



# A Bustle & Sew Design



## Cotton Spool Mice

These little cotton spool mice are (in my opinion!) almost unbearably cute. They're a great make to give as little extra gifts - but be sure to keep one of the tiny creatures for your own sewing room!

Finished mouse measures about 2 ½" tall - the perfect size to perch comfortably on an old wooden spool.



### You will need:

- 6” x 4” piece of light brown felt
- Stranded cotton floss in light brown, pink and black
- 2 x ¼” buttons
- 4” length of string for tail
- Toy stuffing
- Vintage cotton reel
- 6” x 2” (approx) cotton fabric
- Hot glue gun or PVA glue

Notes: use 1 strand of cotton floss throughout.

Templates are inclusive of seam allowances

### To make your mouse:

- Trace pieces from template onto felt and cut out shapes. Be sure to cut them out smoothly, you don't want rough edges showing. You also need to be accurate as this mouse is so tiny there isn't much room for error in cutting.

- Place your two body pieces right sides outwards and join seam using cross stitch or blanket stitch - whichever you prefer.
- Place to one side
- Take the head piece and, with RIGHT sides together over stitch darts from A to B on either side of head.
- Now turn right side out and stitch seams at front (B to F) and back (C to D) of head using cross stitch or blanket stitch.
- Take your body and turn it so that the seams are at the front and back of the mouse (see photos for guide).
- With right sides outwards over stitch head to neck on one side.
- Stuff head firmly using very tiny pieces of stuffing and being sure to push well up into nose.

*(A stuffing stick is very useful here - just take a bamboo skewer and break off the pointed tip. Roughen the end so it will “grab” the stuffing as you push. It will reach where your fingers can't!)*

- Now attach head on the other side.
- Continue stuffing body down to the base, then attach the base to the body using cross or blanket stitch. As you stitch around insert string for tail at the back seam.
- Cut tail to required length and knot the end.
- Join each pair of arms using cross or blanket stitch.
- Position arms on shoulders (use photos as guide) and stitch into place through the buttons.
- Fold ears into shape and stitch to the top of the head.
- With black floss work eyes and nose in straight stitches. Use pink floss to stitch

- cheeks and black floss for little whiskers (go in and out at the sides of the muzzle, taking a small stitch under the nose to secure them).
- Your mouse is now finished.

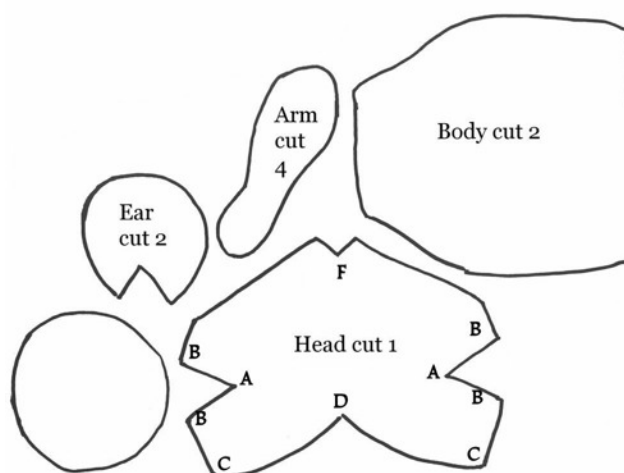
### Cotton Spool:

- Remove any thread from your spool (a craft knife is good for this).
- Measure the depth of the area needing to be covered by fabric (where the thread was wound).
- Fold your strip of fabric over at either side to the required depth (trim excess if necessary).

- Fold over ¼” at one end to cover raw edge and trim length so that it will go around the spool with an overlap of about ½”.
- Glue the raw edge to the cotton reel, then wrap prepared fabric strip around and glue the folded over end (this will cover the edge).
- Glue the base of the mouse to the top of your spool.

**FINISHED!**

### Mouse template - 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. 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 Magazine. 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>