

Bustle & Sew



Love to Sew and Sew with Love



Two Lovely Mice

These little mice are really easy to make – and you don't even need a sewing machine. One is offering a beautiful felt flower that's bigger than she is, whilst the other is telling her just how much he loves her. And for really quick assembly, use a glue gun for part of the project too ..



You will need:**For a single mouse body (both the same):**

12" square in light brown or other suitable colour felt for mouse fur
 2 ½" square piece of light card
 Stranded cotton floss or Perle thread in toning colour for seams
 Black cotton floss for nose and eyes
 Pink cotton floss for cheeks
 Strong brown thread for whiskers
 8" length of string for tail
 Pre-cut felt flower ¾" in size (or cut your own from a scrap of felt)
 Tiny button for centre of flower
 10" narrow ribbon for bow at neck
 Toy stuffing
 Hot glue gun (optional)
 Needle and ordinary thread

For the flower

10" length garden wire
 3 strips of felt each measuring 2" x 5" in light, medium and dark pink (or your preferred colours)
 Light green knitting yarn (approx. 3 yards)
 4" square green felt
 Hot glue gun

For the banner

Piece of brown felt measuring 4" x 1 ½"
 Scraps of felt/fabric for letters
 Black thread
 Hot glue gun

To make mouse:

- Cut out template pieces and position on felt. Cut out 1 head piece, 2 body pieces, 2 ear pieces, 4 arm pieces, 1 base and 2 feet. Cut a second base in cardboard, using the dotted line on the template as a guide.

- With right sides together and ordinary thread, stitch darts at side of head using back stitch.



- Turn right side out, and with wrong sides together join seams from nose to neck and down back of head using cross stitch. Work one direction in half-cross stitch then return and work in the opposite direction. Doing it this way gives extra strength as, if a thread breaks, it won't all unravel at once.
- Stuff the head, use very small pieces of stuffing and push well down into nose. Put head to one side for the moment.



- Place body pieces wrong sides together and stitch seams in cross stitch as before.
- Turn inside out so the wrong side is on the outside.
- Push head up inside body, aligning centre front and back seams on body with seams at front and back of head. Join head to body with your needle and thread, and back stitch, in the same way as you stitched the darts. This will give a nice smooth join on the outside so you won't have a ridge showing under the ribbon.
- Turn right side out.



- Stuff body firmly, pushing the stuffing well up into the neck area (to avoid a wobbly head!). Then stitch base into place using cross stitch. When you're half-way round slip your cardboard base into the body between the felt base and the stuffing. This will ensure your mouse has a nice flat bottom so he or she will stand up without wobbling. If you want to make sure it will be really steady you could slip a nice round pebble or bag of polybeads inside for additional weight at this stage, but it's not essential to do this.



- Push the end of the string inside at the back seam and stitch into place for the tail.
- Trim string to desired length and knot at the end to prevent fraying.
- Place the two arm pieces wrong sides together and cross stitch around edges leaving a gap at the middle bottom for stuffing (it's easier to stuff a small piece from the middle). Stuff firmly and close gap. Repeat for second arm. Put to one side for the moment.
- Sew ear darts with needle and thread using back stitch. Position ears and when you're happy with the position, stitch or glue to head.

- With black embroidery floss make a few small stitches for each eye. It's a good idea to mark the position of the eyes with pins first – try a few different positions until you're happy with how your mouse looks. Stitch over the end of the nose with black floss to make his nose.
- Use strong thread to make whiskers. Take small stitches beneath his black nose to secure whiskers in place.



- With your hot glue gun secure felt flower and button to head, arms to sides of body and feet to base. If you're not using a glue gun, then secure with small invisible stitches instead.
- Tie ribbon around neck and trim ends to suit.

To make felt flower

- Take your length of garden wire and bend over $\frac{1}{2}$ " at each end.
- Secure end of yarn into one of the loops thus created with a knot, then wrap your wire in the yarn, dotting with glue here and there to keep it in place.
- Take your strips of felt. Make 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " vertical cuts along one long edge, spacing the cuts about $\frac{1}{4}$ " apart. Repeat for all three strips so they resemble a fringe.
- Place the strips on top of each other with the darkest colour on the bottom and lightest on the top. Secure together at one short end with glue or a few small stitches, then secure this end to one of the loops on your flower stalk.

