



Hodge and Podge the Hedgehog Softies

Who could resist these adorable little hedgehog softies? There's Podge - the little baby hedgehog, and Hodge, her big brother dressed in a smart stripey scarf to keep out those autumn chills (see here with his cousins Horace and Humphrey).

NOTE: This free pattern includes instructions for Podge only.

The pattern for Hodge is in the November 2012 [Bustle & Sew e-zine](#).



- Take your strips of tweedy fabric and cut into them at about ¼” intervals to make a fringe. Be careful only to cut in about ¾ “ - don’t cut all the way through!
- Position the strips vertically on each Podge’s body shapes starting from the back and working towards her head. Machine stitch to the body and cut the strips to length as you go along. Make sure the spines (fringe) are towards the back of the body and that you have a good overlap so she doesn’t have any bare spots!)
- When attaching your last few strips, make sure they’re slightly curved (line E to F on the template shows where the last strip is placed).
- Use the photo below as a guide.

You will need:

- 8” square old blanket/felt for body
- 2 yards x 1” wide strips of tweedy/woollen fabric for prickles
- 2 small black beads for eyes
- ¼” button for nose
- Strong dark brown thread for whiskers
- Small round pebble
- Small piece of cardboard
- Brown thread for your sewing machine
- Toy stuffing

Note: If making for a young child, then embroider the features with cotton embroidery floss and omit the pebble in the base.

¼” seam allowance is included in template

Method:

- Cut out your felt/fabric - cut 2 body pieces (reversing one if your fabric has a right and wrong side)
- Cut 1 base piece in felt/fabric, then cut another piece in cardboard approx ¼” smaller all the way around



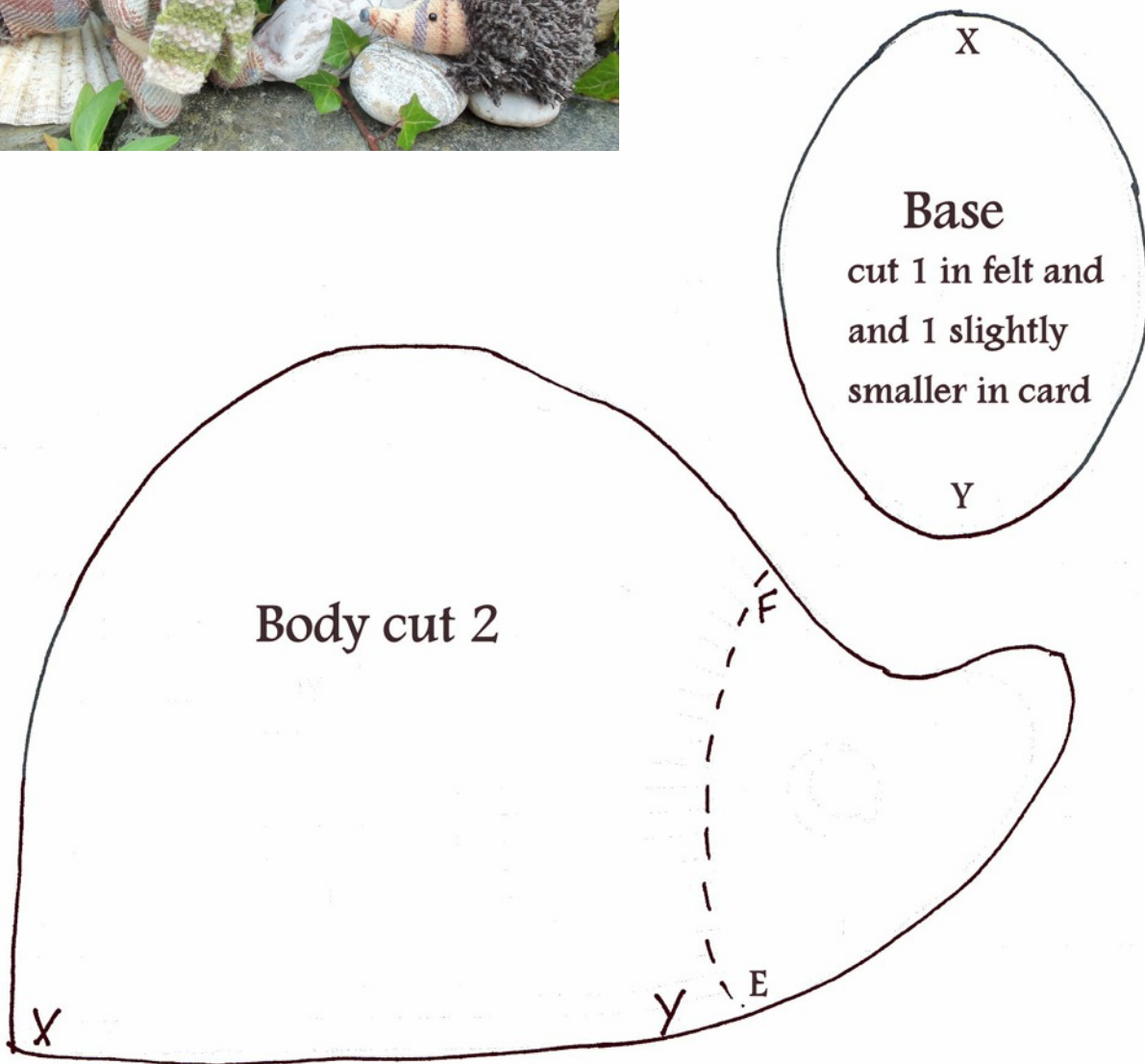
- Now sew the two body pieces together around the back and head from X to Y with right sides facing. Some of your prickles will be included in the seam, but that’s fine, you can probably tease out a few with a blunt needle afterwards, and the seam isn’t very noticeable among all the fringe ends.
- Turn Podge right side out and stuff. Work very small pieces of stuffing into the end of her nose and face, shaping her with your hands as you go.
- Stuff the body firmly, then insert your pebble towards the base.
- Place cardboard base on top of pebble so she will stand firmly.
- Finally place felt/fabric base on the cardboard and top stitch all the way around the body opening to

close the body completely - you will need to do this by hand.

- Using strong thread attach black beads for eyes and button for nose.

- Stitch whiskers with strong thread - leaving loops at each side of the snout and taking a small back stitch beneath the nose to secure whiskers in place.

- Podge is now finished!!



Template actual size to make Podge 3" tall



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. And it's lovely to be able to share hints, tips and techniques with other like-minded folk.

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 and blog in place. And secondly, it is not a commercial publication and must not be reproduced for resale in any form.

Best wishes

Helen xx



PS : If you love stitching then you're sure to enjoy my Bustle & Sew e-zine. It's my own e-zine delivered monthly to your in-box stuffed with ideas, projects, features, articles, patterns and more. Your family and friends will be queuing up to take delivery of your new Bustle & Sew creations.

To learn more, please visit my website.

<http://bustleandsew.com/magazine>