

## Mini Sock Elephant

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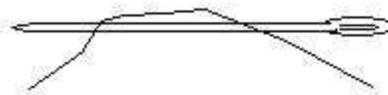
Materials needed:

- 1 pair of Gray newborn sized crew socks (not ankle or low cut, preferably flat knit) other sock colors can also be used
  - Black embroidery thread
  - Gray All-purpose thread
  - Gray embroidery thread
  - White all-purpose thread
  - scrap of white flannel fabric
  - scrap of pink fabric
  - other scrap fabrics
  - scrap of satin-like fabric
  - polyester fiberfill stuffing
  - hand needle/thread
  - 1/4" wide ribbon
- Invisible ink marker
  - Optional: If dyeing white socks gray, you will need Rit dye Tan and Dark green

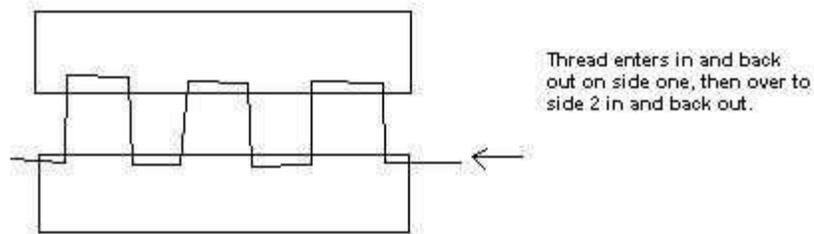
**Basic Sock Toy making techniques:** There's a few basic hand stitches and knots you should know when making sock toys, which if you're not aware of yet, you may want to practice before beginning. These are very simple once you get the hang of it.

**Tying a quilting knot:** Insert threaded needle into a small piece of the fabric, leaving the tip of the needle sticking out of the fabric, wrap thread around tip of needle 3 times and pull needle through, pulling knot tight, insert needle back into the toy at the knot to hide your knot, then cut thread off. See illustration:

With threaded needle, insert needle into fabric as shown below. With the needle tip sticking out of the fabric, you will wrap the thread around the tip 3 times, hold in place and pull needle through, pulling the knot tight, you can then go back in at the knot site, pulling your knot to the inside of your toy, pull needle out and cut string this makes your knots hidden and looks much nicer.



**Using a blind stitch:** A blind stitch attaches two pieces of fabric together without the threads being seen. You begin with your threaded needle, holding your two fabrics together or pinned together, insert needle in and then out of fabric piece #1, then directly in and back out of fabric piece #2, going along like this until connected. See illustration below.



**Embroidery:** If you have your embroidery floss handy, you'll notice that there's 6 individual strands wound into one. When I embroider, I like to use only two of the strands, just pulling out two of the strands. Especially on small toys, you don't want your eyes/mouth too thick. Embroidering a straight line is made using the embroidery back stitch, demonstrated below..

Embroidery back-stitch diagram:

#### Embroidery Back Stitch



Enter needle into fabric at point 1 going over top of fabric into point 2, then under fabric into point 3, then over into point 4, continue in this way until your line is finished.

All seams are 1/4" unless otherwise stated. Begin and end all hand stitches with a quilters knot, begin and end all machine stitches with a back-stitch to secure. All parts are attached with a blind stitch.

**Choosing Socks:** The socks I used to make this toy were Gray baby socks. If you find it difficult to find gray, you can always choose white socks and dye them gray or choose another color. Purple, pink and blue also make really cute elephants. To dye your white socks gray. Be sure to choose socks that are mostly cotton. Synthetic materials are not easily dyed. You need to boil 1 ½ cups of water in a small pan and bring it to a boil and turn off. Thoroughly wet your socks, so that when you dip them in the water the color evenly dyes the sock. Make sure you unfold the crease on the sock before dipping in the dye bath or you could get a darker line going down the middle of your sock. You will need some RIT dye, which is found in most grocery stores in the laundry section. You need the colors Tan and Dark Green. Add 1 tsp of tan and 1/8 tsp of dark green to your boiled water, mix it with a spoon until it's evenly colored your water. You may want to test a scrap of your sock before dipping the entire thing in to make sure you've got the desired color. Remember that the color when wet will be darker than when dry but the overall color of the dye water will be a true color to what your socks will be. If you put a

