



BUSTLE & SEW
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Pin Cushion Mice

Oh so cute ... and oh, so simple to make. These little mice are a lovely beginner's project and children love them too!



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Pin Cushion Mice

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 more cute than ever!

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!



Materials

- 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.
- Pink floss for nose
- Dark brown strong thread for whiskers (optional)



Method

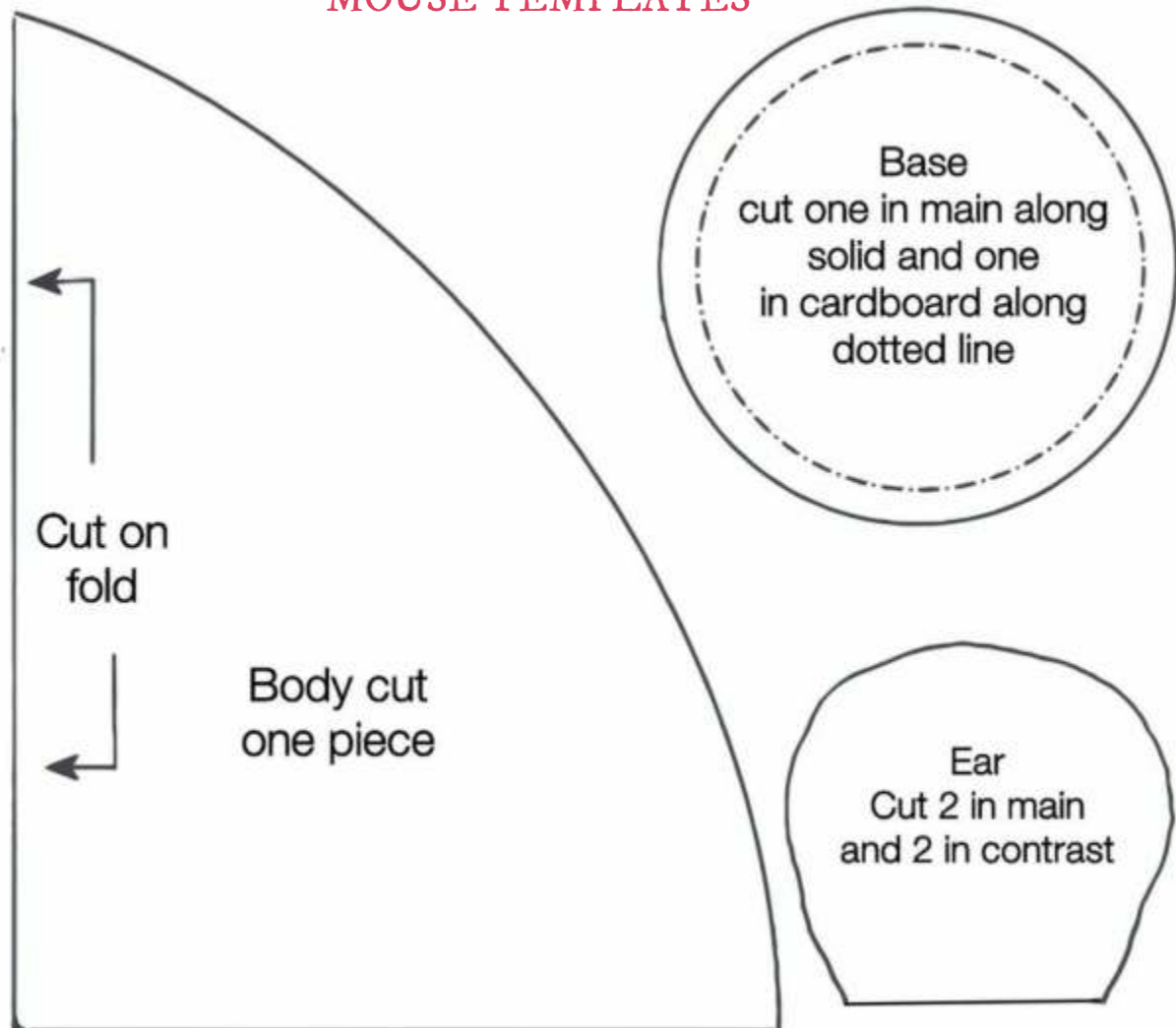
- Cut out all body pieces using the template provided (actual size)
- Cut a strip of fabric for the tail 4" long x 1 1/2" wide. Fold 1/4" under along each long side, and then fold in half lengthways and press. Tuck one short edge in for the tip of the tail and secure with a few small stitches. Using 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 1 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 pink floss

MOUSE TEMPLATES



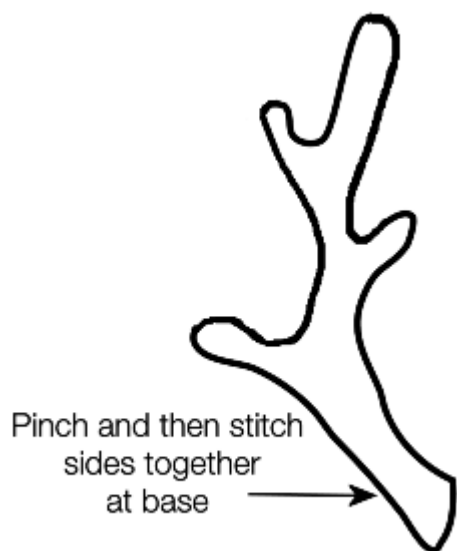


To make a Christmas Pincushion Mouse simply add antlers and a Rudolph nose!

You will need 5" x 2 1/2" piece of felt - I used a very dark purple, but brown would be nice too - for the antlers and a 3/4" circle of red felt for the nose.

Cut your antler felt in half, place one piece on top of the other - using Bondaweb or spray adhesive to keep them from sliding is a VERY good idea. Trace and cut out two antlers. Stitch around edges of antlers with 2 strands of matching floss and half-cross stitch. Pinch the bottoms of the antlers together towards the base and stitch over both sides - this will make your antlers stand up nicely. Position on head behind ears and stitch into place.

Run a gathering thread around your circle of red felt, draw up into a small ball and stitch to tip of nose. FINISHED!





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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

