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How to Sew a Quilted Lion: Complete Step-by-Step Tutorial

This quilted lion sewing tutorial will guide you from cutting the pattern pieces to finishing a soft handmade lion with a colorful fabric mane, felt details, quilting stitches, and optional stuffing. The finished size is approximately 24 cm high x 21 cm wide, or about 9.5 inches high x 8.25 inches wide.



HOW TO SEW A QUILTED LION

♥ A Step-by-Step Guide ♥

Finished Size: 24 cm (H) x 21 cm (W)

This adorable quilted lion is made with fabric scraps, felt, and basic sewing techniques with a quilt (US style) touch.

All measurements are in centimeters (cm).

MATERIALS

- Cotton fabric (various colors and prints)
- Felt: yellow, orange, white, black
- Quilting cotton for body and back
- Thread (matching colors)
- Embroidery floss: black
- Batting (quilt batting)
- Fabric glue (optional)
- Hand sewing needle
- Sewing machine
- Pins, fabric scissors
- Disappearing fabric marker
- Quilting ruler

FINISHED SIZE

24 cm (H) x 21 cm (W)



PATTERN PIECES (include 0.7 cm seam allowance)



STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

1 CUTTING

Cut all pieces according to the pattern above. From the batting, cut:

- Head: 12 cm circle
- Body: 19 cm x 16 cm

2 MAKE THE MANE

Take 24 petal pieces (6.5 cm x 2.5 cm). Fold each petal in half lengthwise with right sides together. Sew along the curved edge (0.7 cm). Turn right side out and press.

3 ATTACH MANE TO HEAD

Arrange petals around the head circle evenly. Pin in place. Using a blanket stitch, sew the mane petals to the head.

4 ADD FACE DETAILS

Appliqué or glue and stitch the inner ear, muzzle, nose and eyes. Embroider whiskers and mouth using black embroidery floss.

5 PREPARE THE BODY

Place batting behind the body front piece. Quilt as desired (e.g., outline the legs, add texture lines).

6 ASSEMBLE HEAD TO BODY

Pin the finished head to the body front. Sew around the base of the head to secure.

7 MAKE THE TAIL

Fold the tail strip in half lengthwise, sew along the long edge, turn right side out. Attach the tail tip and stitch. Pin the tail to the body and sew.

8 FRONT & BACK ASSEMBLY

Place body back piece with right sides together with the front. Pin all around. Sew leaving a 6-8 cm opening at the bottom.

9 TURN & STUFF (OPTIONAL)

Turn the lion right side out through the opening. Gently shape the edges. Stuff lightly if you want more dimension.

10 HAND STITCH CLOSED

Hand stitch the opening closed using a ladder stitch.

11 FINAL TOUCHES

Add paw pads with small stitches if desired. Press lightly.

QUILT (US STYLE) TIPS

- Use 0.7 cm seam allowance.
- Press seams open or to one side.
- Use a walking foot for quilting through batting.
- Blanket stitch gives a handcrafted look.
- Mix prints for a scrappy, cheerful mane!

SEWING & QUILTING METHODS USED

1. STITCH & SEAM

Straight stitch
0.7 cm seam allowance

2. TURN RIGHT SIDE OUT

3. BLANKET STITCH
(Edge Appliqué)

4. LADDER STITCH
(Hidden Closure)

5. QUILTING
(Outline Stitching)

6. APPLIQUÉ

CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Spot clean with mild soap
- Do not bleach
- Iron low (if needed)
- Store in a dry place

