

In-the-Hoop Flat Pet: Pig



SILVER SEAMS
open source sewing

**For
Any
Hoops**

Preparations

In the early 2000's, Kunin Felt put out a few freebie designs with generous licensing: a felt bear, bunny, and some other critter that I failed to archive in time. It wasn't a pig though, and when I needed a pig stuffie I took inspiration from that style and made a felt pig or two.

I dug it out recently, after stumbling across a pirated version on a French blog, and decided it would make a good adaptation to in-the-hoop. And it did!

You can use good-quality felt, minky, or mochi. Felt is a little harder to turn, but actually makes a better plushie in larger sizes since it's less likely to pucker.

All you need is a piece of stabilizer (tear-away is best), two squares a little larger than your hoop size (the shorter side, in the case of the 5x7), and some stuffing. It's just two quick stitch colors, cut, turn, stuff, and attach the snout and you're done.



Face Stitching



Hoop a piece of stabilizer and float one piece of felt/minky, face up. *(Ideally choose a less-creased piece. I love grabbing remnants but sometimes it's luck of the draw.)*

If you'd like, you can run a basting box first (if your machine doesn't have them built in, there are all-sizes ones available on the Silver Seams website), and/or put down some water-soluble top stabilizer. This minky is very short pile so I didn't do either.

Final Stitching

Switch to a thread that matches your fabric, put the other piece of felt/minky face down, and sew the final stitching.

If you're using felt, especially on the smaller hoops, you can instead put the felt on the underside of the hoop and leave it un-turned.



Cutting Out



Take the piece out of the hoop.

Tip: If you don't plan to turn it, tear your stabilizer away before cutting close to the seams so that it doesn't come out bit-by-bit.

Trim a scant 1/4" seam allowance. Cut closer at points of hooves and ears, and cut a notch close to but not through the seam everywhere there's an inner point - ears, neck, hooves, arms, legs, and below the knees.

Turning

Separate the layers and carefully cut a slot inside the button-hole, and on the back of the snout. Use a turning tool, hemostat, or chopstick to turn the body and snout right-side out. Make sure you poke all the points right-side out, and outer curves like the knees and cheeks.



Stuffing



Stuff the arms and legs first, making sure you get into both hoof points. Leave the stuffing a little tapered-off as you approach the limb creases

The original pattern called for stitching across each limb and ear after stuffing, so if you have a conventional sewing machine you can do that now.

Stuff the body, folding each limb over as you stuff next to it, so that you leave an empty spot for the "joint." Make sure you don't leave an empty spot at the neck, and stuff just until any wrinkles disappear. (With felt, overstuffing will *produce* wrinkles.) Fold the ears over when stuffing the head.

If you like, you can hand-sew the limb/ear creases, or just make a French tack in the center to keep the stuffing in place.

Finishing

If you hate hand-sewing and your pig won't get any rough handling, you can just attach the snout with hot glue or fabric glue. I'll never tell.

But if you are up for a little hand-sewing, whip-stitch the buttonhole closed, then place the snout down. (You can add a little stuffing to the snout first if you like, but minky's dimensional enough for me.) Go around it with big (1/4" to 1/2" stitches first to get the placement right, then go around a second time with smaller stitches to hide the bigger ones.

You're done!



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