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Humphrey the Hound

Faithful, dependable, and never needs walking ... what could be nicer?



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Humphrey is my interpretation of a vintage pattern first published over 40 years ago! He is entirely hand-stitched and has a cute button nose.

He's a great easy make for beginners or to make for sale as he shouldn't take an experienced maker more than a couple of hours in total.

Materials

- 18" square main body fabric. Use felt or a medium-weight non-stretchy fabric
- 10" x 12" gusset fabric as before
- 6" square contrast fabric for ears
- 3/4" black or dark brown button for nose
- Small black beads for eyes
- Strong dark brown or black thread
- Stranded cotton floss in a colour that you feel works well with your main body fabric. I chose a light mint green for my Humphrey



Humphrey the Hound



Notes

- If you're making your dog from felt then you won't have problems with fraying. However, I sometimes think that felt can be a bit bland and uninteresting so I like to choose different fabrics but that does mean that if you choose to hand stitch your Humphrey making a decorative feature of the seams, you may have an issue with fraying. There are various ways to get around this - here are three that I have used:
- Fraycheck is a proprietary compound that you apply to the edges of your fabric - it does what it says in the name but can leave your fabric feeling stiff and hard to sew.
- If you want to use a lighter-weight cotton, then fuse to light or medium weight fusible interfacing before cutting out the pieces. This will stop fraying.

- My favourite - cut out the pieces then go around the edge with a machine zig-zag in a matching thread. Use a short stitch length. When you hand stitch the seams this zig-zag stitch will be covered by your hand stitching.

I like to sew my softie seams by hand using cross stitch to give decorative hard-wearing seams. Work half cross stitch in one direction, then return the other way to complete the stitch. Then if the thread is broken in one place your seams won't come undone.

Stuff the small parts like the tip of the tail and ends of paws as you go to make sure you push the stuffing right into the ends. Use small pieces of stuffing to avoid lumpiness and mould the toy with your hands as you go, turning it around to check you're happy with how it looks from all sides. Use two strands of cotton floss to sew your seams.

