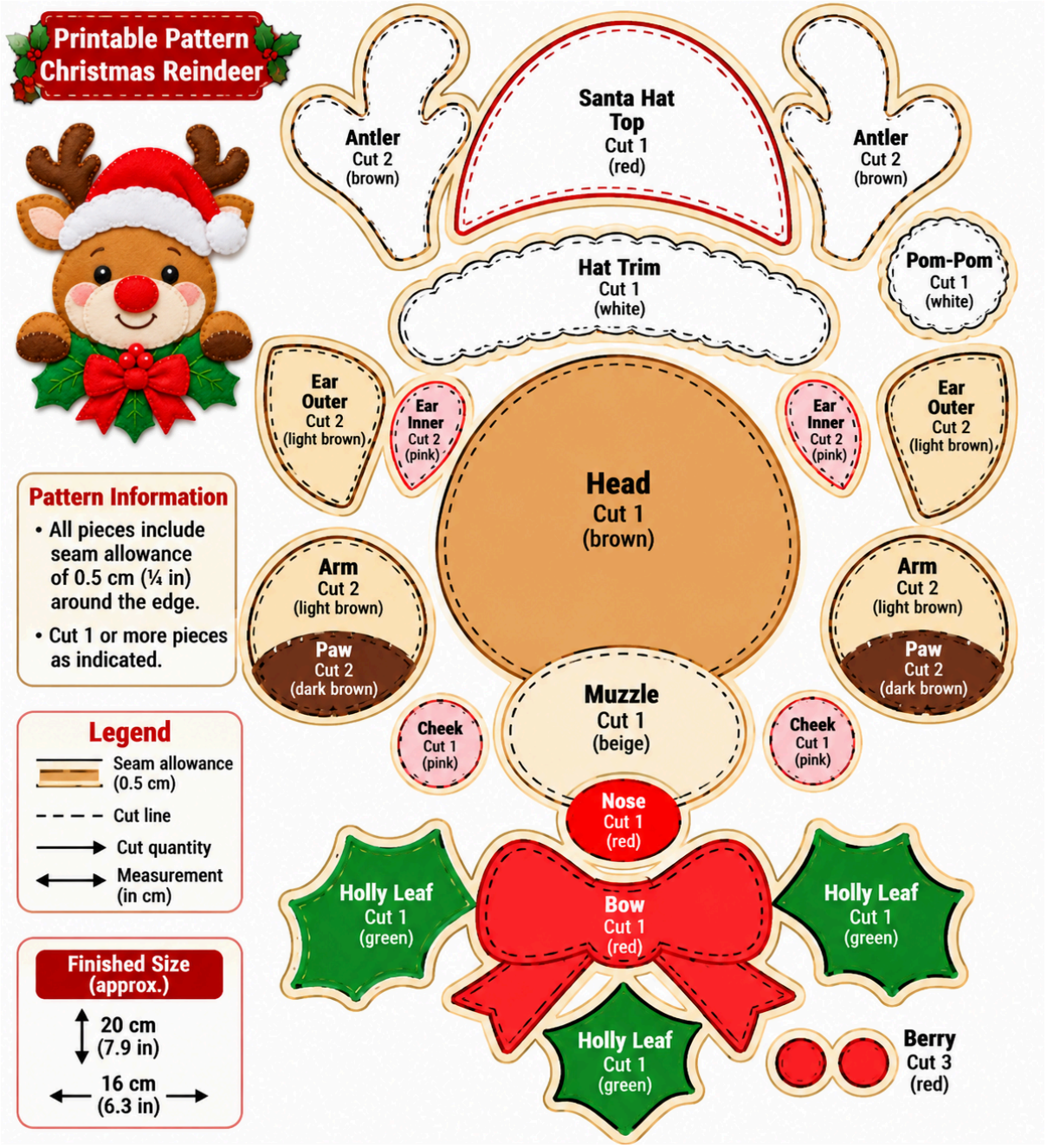
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Felt Reindeer Christmas Ornament – Complete Step-by-Step Sewing Tutorial



Create an adorable Felt Reindeer Christmas Ornament featuring a cheerful reindeer face, a traditional red Santa hat, soft brown antlers, embroidered holly leaves, and a beautiful

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red Christmas bow. This handmade decoration is perfect for Christmas trees, holiday wreaths, festive wall decorations, or thoughtful homemade gifts.

