



Pin Cushion Mice

A Bustle & Sew classic, I originally released my take on this old-fashioned method of making these little mice back in March 2011.

They turned out to be one of my most popular free patterns ever - and now they're back - and looking even more cute for 2013. They're really easy to make - great for fetes, bazaars or for making with children - you'll have a dozen of the little creatures sitting in a row before you know it!



You will need:

- 9" square felt for body and ears
- 6" square contrast fabric for tail and ears
- 3" square cardboard to stiffen base
- Rice or poly beads to weight base (optional)
- Polyfil for stuffing body
- Stranded embroidery floss in suitable colour to sew body
- Black stranded embroidery floss for eyes and nose- or use small round black beads if preferred - but this means the mouse will not be suitable for a small child.
- Dark brown strong thread for whiskers (optional)

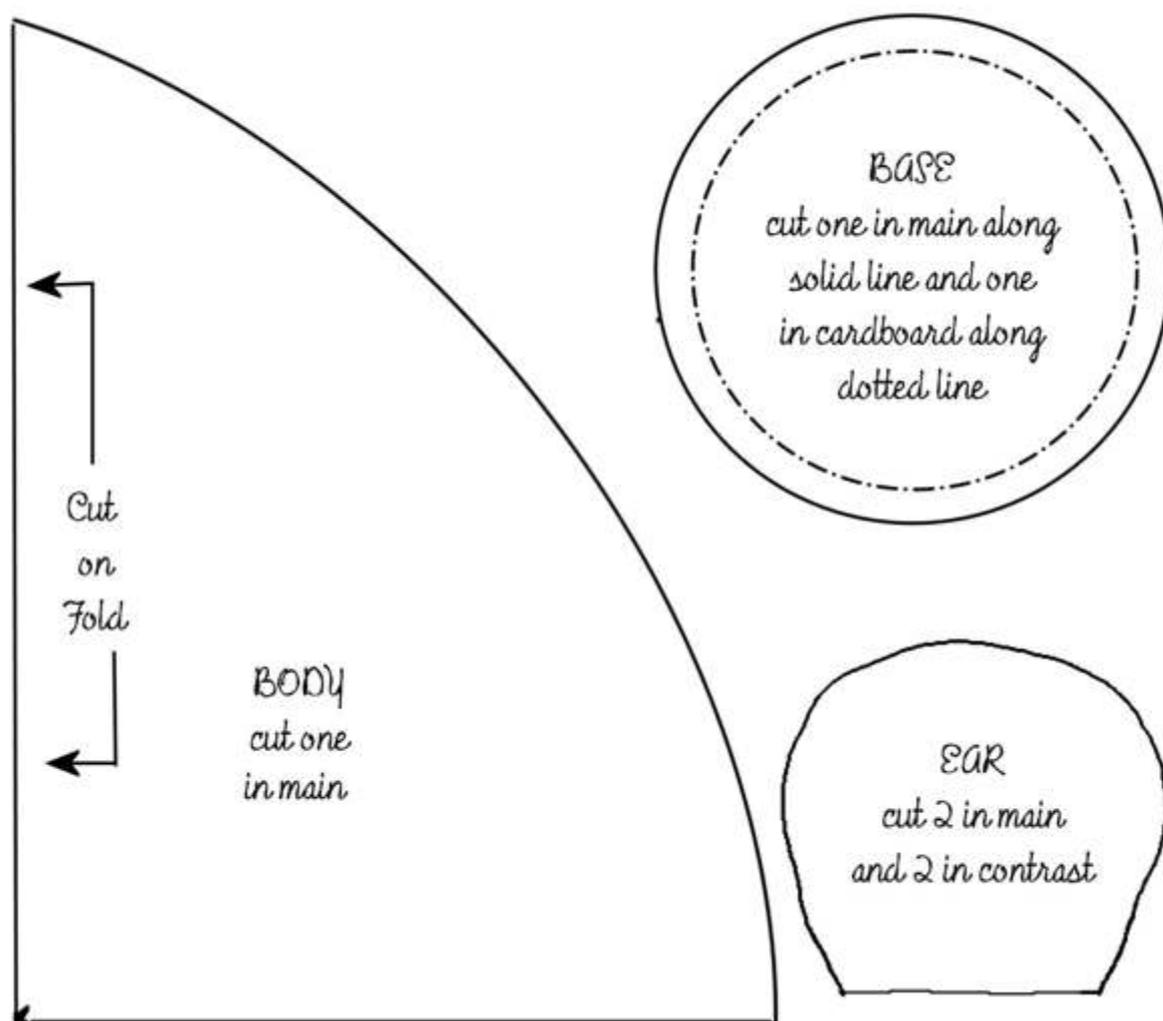
To make your mouse:

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- Cut out all pieces as shown on template below.
- Cut a strip of fabric for the tail 4" long x 1 ½" wide.
- Fold ¼" under along each long side, and then fold in half.
- Tuck one short edge in for the tip of the tail and secure with a few small stitches.
- Using 3 strands of embroidery floss, blanket stitch along the open side of the tail to secure. Set to one side.

- Stitch the bottom edge of the body to the circular base with wrong sides together.
- First work half-cross stitch in one direction, then return and over stitch in half-cross stitch in the other direction using 3 strands of floss.
- Then stitch up the back for ½" in the same way, wrong sides together.
- Insert the unfinished end of the tail with the blanket stitched seam facing upwards and secure in place with small stitches.
- Continue up the back for a further 1". Leave a ½" gap for stuffing and then stitch up to the nose.
- Insert the cardboard circle into the base to keep it flat. Stuff the nose end using small pieces of stuffing to avoid lumpiness.
- Pour rice or granules if using into the base and then add stuffing to body. When you are happy with the shape, close the back seam.
- Make the ears by placing the pairs of outers and inners together, wrong sides facing and cross stitch around the outer curved edge.
- Fold the base edge in half and secure with a few stitches, then flatten the seam and position ears on head, either side of the centre back seam so they will frame the mouse's face.
- The eyes are French knots worked with black floss - or stitch round black beads into place if using.
- The whiskers are strong thread - catch them in place with a small stitch under the nose so they can't be easily pulled out.
- Oversew the tip of the nose with black thread.

FINISHED!





Seam allowances are included. Templates are actual size.



Why do we love to stitch? After all, you can purchase mass-produced embroidered items at many high street stores. 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 personalize an item, or even 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 your natural creativity. And you can keep up-to-date with all the latest news on the [Bustle & Sew Blog](#).

But none of this would mean anything without you, the stitcher.

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Best wishes

Helen xxx

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