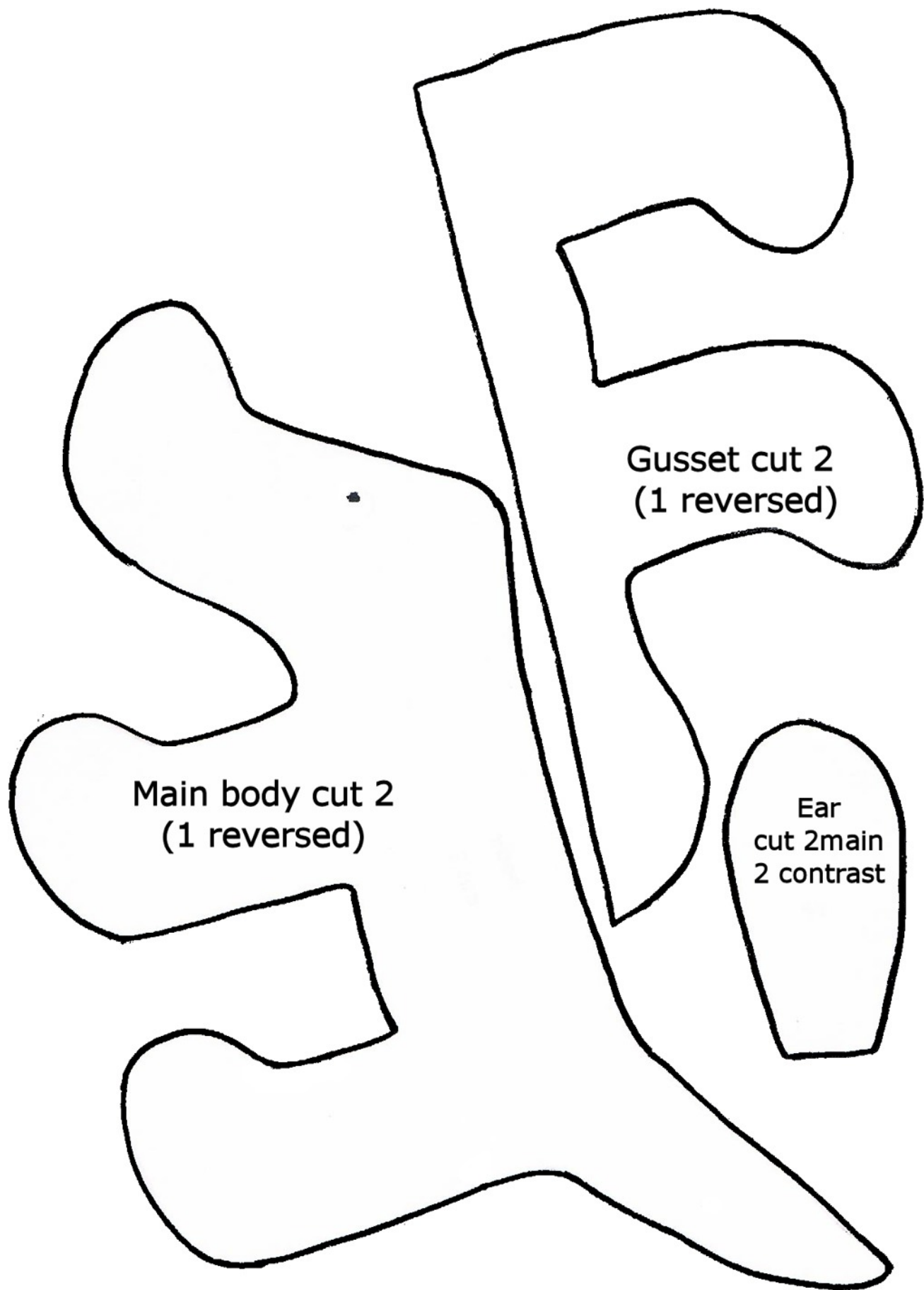
Method

- Resize templates to make the Humphrey of your choice. Cut all pieces as shown on templates.

- Stitch gussets to main body pieces around legs and belly
- Join main pieces together along top from nose to tail tip.
- Join gussets leaving a 3" gap for stuffing.
- Stuff and close gap.
- Join inner and outer ears, then stitch to dog using the photograph as a guide.
- Sew on beads for eyes using strong thread and pulling fairly tightly to form little hollows around the eyes. I have marked the eye position on the templates, but it's always a good idea to try out with glass-headed pins first to make sure you're happy with the positioning.
- Sew on button for nose with and make a few tiny French knots in dark brown or black for whiskers.
- Add claws in dark brown thread. FINISHED!!

Find the [pattern for Sidney](#) on the Bustle & Sew website





Main body cut 2
(1 reversed)

Gusset cut 2
(1 reversed)

Ear
cut 2main
2 contrast



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Why do we love to stitch? After all you can purchase mass-produced textile items at many high streets stores for very little cost. These days handmade means something special - a unique item created with love, a gift from the heart, not one that can be bought. Hand stitching is also a great way to personalise an item, or perhaps to breathe new life into an old favourite that has seen better days.

[Bustle & Sew](#) offers my own unique patterns, designed to appeal to all skill levels and bring out all your natural creativity. And you

can keep up to date with all the latest news from Devon where I live as well as the newest patterns and much more over on the [Bustle & Sew Blog](#).

But none of this would mean anything without YOU, the stitcher. And it's lovely to be able to share hints, tips, techniques and patterns with other like-minded people. So

PLEASE SHARE THE LOVE



I am happy for you to circulate this free pattern as widely as you wish with just two conditions:

- Firstly, that you leave all links to my website, blog and other pages in place and ...
- Secondly - it is NOT a commercial publication and must not be reproduced for commercial use including resale in any form.



PS If you love stitching, then you're sure to enjoy my Bustle & Sew Magazine. It's delivered by email to your in-box each month and is crammed full of ideas, projects, features, articles, patterns and more to inspire you. Your family and friends will soon be queuing up to take delivery of your new Bustle & Sew creations. To learn more please visit the [Bustle & Sew website](#).

Helen xx

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