YOU DID IT! ♥

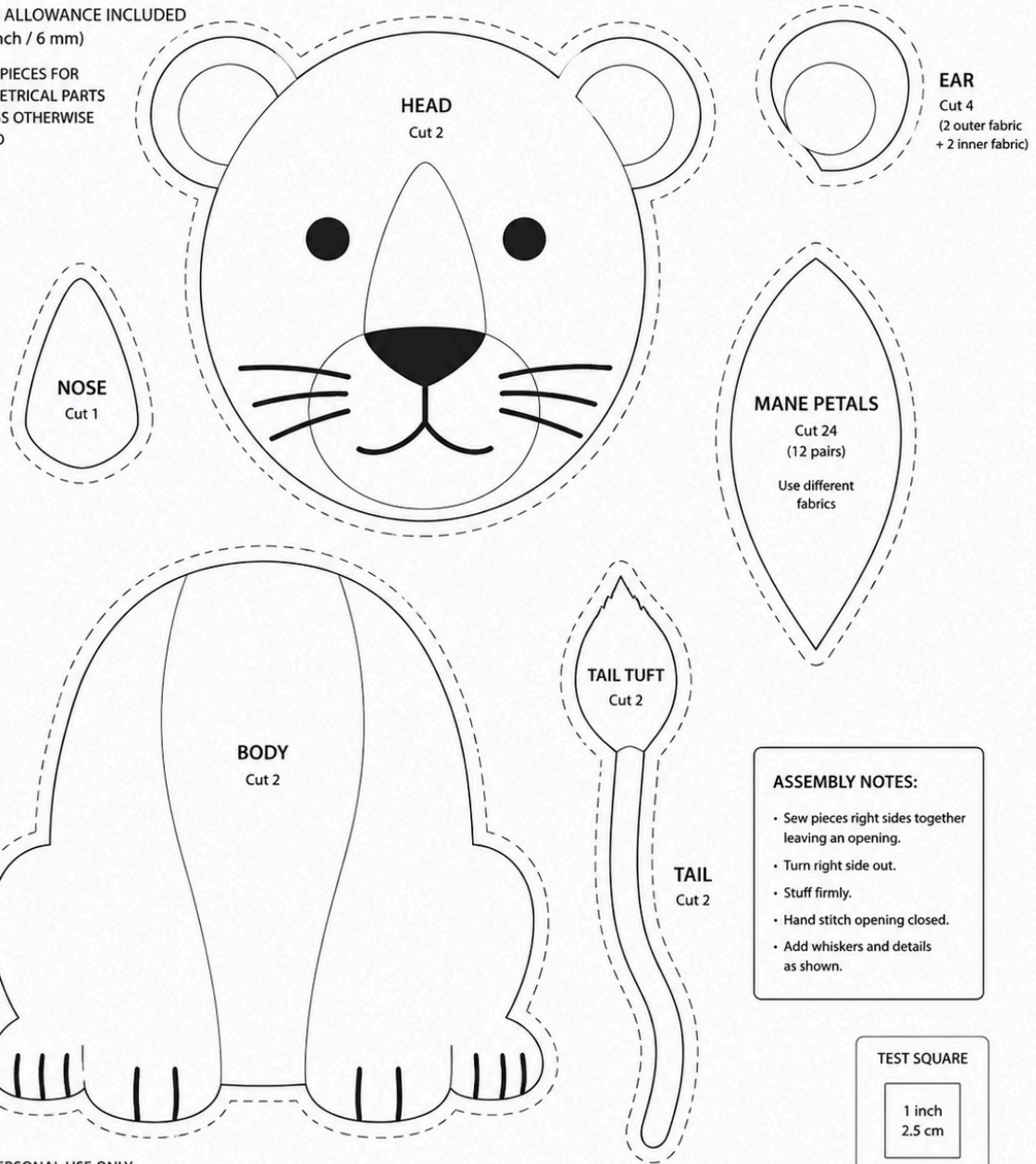
Enjoy your handmade quilted lion!



LION STUFFED TOY PATTERN

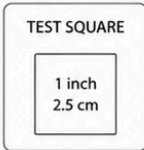
SEAM ALLOWANCE INCLUDED
(1/4 inch / 6 mm)

CUT 2 PIECES FOR
SYMMETRICAL PARTS
UNLESS OTHERWISE
NOTED



FOR PERSONAL USE ONLY
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- ASSEMBLY NOTES:**
- Sew pieces right sides together leaving an opening.
 - Turn right side out.
 - Stuff firmly.
 - Hand stitch opening closed.
 - Add whiskers and details as shown.



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Materials You Will Need

To make this quilted lion, gather the following supplies:

Cotton fabric scraps in various colors and prints for the mane

Yellow felt for the head, ears, body front, and tail

White felt for the face muzzle

Orange felt for the inner ears

Black felt for the nose

Quilting cotton for the body back

Quilt batting

Matching thread colors

Black embroidery floss

Fabric glue, optional

Hand sewing needle

Sewing machine

Pins or clips

Fabric scissors

Disappearing fabric marker

Quilting ruler

Iron

Finished Size and Seam Allowance

The finished lion measures approximately 24 cm high x 21 cm wide.

Use a 0.7 cm seam allowance throughout the project unless stated otherwise.

Press seams gently as you work, using low heat when working with felt.

Pattern Pieces to Cut

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Cut the following pieces:

Head: 1 yellow felt circle, 12 cm x 12 cm

Ears: 2 yellow felt pieces, 4.5 cm x 4.5 cm

Inner ears: 2 orange felt pieces, 2.5 cm x 2.5 cm

Face muzzle: 1 white felt piece, 5.5 cm x 4 cm

Nose: 1 black felt piece, 3 cm x 2 cm

Body front: 1 yellow felt piece, 19 cm x 16 cm

Body back: 1 quilting cotton piece, 19 cm x 16 cm

Mane petals: 24 fabric pieces, 6.5 cm x 2.5 cm

Tail: 1 yellow felt strip, 18 cm x 1.5 cm

Tail tip: 1 teal fabric piece, 4.5 cm x 3.5 cm

From quilt batting, cut:

Head batting: 1 circle, 12 cm

Body batting: 1 piece, 19 cm x 16 cm

Step 1: Cut All Pieces

Begin by cutting every piece according to the measurements listed above.