This complete felt sewing tutorial follows the illustrated pattern, including the original measurements, materials, embroidery techniques, assembly sequence, and finishing details. The instructions use familiar American sewing terminology, with all measurements provided in centimeters (cm).

The finished ornament measures approximately 20 cm tall and 17 cm wide, including its antlers, ears, and decorative elements. The project uses simple hand-sewing methods, making it suitable for beginners who want to practice blanket stitch, backstitch, and decorative embroidery.

Step 1: Gather Your Materials and Prepare the Felt Pieces ✂️

Before beginning your Christmas reindeer sewing project, organize your supplies and choose coordinating felt colors.

Materials Needed

- Light brown craft felt for the head, ears, and paws.
- Cream-colored felt for the muzzle.
- Dark brown felt for the antlers and paw tips.
- Red felt for the Santa hat, nose, bow, and berries.
- White felt for the hat trim and pom-pom.
- Green felt for the holly leaves.
- Pink felt for the cheeks.
- Beige or light pink felt for the inner ears.
- Black felt scraps or black embroidery floss for the eyes.
- Brown, green, white, and red embroidery floss.
- Polyester fiberfill for stuffing.

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- Hand-sewing needle.
- Fabric scissors.
- Straight pins or sewing clips.
- Fabric marker or tailor's chalk.
- Paper for making the pattern.
- Optional: ribbon or embroidery floss for a hanging loop.

Use craft felt approximately 1.5–2 mm thick. For the main colors, felt sheets measuring approximately 30 × 45 cm provide a convenient starting size, although smaller scraps are sufficient for many details.

Pattern Pieces and Measurements

The following measurements correspond to the pieces shown in the tutorial graphic.

Pattern piece	Measurement	Quantity
Head	13 cm diameter	2
Muzzle	9.5 × 6 cm	1
Antlers	7 × 6.5 cm	4
Outer ears	5 × 4 cm	2

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Inner ears	**3.5 × 2.5 cm**	**2**
Santa hat	**13 × 8.5 cm**	**1**
White hat trim	**14 × 3.5 cm**	**1**
Pom-pom	**3.5 cm diameter**	**2**
Nose	**3.5 cm diameter**	**1**
Cheeks	**2.5 cm diameter**	**2**
Paws	**4.5 cm diameter**	**2**
Paw tips	**4.5 × 2.5 cm**	**2**
Holly leaves	**8 × 4.5 cm**	**3**

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Christmas bow	8.5 × 5 cm	2
Bow center	2 cm diameter	1
Red berries	1.2 cm diameter	3

Important sewing note: The graphic specifies a 0.5 cm seam allowance. When drawing your own templates, treat the listed dimensions as the intended cutting dimensions and mark the stitching line approximately 0.5 cm inside the edges where needed. Felt pieces joined with decorative blanket stitch can retain their visible cut edges. For appliqué details, stitch close to the edges instead of folding them under.

Preparing the Paper Templates

Draw each pattern piece onto paper, following the shapes and measurements in the graphic.

For the head, draw a circle measuring 13 cm across. For the ears, draw rounded leaf-like shapes with slightly pointed ends. Create branching antlers with three rounded tips, matching the illustration.

The Santa hat should have a rounded lower edge and a gently curved, pointed upper shape. The white trim is a long, scalloped strip that follows the bottom of the hat.

Draw the holly leaves with pointed lobes, and make the bow with rounded upper loops and two decorative ribbon tails.

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Cut out the paper templates carefully.

Place each template on the corresponding felt color, trace around it using a removable fabric marker, and cut out the required number of pieces.

Keep the pieces organized by color and construction stage. This will make the assembly process much easier.

Step 2: Sew the Reindeer Face and Embroider the Details 🦌

The reindeer's face is the central feature of the ornament. Carefully positioning the muzzle, nose, cheeks, and eyes will give your decoration a friendly Christmas expression.

Attach the Cream Muzzle

Take one light brown head circle and place it on a flat surface.

