

Christmas Pin Cushion Mouse

Method

- Cut out all pieces using the templates provided
- Fold the main body piece in half and stitch from the pointed (nose) end using the cotton pearl thread. First work in one direction, working half-cross stitch over the seam, then return in the other direction, angling your stitches to complete the other part of the cross stitch. This makes a nice strong decorative seam.
- Stuff the body. Stuffing isn't provided in this kit, but the filling from a cheap polyfibre filled cushion is perfect, or you could even use finely chopped old tights, sweaters or cotton wool. Start with very small pieces at the nose end, pushing them in firmly, then continue down the body to within around 1 cm ($\frac{1}{2}$ ") of the base.
- Make a knot in each end of the baker's twine. Now join the base to the main body in the same way as before, inserting the baker's twine at the end of the back seam - the knot will help keep it in place. Don't stitch all the way around the base - go about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way - then top up the stuffing and insert the cardboard base between the stuffing and the felt. This will help your mouse stand up straight without wobbling. Close the seam.



- Make the ears by placing the pairs of outers (felt) and inners (red starry fabric) together, wrong sides facing and cross stitch with pearl thread 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.
- Stitch black beads in place for eyes. Pull thread fairly tightly to create little hollows for the beads to sit in and be sure to check they are in the same position on either side of the head - you don't want your mouse to have lopsided eyes.
- Place two antler shapes on top of each other and stitch around edges with brown thread and half cross stitch. Pinch the bottom of the antler together and stitch over both sides for about 2 cm ($\frac{3}{4}$ " up from the base) - this will make the antlers stand up nicely. Repeat for the second antler.
- Position antlers on head behind ears and stitch into place.
- Thread your needle with strong thread and pull right through so the thread is doubled to stitch the whiskers. Take your needle in on one side of the nose where you want the whiskers to be, then bring it out at the tip of the nose. Pull through, leaving a 2 cm ($\frac{3}{4}$ " approx) "tail" showing on the side of the nose. Make a tiny back stitch on the nose tip, then bring your needle out on the other side of the nose. Take it in again leaving a loop of thread, make a tiny back stitch at the nose tip again and bring it out on

the first side. Repeat until you have as many whiskers as you want. The tiny back stitches will stop them being accidentally pulled out. Trim whiskers to required length.

- With red thread make small stitches all around the edge of the nose piece, then draw up to form a sphere, inserting a tiny amount of stuffing if liked, then stitch to the nose end of the mouse, covering the tiny back stitches you made when sewing the whiskers.
- Make short vertical cuts into either end of the long piece of vintage blanket to represent the fringes on a scarf. Tie the scarf around your mouse's neck.
- Your Christmas Mouse is now finished!



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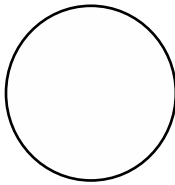
**We hope you've enjoyed
making your Christmas
Mouse!**

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patterns and ideas please visit
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Christmas Mouse Templates

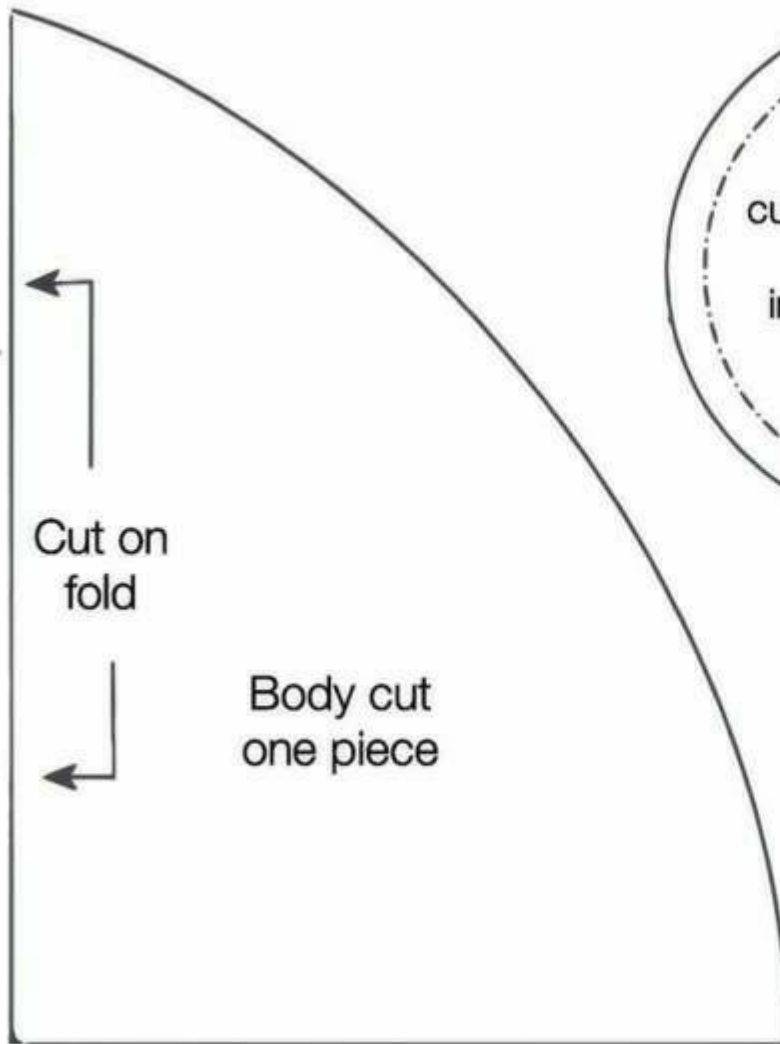
Nose cut one from red felt



Antlers cut 4 from brown felt

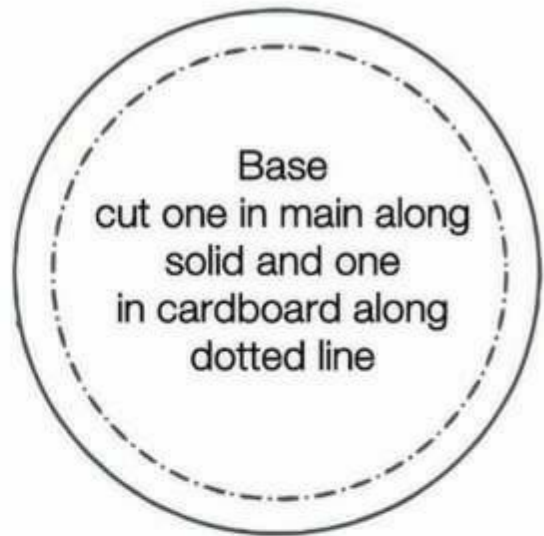


Pinch and then stitch sides together at base



Cut on fold

Body cut one piece



Base
cut one in main along
solid and one
in cardboard along
dotted line



Ear
Cut 2 in main
and 2 in 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](#).



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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Thank you.