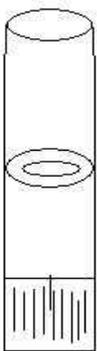
little of the water in a white spoon, you can see the color better. Choosing other socks: You can make a nice toy from most socks, however, after trying several types, you will find a style that you prefer and that's easiest to work with. Some socks have a lot more stretch than others and may stretch beyond the size you'd hoped for after stuffing, no matter the original size of the sock. I usually don't like to get those, they are usually the type that are fuzzy on the inside. I prefer to work with flat knit socks, which are smooth and flat on the inside and outside of the sock. They're much easier to sew and don't stretch so far. If a newborn sized sock stretches beyond 5 1/2 " long or wider than 2" after being stuffed, it may not fit some of the pattern pieces. If it happens that you've made a toy from a stretchy sock, you can still use the pattern pieces. Just re-size the pattern pieces by laying the pattern piece down on paper, then tracing the shape 1/4" larger than the original all the way around. (Or larger than 1/4" if needed, depending on how much your sock stretched after stuffing). Knowing this rule will also allow you to use the patterns with different sized socks.

**To make the mini elephant:** You will need both socks, one sock will become the head, body and legs of your toy. The other sock becomes the arms, nose, ears and tail of your toy.

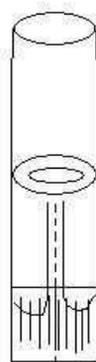
-Turn your first sock inside out, Lay your sock flat with the heel of the sock facing you, draw a line down the middle of the sock starting about 1/2" from the heel, all the way to down to the opening of the sock, this will be your guide line when sewing the legs up. With your sewing machine or hand needle/thread using your line as a guide, not sewing on the line but 1/4" on each side of the line, you will sew two separate legs. \*When sewing with machine, remember to always begin and end your stitch with a back-stitch to secure your stitches. You now have the body of the toy sewn. There is an opening between the legs in which you can now turn the sock right side out and stuff with fiberfill.

### Illustration:

Lie Sock flat with heel of sock facing you

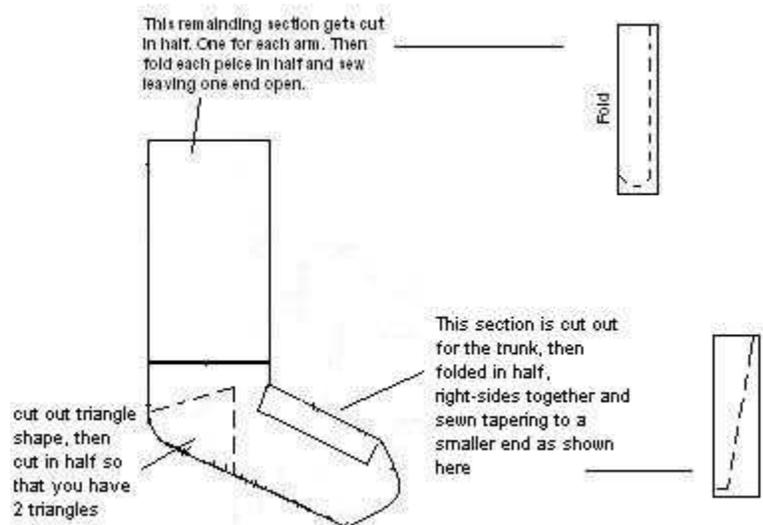


Draw a line down the middle and sew the legs on each side of line, leaving middle open for turning.



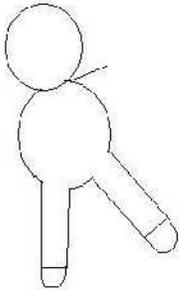
- Your other sock can be sewn/cut as shown in the illustration below. All cuts shown are going through both sides of the sock, so you're cutting the front and back at the same time. Cut out the cuff section of the sock for the arms, then cut in half, so that you have two pieces. Fold each piece in half and sew right-sides together as shown in the illustration below, then stuff. For the ears of the elephant, you will cut two triangle shapes from your sock as shown below. Then cut 2 equal sized triangles from your scrap fabrics for the inside of the elephants ears. It looks cute to have patterned fabric for the ear insides too. I used pink flannel on the one I did. Sew the sock triangle to the fabric triangle right-sides together, leaving the top section open for turning. Turn right-side out. For the elephant nose, cut out a rectangle shape from the sock as shown below, fold in half right-sides together and sew closed tapering from larger to smaller as shown on dotted lines below, then trim 1/4" from stitches. Turn right-side out and stuff, you will find an unsharpened pencil useful for stuffing small parts.

