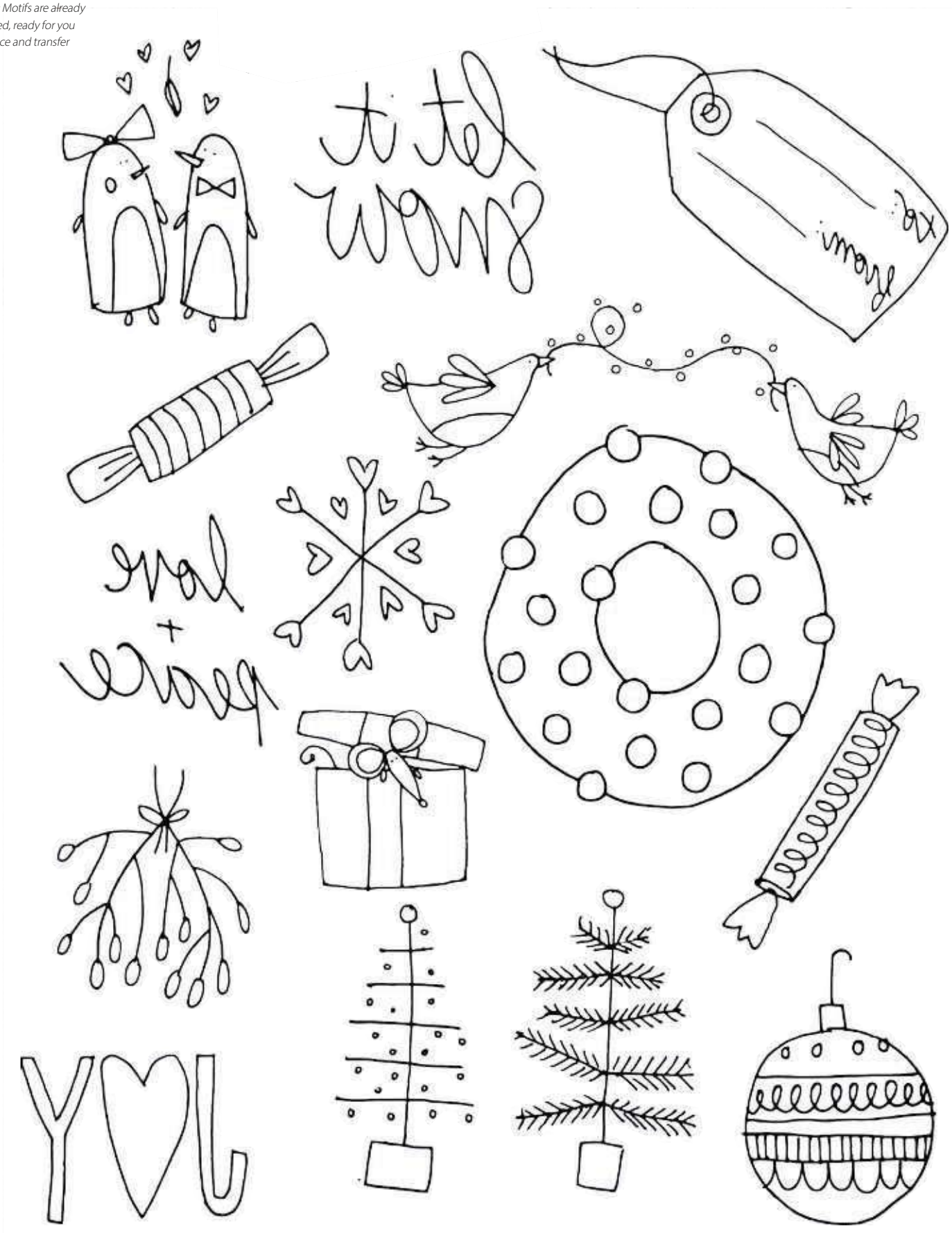
Photocopy at 200%



## EMBROIDERY MOTIFS

**BY SARAH WATSON** PAGE 162

*Note: Motifs are already flipped, ready for you to trace and transfer*




JOLLY

32 EMBROIDERY DESIGNS
BY SARAH WATSON






TRACE THE TEMPLATES ON PAGE 160

✓ Decorations ✓ Stockings ✓ Wreaths ✓ Advent ✓ Homewares ✓ Gifts











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