Position the cream muzzle horizontally across the lower half of the head, leaving enough space above it for the eyes and eyebrows.

Secure the muzzle with pins or a few temporary stitches.

Thread your needle with cream or light brown embroidery floss.

Use blanket stitch to attach the muzzle around its entire edge.

To make a blanket stitch:

1. **Bring the needle from the back of the fabric to the front, close to the edge.**
2. **Insert the needle a short distance along the edge and slightly inward.**
3. **Keep the working thread under the needle as you pull it through.**

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4. Tighten gently to create a small loop along the fabric edge.
5. Repeat at regular intervals to produce a neat decorative border.

Keep your stitches approximately 0.3–0.5 cm apart, adjusting the spacing around curves.

Add the Reindeer's Eyes

Place two small black oval eyes above the muzzle, one on each side of the face.

The eyes should be evenly spaced and positioned symmetrically.

You may cut the eyes from black felt and sew them in place using tiny stitches, or embroider them using satin stitch.

For a lively expression, add a tiny white highlight near the upper corner of each eye.

Secure all threads on the back of the front head piece.

Sew the Red Nose

Take the red felt circle measuring 3.5 cm in diameter.

Position it near the upper center of the cream muzzle, slightly overlapping the area between the eyes and mouth.

Use red embroidery floss to attach the nose with small blanket stitches.

For a slightly raised nose, place a very small amount of polyester fiberfill underneath the felt before completing the stitching.

Avoid overstuffing, because the nose should remain rounded and smooth rather than forming a hard lump.

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Attach the Pink Cheeks

Place one pink felt circle on each side of the cream muzzle.

Position them slightly below the eyes and beside the red nose.

Attach the circles using small, evenly spaced blanket stitches with pink or cream embroidery floss.

Make sure both cheeks are at approximately the same height.

Embroider the Mouth and Eyebrows

Thread your needle with dark brown embroidery floss.

Use backstitch to create a curved, smiling mouth beneath the nose.

Begin at one corner of the smile and work toward the opposite side, following a gentle upward curve.

For backstitch, bring the needle forward one stitch length, insert it backward at the end of the previous stitch, and bring it up again farther along the marked line.

This technique produces a continuous embroidered line.

Add two short, curved eyebrows above the eyes using the same stitch.

The eyebrows should follow the cheerful expression shown in the graphic.

Once the face is complete, examine the placement of all the features before moving on to the remaining components.

Step 3: Make the Santa Hat, Antlers, Ears, and Paws 🎅

These separate felt pieces add dimension and personality to the handmade reindeer ornament.

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Create the Red Santa Hat

Take the red hat piece measuring 13 × 8.5 cm.

Position the white scalloped trim across its lower edge.

Allow the trim to follow the curved shape of the hat naturally.

Pin the white trim in place.

Using white embroidery floss, attach it with blanket stitch, following the decorative scalloped edge.

For a soft, raised appearance, you may place a very thin layer of fiberfill beneath the white trim before sewing it down.

Next, take the two white pom-pom circles.

Place a tiny amount of fiberfill between them and sew around their edges with blanket stitch.

Attach the finished pom-pom to the pointed end of the Santa hat.

Set the completed hat aside.

Sew the Dark Brown Antlers

Take the four dark brown antler pieces.

Arrange them into two matching pairs, with the corresponding pieces aligned.

Sew each pair together using brown embroidery floss and blanket stitch.

Follow the rounded branches carefully, keeping the stitches evenly spaced.

If desired, insert a very small amount of fiberfill into the wider base of each antler before closing the stitching.

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Do not add excessive stuffing to the narrow branches.

Repeat the process for the second antler.

You should now have two matching dark brown antlers.

Prepare the Ears

Take the two light brown outer ear pieces.

Position one smaller beige or light pink inner ear piece in the center of each outer ear.

Make sure a visible border of light brown felt remains around the inner ear.

Attach the inner pieces using small blanket stitches or a neat running stitch.

For additional definition, add a few decorative stitches along the inner ear edges.

The finished ears should have rounded bases and slightly pointed outer ends.