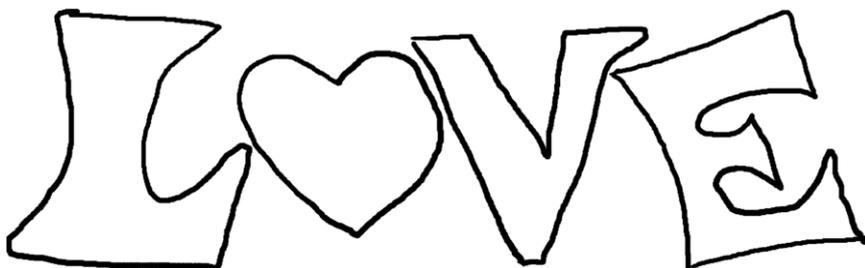
- Wrap the strips of felt round and round the loop of wire, securing with dabs of glue along the way so that they resemble a flower head. Secure the end with glue.
- Cut a piece of green felt 3" x 1" . Secure one short end to base of flower, then wrap around base to cover the join between the flower and the yarn-wrapped wire. Secure the end with a dab of glue.
- Cut leaf shapes from the green felt and secure to wire at base with glue.
- Bend stalk into realistic shape. Position between mouse front paws and glue into place. Glue the bottom of the stalk to the side of the mouse's body to hold it firmly. Fluff the felt flower head and trim if necessary.



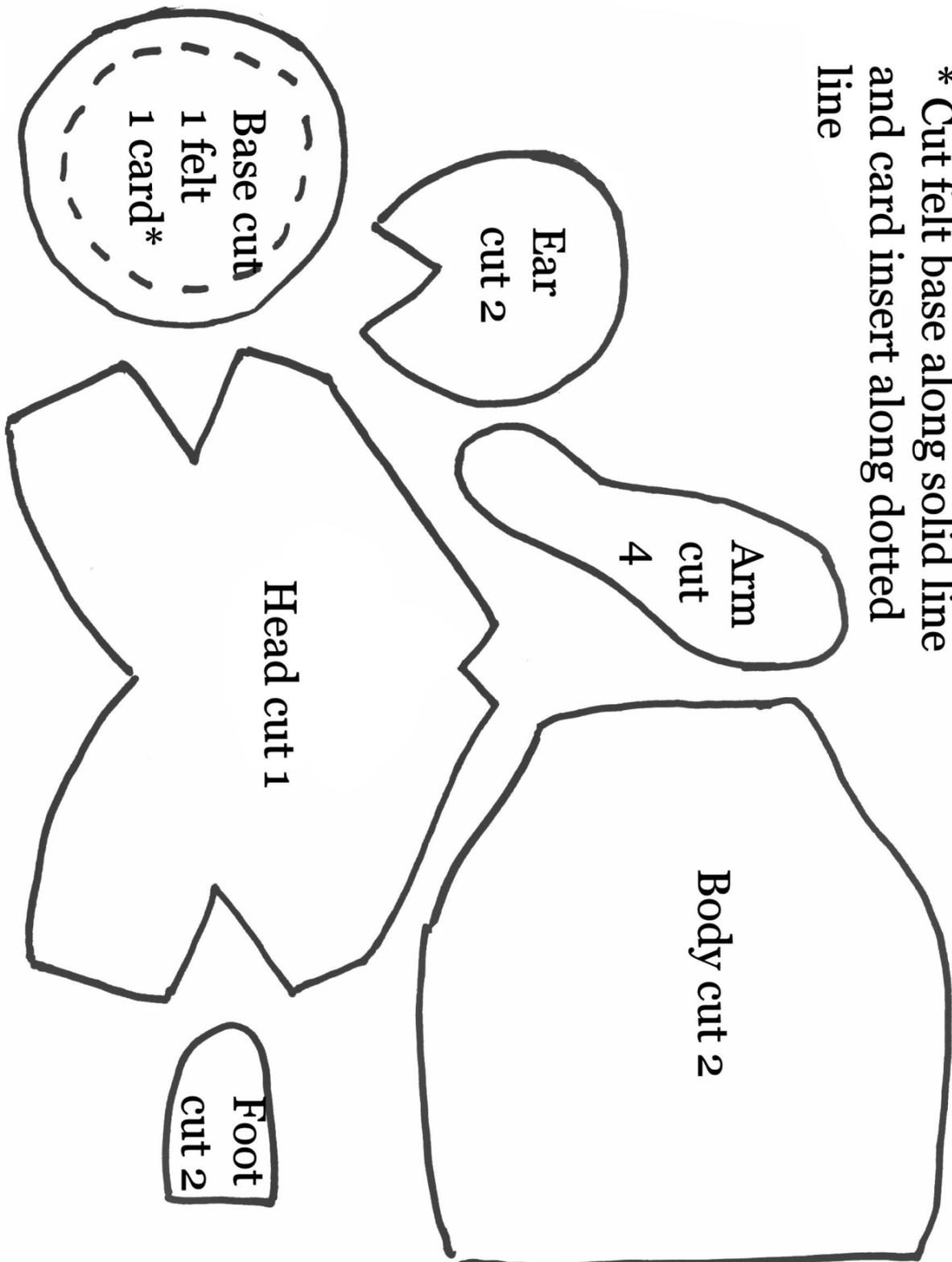
To make love banner



- If you have pinking shears use them to make a decorative edge around your piece of brown felt (this is not essential).
- Cut out your letters and stitch them onto the felt, either by machine or using a single strand of black floss and back stitch.
- Glue or stitch the back of the banner into position on the mouse's paws.
- Finished!!



* Cut felt base along solid line
and card insert along dotted
line



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