Illustration:



- Optional: The photo example shown did not have a neck, however if you prefer the look of a neck on your toys; using a piece of doubled up thread, tie around to form a neck around the top portion of the monkeys body. \*If you wanted to hide the neck string, you could do a blind stitch all the way around the string.

Illustration:



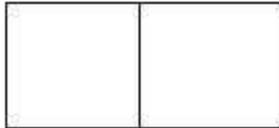
- You are now ready to sew the body opening closed and attach the parts. Use a blind stitch to close up the body opening. You will use a blind stitch to attach all parts. Begin with the nose, centering it best you can. Turn the edges of the open end inward about 1/4" and hold the nose on at an angle so that it lays down instead of sticking straight out, then blind-stitch into place. Attach the ears, making sure they are evenly spaced on each side of the head. Then the arms; turn the open end in 1/4" and attach them just below the neck line, making sure they line up with the ears on each side. For the tail, using gray embroidery thread about 7" long, fold the thread in half around a toothpick or needle, unravel the strings with a brush or comb and then put a braid in the tail about 2" long. Tie a knot at the end of the braid, leave a 1/2" of string hanging from knot and trim off any remaining length. Using the loop at the top of the tail, make a knot around the loop with a threaded needle, the thread should match your tail color. Attach the tail about an inch above the elephants bottom.
- Using black embroidery thread, embroider two small black circles for the eyes. You could also make your elephant sleeping eyes instead.

Optional: Cut a piece of ribbon and make a small bow to attach to the elephants head. Using pink threaded needle, knot the string onto the bow, then pull through pigs head, pulling the bow against the pig, weaving in and out of the bow and the pigs head, then knot to secure in place.

**Making the Diaper:** Using the White flannel fabric scrap, cut out the pattern piece. (There's 2 different sized diaper patterns depending on the size of your finished sock). Fold 1/4" hem all the way around the straight diaper edges, pinning to hold in place. I don't usually bother sewing a hem around the curved edges, since they will be tucked in around the toys legs anyway. You can machine or hand stitch folded hem leaving 1/8" seam. You can use very small pieces of Velcro on your diaper, if you want it to be removable or you can attach the diaper to the toy by putting it on and sewing the diaper fastened. Be sure to cut a small circular hole in the diaper for the tail to fit through. Attach a bow to the front of the diaper.

**Mini Security Blanket:** Optional: You can make a mini security blanket to go with the elephant. It looks sweet to personalize the blanket with an embroidered name. Attach a bow above the name. Cut out the 4 felt squares, sew together in a quilting fashion; shown below. Then lay the finished square on top of a piece of satin fabric for the back of the blanket, cutting the satin 1/2" larger than the blanket top. With right-sides together, sew 1/4" around edges, leaving a small opening to turn right-side out. Turn and close opening with blind stitch. You can attach a small piece of Velcro to the hand of the elephant and the edge of the blankie, so the elephant can hold onto the blanket.

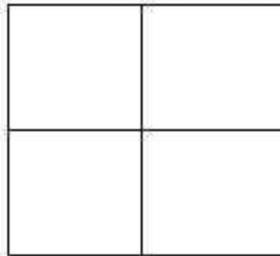
Attach first two squares



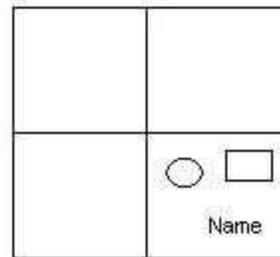
Then attach other two squares



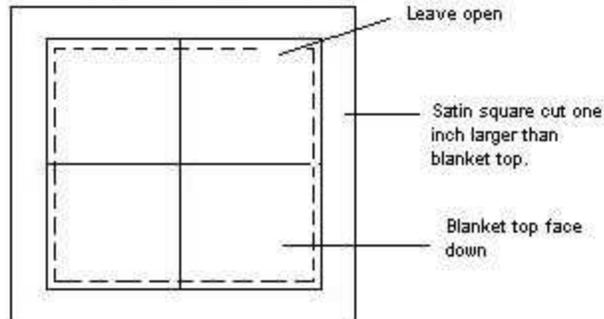
Then attach both sets together to make large square