Make the Reindeer Paws

Take the two light brown paw circles, each measuring 4.5 cm in diameter.

Position one dark brown paw tip across the lower portion of each circle.

The dark brown piece should form a rounded hoof-like section.

Sew the dark brown felt to the light brown circle using blanket stitch.

Use dark brown embroidery floss to create a visible decorative border.

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Repeat for the second paw.

The two paws should match in shape and size.

If you want a little extra thickness, add a small backing piece cut to match each finished paw and sew around the outer edge. This is an optional reinforcement; the illustrated pattern uses the two main paw circles with their dark brown overlays.

Step 4: Create the Holly Leaves, Christmas Bow, and Berries 🌿

The green holly leaves and bright red bow give the ornament its traditional Christmas appearance.

Cut and Prepare the Holly Leaves

Take the three green felt holly leaves, each measuring approximately 8 × 4.5 cm.

Check that their pointed edges are smooth and symmetrical.

Thread your needle with green embroidery floss in a lighter shade than the felt.

Use straight stitch to embroider a central vein down each leaf.

Begin near the base of the leaf and stitch toward its tip.

Next, add smaller diagonal veins extending outward from the center toward the leaf points.

Keep the embroidery lines simple and evenly spaced.

Repeat on all three leaves.

Assemble the Red Christmas Bow

Take the two red bow pieces measuring 8.5 × 5 cm.

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The illustration shows a decorative bow with two rounded upper loops and ribbon tails pointing downward.

Arrange the pieces to create this shape.

Overlap them slightly at the center.

Use red embroidery floss to secure the overlapping sections.

Add small blanket stitches around the visible edges of the bow for a finished appearance.

Position the small red bow center, measuring 2 cm in diameter, over the middle.

Sew it in place with small stitches.

For a raised center, insert a tiny amount of fiberfill beneath the circular felt piece before closing it.

Prepare the Red Berries

Cut three red felt circles measuring approximately 1.2 cm in diameter.

These small circles will form the decorative berry cluster above the bow.

You may leave them flat or add a tiny amount of stuffing for a slightly rounded effect.

If making raised berries, work small gathering stitches around the edge of each circle, add a little fiberfill, and pull the thread gently to form a rounded shape.

Secure the thread on the back.

Set the finished bow, holly leaves, and berries aside until the final assembly.

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Step 5: Assemble the Head and Add the Polyester Stuffing 🧵

Now that the decorative components are prepared, begin constructing the main body of the ornament.

Position the Ears and Antlers

Lay the completed front head piece face up.

Position the antlers behind the upper part of the head, one on each side.

The antler branches should extend upward and outward.

Place the ears below the antlers, angled slightly outward.

Check the arrangement against the finished ornament shown in the graphic.

Once you are satisfied with the placement, secure the base of each antler and ear using several small hand stitches.

These stitches should remain hidden behind the head.

Attach the Santa Hat

Place the completed Santa hat over the upper portion of the reindeer face.

The red hat should cover the upper forehead, while the white scalloped trim rests above the eyes.

Angle the pointed end slightly toward one side.

The white pom-pom should extend near the ear.

Sew the hat in place using small, discreet stitches along the lower edge and selected points around the sides.

Be careful not to cover the eyes or eyebrows.

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Add the Back Head Piece

Turn the decorated front head piece face down on a clean work surface.

Position the second light brown head circle behind it, aligning the outer edges.

The bases of the ears and antlers should be sandwiched between the two head layers wherever possible.

Secure the layers with sewing clips or pins.

If you plan to hang the ornament, prepare a ribbon loop approximately 12–15 cm long, fold it in half, and insert its ends between the head layers at the top, behind the hat.

Secure the ribbon ends with several strong stitches.

Sew Around the Head

Thread your needle with light brown embroidery floss.

Begin sewing around the outer edge of the head using blanket stitch.

Work slowly, maintaining consistent stitch spacing.

When sewing near the ears and antlers, pass the needle through their bases to reinforce the attachments.

Continue around the head, leaving an opening approximately 4–5 cm wide along the lower edge.

Do not close the opening yet.

Stuff the Ornament

Insert small amounts of polyester fiberfill through the opening.