Use sharp fabric scissors for clean edges. For the mane petals, choose a mix of cheerful prints such as florals, checks, stripes, dots, and small patchwork fabrics.

Mark any quilting lines lightly with a disappearing fabric marker.

Keep the pieces organized by section: head, face, body, mane, ears, and tail.

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Step 2: Make the Colorful Mane

Take the 24 mane petal pieces, each measuring 6.5 cm x 2.5 cm.

Fold each petal in half lengthwise with the right sides together.

Sew along the curved edge using a 0.7 cm seam allowance.

Turn each petal right side out.

Press gently so the petals lie flat, but do not flatten them too much. A little dimension makes the lion's mane look fuller and more handmade.

Step 3: Attach the Mane to the Head

Place the yellow felt head circle right side up.

Arrange the 24 mane petals around the outside edge of the head. Space them evenly, alternating colors and prints for a scrappy, cheerful look.

Pin or clip the petals in place.

Using a blanket stitch or a secure straight stitch, sew the mane petals to the head.

Make sure the raw ends of the petals are hidden behind the head circle.

Step 4: Add the Face Details

Attach the two yellow ears near the top sides of the lion's head.

Add the orange inner ears on top of the yellow ears. You can sew them by hand, machine stitch them, or use fabric glue.

Place the white muzzle on the lower center of the face.

Add the black nose above the muzzle.

Place the eyes evenly on both sides of the face. Use black felt circles, buttons, or embroidery.

Embroider the mouth and whiskers using black embroidery floss.

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Step 5: Prepare the Quilted Body

Place the body batting behind the yellow felt body front.

Pin the layers together.

Using your disappearing fabric marker, draw simple quilting lines on the body. You can make vertical lines, curved lines around the legs, or gentle texture lines.

Sew along the marked lines using a straight stitch.

This quilting gives the lion body a soft handmade texture and helps secure the batting.

Step 6: Assemble the Head to the Body

Place the finished head on top of the body front.

Center it carefully so the mane sits evenly and the face looks balanced.

Pin the lower part of the head to the upper body.

Sew around the base of the head to attach it securely to the body.

Use matching yellow thread or decorative hand stitching for a handmade finish.

Step 7: Make the Tail

Fold the yellow tail strip in half lengthwise.

Sew along the long edge.

Turn the tail right side out carefully.

Attach the teal tail tip to one end of the tail.

You can stitch around the tail tip with a blanket stitch for a decorative look.

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Pin the finished tail to the side of the lion body and sew it securely in place.

Step 8: Join the Front and Back Body Pieces

Place the body back piece right sides together with the finished front body piece.

Make sure the head, mane, and tail are tucked safely inside and away from the seam line.

Pin all the way around the body.

Sew around the outside edge using a 0.7 cm seam allowance.

Leave a 6–8 cm opening at the bottom for turning.

Step 9: Turn and Stuff the Lion

Turn the lion right side out through the bottom opening.

Use your fingers or a turning tool to gently shape the legs, sides, and head area.

Stuffing is optional.

For a flatter quilted lion, leave it lightly padded.

For a plush-style lion, add a small amount of fiberfill inside the body.

Do not overstuff, because the quilted texture should still show.

Step 10: Hand Stitch the Opening Closed

Fold the raw edges of the opening inward.

Pin or hold the opening closed.

Use a ladder stitch to close the bottom neatly by hand.

Pull the thread gently so the stitches disappear into the seam.

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Knot securely and hide the thread tail inside the lion.

Step 11: Add Final Details

Add paw pads or small stitch lines on the feet if desired.

Use black embroidery floss to create simple claw lines.

Check the mane and adjust any petals if needed.

Press the lion lightly with low heat.

Avoid pressing directly on embroidery, glue, or delicate fabric prints.

Sewing and Quilting Techniques Used

This project uses several simple sewing methods:

Straight stitch: used for seams and basic construction.

Blanket stitch: used for decorative edge appliqué.

Ladder stitch: used to close the bottom opening invisibly.

Quilting stitch: used to add texture to the body.

Appliqué: used to attach the face, ears, nose, and details.

Turning right side out: used to finish the stuffed or lightly padded body.

Care Instructions

Spot clean with mild soap.

Do not bleach.

Iron on low heat only if needed.

Store in a dry place.

Because this is a handmade fabric project, avoid machine washing unless all fabrics and threads were prewashed and securely stitched.

Final Result

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Your handmade quilted lion is now complete 🦁❤️

This project is perfect for using fabric scraps, practicing basic quilting, and creating a charming handmade decoration, nursery piece, gift, or soft sewing collectible.