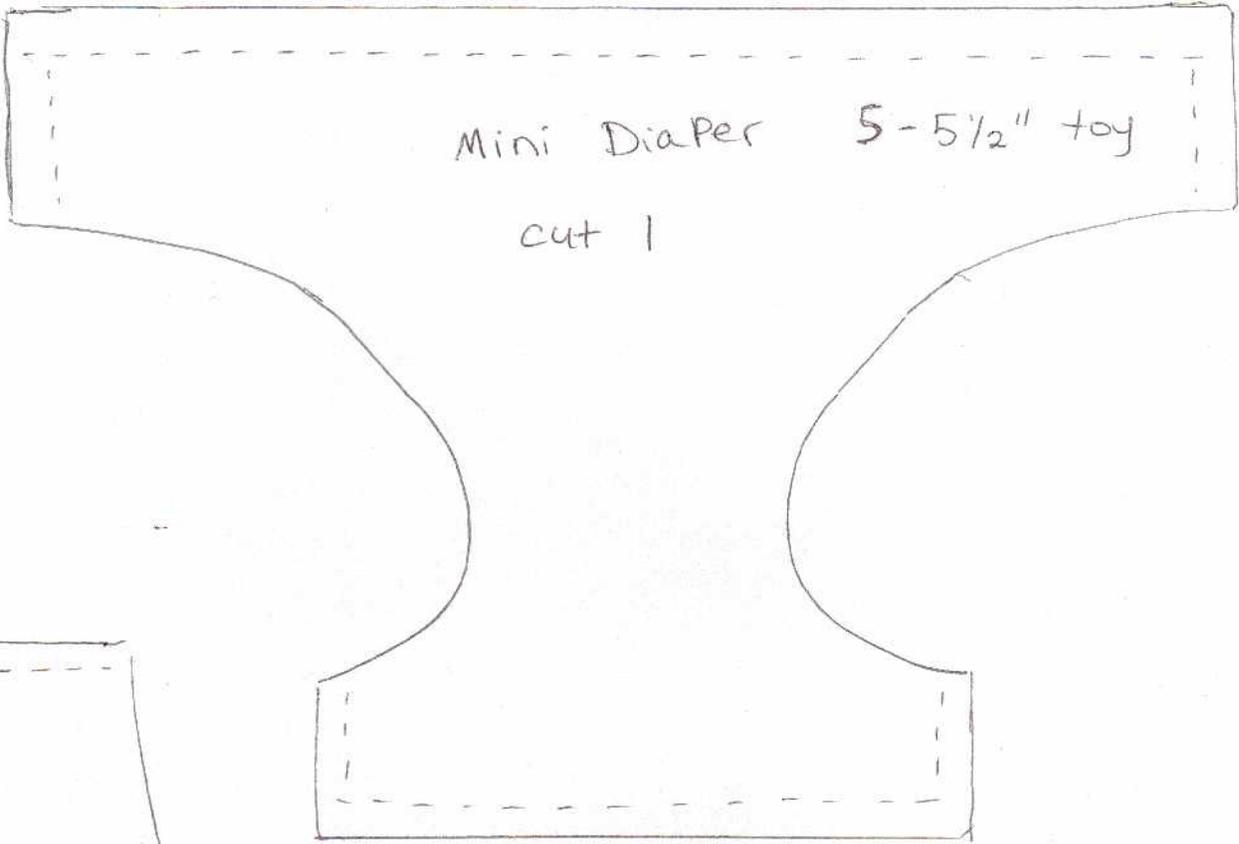


Next embroider name, add felt embellishments



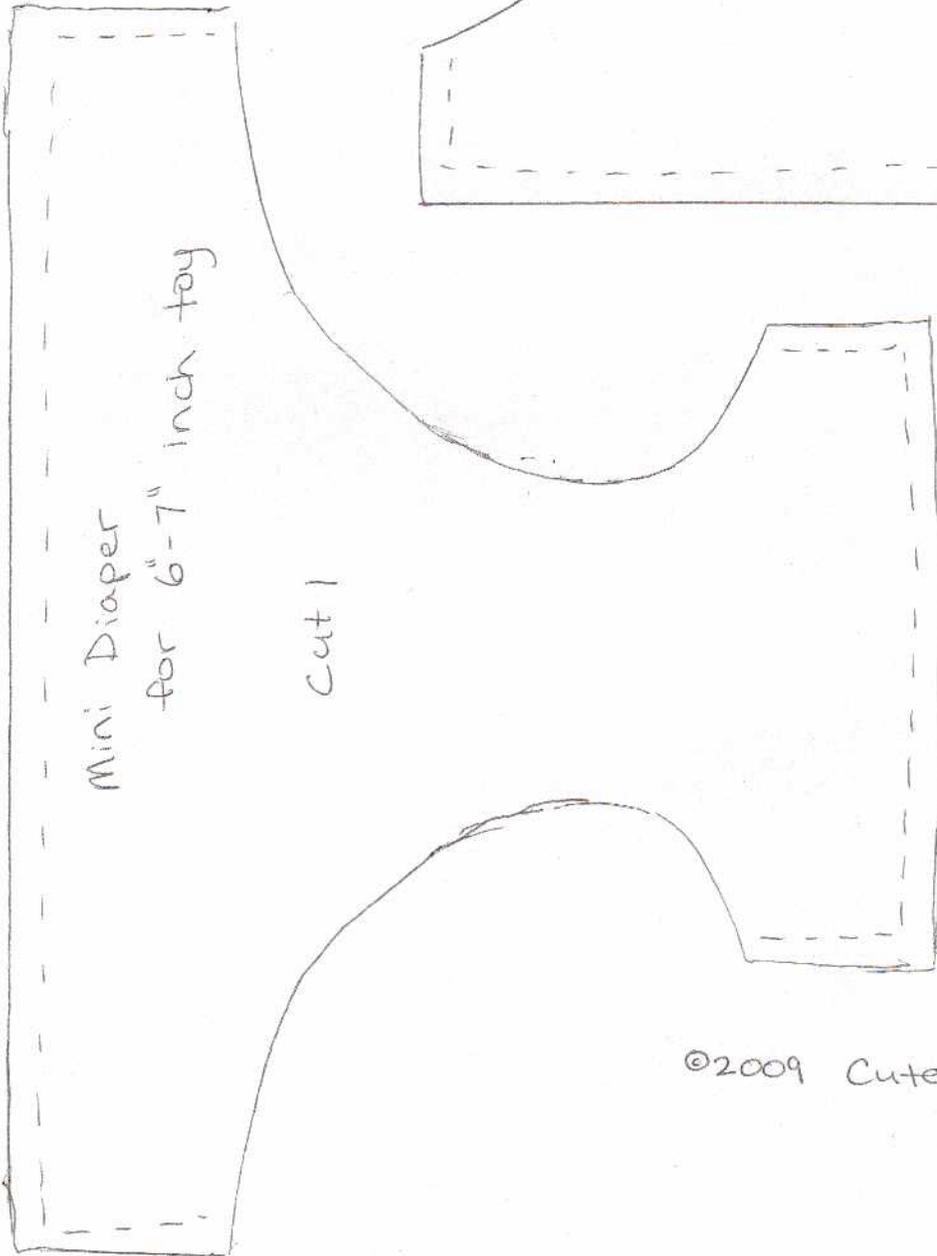
Attach satin to the back, right sides together, leaving small opening for turning





Mini Diaper 5-5 1/2" toy

cut 1



Mini Diaper  
for 6-7" inch toy

cut 1

Security Blanket Back  
cut 1 from satin

Security Blanket  
Square  
cut 4

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