Distribute the stuffing evenly throughout the head.

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Gently push the filling toward the upper and side areas using your fingers or the blunt end of a suitable tool.

The head should feel soft and slightly rounded.

Avoid adding too much stuffing, as excessive filling may distort the circular shape or pull the blanket stitches apart.

Once the desired shape is achieved, close the remaining opening with blanket stitch.

Secure the thread with a small knot on the back of the ornament.

Step 6: Attach the Paws, Holly Leaves, Bow, and Berries 🎀

This stage brings together all the decorative pieces and completes the festive appearance.

Attach the Paws

Position the two finished paws near the lower left and right sides of the reindeer head.

The paws should extend outward slightly, as shown in the graphic.

Arrange them symmetrically.

Use strong brown embroidery floss to attach each paw to the head.

Sew through the back of the paw and the head fabric, keeping the stitches as inconspicuous as possible.

Reinforce each attachment with several stitches.

Make sure the paws are securely fastened before continuing.

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Arrange the Holly Leaves

Position the three embroidered holly leaves along the lower edge of the reindeer head.

Place one leaf near the center, pointing downward.

Arrange the remaining two leaves diagonally toward the left and right sides.

The leaves should overlap slightly, creating a balanced cluster.

Pin them in place temporarily.

Use green embroidery floss to sew the bases of the leaves to the ornament.

A few small stitches along the overlapping areas will help keep the leaves flat and secure.

Attach the Christmas Bow

Position the finished red bow over the center of the holly leaves.

The bow should cover the points where the leaves overlap.

Make sure the ribbon tails extend downward and outward.

Use red embroidery floss to sew the bow firmly in place.

Pass the needle through the center of the bow and into the underlying felt layers.

Repeat several times to strengthen the attachment.

Avoid pulling the thread too tightly, as this may flatten the bow.

Add the Three Red Berries

Arrange the three small red berries above the bow.

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Create a triangular cluster, with the berries close together.

Sew each berry securely to the green felt or the underlying ornament.

Keep the stitches hidden as much as possible.

The bright red berries should contrast beautifully with the embroidered green holly leaves.

Step 7: Finish the Edges and Check the Ornament

Before considering your felt reindeer Christmas ornament complete, inspect the stitching and make any necessary adjustments.

Check the Blanket Stitch

Look closely at the outer edges of the head, antlers, paws, Santa hat, and decorative pieces.

The blanket stitches should be evenly spaced and securely fastened.

If you notice loose areas, reinforce them with additional stitches.

Trim any excess thread carefully.

Check the Embroidered Details

Examine the reindeer's face.

Make sure the eyes, eyebrows, mouth, cheeks, and nose are securely attached.

Check that the green leaf veins remain visible and that the bow is centered.

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If necessary, add a few small stitches to keep the decorative elements in their intended positions.

Adjust the Stuffing

Gently press the stuffed head between your hands to distribute the fiberfill evenly.

The ornament should have a soft, rounded shape without large lumps.

Avoid pressing too firmly against the embroidered face.

Secure the Hanging Loop

If you added a hanging loop, gently pull it to test its strength.

The loop should support the ornament without loosening the stitching.

If necessary, reinforce the attachment from the back.

If the ornament is intended as a wall decoration rather than a Christmas tree ornament, you can use a slightly longer ribbon loop.

Final Appearance

Your completed reindeer should feature:

- **A soft, rounded light brown head with a cream muzzle.**
- **Black eyes, pink cheeks, a red nose, and a smiling embroidered mouth.**
- **Two dark brown antlers and two light brown ears.**
- **A red Santa hat with white scalloped trim and a pom-pom.**
- **Two small paws with dark brown tips.**
- **Three embroidered green holly leaves.**
- **A red Christmas bow with three decorative berries.**

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The finished ornament should measure approximately 20 cm high and 17 cm wide, although the final dimensions may vary slightly depending on the placement of the antlers, ears, and decorations.

Step 8: Understand the Sewing Stitches Used in This Project

The illustrated tutorial uses four main hand-sewing methods. Learning these techniques will help you achieve a neat, professional-looking finish.

Blanket Stitch

Blanket stitch is the primary technique used throughout this project.

