Little Mouse

Please read all instructions before beginning.

Materials

- Pattern – at end of pattern packet.
- Linen fabric
- Soft Toy Fibre Fill
- DMC embroidery cotton #839 for eyes and nose – or any other dark brown cotton.
- Blush make-up for cheeks
- Small piece of string for tail
- Fabric, lace and ribbon for dress
- Sewing machine and normal sewing supplies.

Instructions

1. Trace pattern pieces onto card to make a pattern template. Remember to label all pieces. Fold a piece of linen fabric in half and use your pattern template to trace 1 x body, 2 x legs and 2 x arms. For the ears, I used one layer of natural linen laid over a layer of pale pink linen and traced 2 ears. Please note: you will be sewing on the actual traced lines.
Note: When stitching soft toys, I used a strong cotton and small stitch length. Ideally, if you have a triple straight stitch on your machine, use that as it reinforces the seam. Alternatively, you may wish to re-sew your seams twice or even three times to make them durable.

2. Stitch around the outside of the mouse pieces leaving the mouse bottom and the tops of the arms and legs open for stuffing.

3. Clip seams where necessary and press seam allowances before you turn the pieces right side out. When all pieces are turned right side out, fold the fabric inward on the closures for arms and bottom of mouse body. Press. This may seem silly, but make sure your mouse arms are the same length when you press the closure in place…. I’ve made this mistake before!

4. Stuff all body parts with toy fibrefill.

Note: Remember to use small wads of stuffing to prevent bunching. We don’t want our mouse to look like it has cellulite!! My tool of choice for stuffing is an old wooden chopstick with a narrow point at one end and a larger flat end at the other. For the arms and legs, I like to make the stuffing quite firm at the end (hands and feet) with almost no stuffing in the last third. Your arms and legs will sit better this way.

Pin your legs into the cavity of the body, ensuring that they are equal in length. I used less stuffing at the top of the legs and at the base of the mouse. Stitch the cavity closed with small, neat hand stitches.

Position the arms in place and pin to secure. Hand stitch arms to body.

5. Use a doll needle (perhaps not as big as the one I used) and 3 strands of your DMC thread to make a French knot for each eye and to stitch a triangular nose and mouth. I entered my needle under the mouse arm and exited there too. The knot will be hidden in the crease of the arm.

6. Blush cheeks with a little blush powder.

7. I made a cute little tail with a little piece of string…. about 4 ½” (12 cm) long. I knotted one end and stitched that end to the mouse’s rear.

8. Little Mouse is now finished… now you can dress her anyway you want. I stitched a small piece of gathered chiffon around her mid section and finished off with a delicate piece of lace over the top. Enjoy!!