It joins felt layers while creating a decorative border around their edges.

Use it around the head, muzzle, nose, cheeks, hat trim, antlers, paws, and bow.

For best results, maintain even tension and consistent spacing.

Running Stitch

Running stitch consists of small, straight stitches that pass alternately above and below the fabric.

It is useful for temporary basting, positioning decorative pieces, and making simple seams.

To work this stitch, move the needle in and out of the felt at regular intervals.

Backstitch

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Backstitch produces a strong, continuous line.

It is particularly useful for embroidering the reindeer's smile and eyebrows.

It can also be used to outline small details or reinforce areas requiring additional strength.

Straight Stitch

Straight stitch is used to create the veins on the holly leaves.

Each stitch forms an individual line between two points.

Work one central vein first, then add shorter diagonal stitches to represent the smaller leaf veins.

Helpful Tips for a Beautiful Handmade Result

Choose felt with a consistent thickness and firm texture. Good-quality craft felt is easier to cut accurately and tends to maintain its shape during hand sewing.

Use embroidery floss in colors that coordinate with the felt. Contrasting stitches, such as white thread on red felt or light green thread on dark green felt, can enhance the decorative appearance.

Cut slowly around curved pieces, especially the antlers and holly leaves. Sharp fabric scissors help prevent jagged edges.

When making the face, arrange all the decorative pieces before sewing them permanently. Small changes in eye or cheek placement can noticeably affect the reindeer's expression.

Stuff the head lightly. A small amount of polyester fiberfill is enough to create the soft, rounded effect shown in the illustration.

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Finally, secure all knots and thread ends on the back or between felt layers. This keeps the front of your ornament neat and attractive.

Frequently Asked Questions About the Felt Reindeer Christmas Ornament

Is this felt reindeer ornament suitable for beginners?

Yes. The project is beginner-friendly because it primarily uses basic hand-sewing techniques. Blanket stitch, running stitch, backstitch, and straight stitch are easy to learn with a little practice. Beginners may find it helpful to practice on scrap felt before sewing the ornament.

Do I need a sewing machine to make this ornament?

No. The entire ornament can be completed by hand using a needle and embroidery floss. Hand sewing also makes it easier to work around the small curves of the antlers, ears, and decorative details.

What type of felt works best?

Craft felt approximately 1.5–2 mm thick is a practical choice. It is firm enough to hold the ornament's shape while remaining easy to cut and sew. Wool-blend felt is another option for a softer, higher-quality finish.

Can I make the ornament larger or smaller?

Yes. You can enlarge or reduce the paper templates while keeping all pieces at the same scale. Remember that the seam allowance and stitch spacing may need adjustment when changing the size.

How much polyester fiberfill should I use?

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Use just enough to give the head a gentle, rounded appearance. The ornament should remain lightweight and flexible. Excessive stuffing can distort the seams and make the felt bulge.

Can I use fabric glue instead of sewing?

Fabric glue may be used for certain small decorative elements, but sewing provides a stronger and more durable finish. For ornaments that will be handled or stored repeatedly, hand stitching is generally preferable.

How should I store my felt Christmas ornament?

Store the ornament in a clean, dry container away from direct sunlight and moisture. Place it between layers of tissue paper or soft fabric to protect the antlers, hat, and bow from bending.

Can I make several ornaments using the same pattern?

Absolutely. Once the paper templates are prepared, you can reuse them to create multiple reindeer ornaments. Try different felt colors, embroidery details, and bow styles to make each decoration unique.

Conclusion 🎄

Making a Felt Reindeer Christmas Ornament is a wonderful way to combine simple sewing techniques with creative holiday decorating. By following the measurements, cutting the felt pieces carefully, embroidering the facial details, assembling the Santa hat and antlers, and finishing with holly leaves and a red bow, you can create a charming handmade decoration from beginning to end.

This step-by-step felt sewing tutorial is designed to help beginners and experienced crafters alike produce a beautiful

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ornament using accessible materials and familiar American hand-sewing methods.

Once completed, your festive reindeer can become a special addition to your Christmas tree, a handmade gift, or a treasured decoration to enjoy year after year.