

# Bear Pattern: Boyish Charm

Designed by Helen West this little lad is full of fun

Handsome Tobias has been designed to sit comfortably and gazes up adoringly at his owner. Created from long pile golden mohair, his wavy golden fur is complemented by his shiny black eyes. His pronounced snout and wide-set ears further enhance his cheeky character. When finished he stands at 38cm (15") tall. This traditional-style ted will appeal to arctophiles of all ages and is simple enough for a beginner to make. So what are you waiting for? Dig out your sewing box and reach for your needle and thread today!



## You Will Need

- 1/2 metre of mohair
- Strong thread to match
- 14cm (5 1/2") x 10cm (4") of suede or suedette
- Six 44mm hardboard disc joints
- Four 57mm hardboard disc joints
- Five self-locking nylon nut and bolts
- 9mm looped glass eyes
- Embroidery thread
- Strong thread
- Polyester filler
- Plastic pellets

## STEP BY STEP

1. Read all the instructions through carefully before you begin. Trace or photocopy the pattern pieces. It may be helpful to paste them onto cardboard to create sturdier templates. Take a moment to study your chosen mohair to determine its pile direction. Mark this clearly with an arrow on the back of your fabric before you continue. With the reverse side of your mohair laid out flat, begin to arrange your pattern pieces. Only transfer them onto the backing once you're satisfied that all of the templates fit comfortably. Next trace each pattern piece onto the reverse of your fabric with a soft pencil.
2. Use sharp scissors to cut out your pattern pieces taking care to avoid the pile. Try to keep the points of your scissors close to the backing of the mohair and keep it flat. This will also prevent too much fluff being disturbed. Next cut out the foot pads.
3. Place the two head pieces right sides together. Use strong thread to sew from A to B. Match the middle of the head gusset B with the centre seam B of the muzzle. Carefully ease the head gusset from B to C to fit equally from C to C on both sides of the head. Turn right sides out.
4. Stitch the top and bottom darts in both body pieces. With right sides together, stitch from D around the body to E leaving an opening in the back for jointing and stuffing. Use a large knitting needle or awl to pierce the joint position and turn the body right side out.
5. Match the arm pieces together and stitch from F to G leaving an opening as marked for stuffing and jointing. Repeat for the other arm. Pierce a hole for the joint position using a knitting needle or awl. Next place the leg pieces right sides together and stitch from H to I and K to J leaving an opening for stuffing and jointing at the top. Mark out the joint position as before. Take the footpad and find the centre mark H

and pin this to point H on the foot. Next find point K at the centre of the heel and pin to point K on the foot. Carefully hand-stitch around the foot easing the pad into place. Repeat for the other leg, taking care to ensure that both footpads remain identical in shape. Turn the legs right sides out.

6. Match the ears with right sides together. Stitch from L to M around the curved edge. Turn them both right sides out and turn up the raw edge. Stuff the head firmly ensuring that you form a suitable shape. Gather the base of the head from C to A with strong running stitch. Insert your head joint and draw the base of the head firmly around the bolt fastening securely.

7. You can now create Tobias' facial expression. Use headed pins to help you decide upon the position of his eyes. Take a length of strong twine thread through the wire loop of your glass eye and squeeze the loop together with pliers. Thread the other ends through a long doll maker's needle and pass through the eye position to the back of the Tobias' head. Repeat with the other eye and secure at the base of his neck.

8. Trim the muzzle with sharp scissors into your chosen shape being careful not to puncture the backing. Next embroider the nose and mouth. Pin on the ears in different positions until you are happy with his overall look. Attach the ears firmly with ladder stitch to his head.

9. Tobias is now ready to assemble. Make a hole in the top of his body at the neck where the darts join. Insert a self-locking nylon nut bolt joint into the head. Secure the seam with the nut and bolt inside the body. Tighten the joint well, ensuring that Tobias' head will still turn. Insert the arms and leg joints in the same way, feeding your joint and bolt into the pre-pierced holes. Tighten with a nut and bolt driver until the joints are secure.

10. Pour a handful of plastic pellets into the back opening. Fill the rest of the body firmly with polyester stuffing, paying particular attention to the neck and the area around the nut and bolt joints. Stuff the arms and legs in a similar fashion taking care to fill them evenly and firmly. Use a stuffing stick or the end of a wooden spoon handle to push the stuffing firmly into awkward arms and legs. Be careful not to force your seams.

11. Finally, use a teasel brush to move forward and backwards against the pile, paying particular attention to his seams, ears and footpads. To give Tobias an extra special touch you could tie a ribbon or collar around his neck.

## HINTS AND TIPS

- You may find that the pile of the mohair doesn't sit right after stuffing and forms a visible line. To remedy this, turn the seam by inserting a strong sewing needle from side to side until it lies flat or is no longer visible.
- When stuffing your bear take time to tease out the fibres of your chosen filler. Then gradually add a small amount at a time to create a good firm feel.
- For best results don't rush your bear, especially when it comes to the finer details like trimming. Make sure that any work you undertake is carried out in good light.

## BEAR FACTS

For more information on Helen West's designs call Cloth Ears on 020 8898 2389.

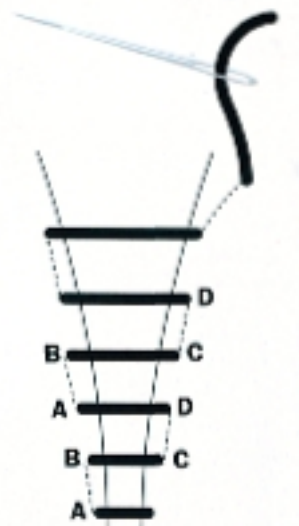


### Stitching the nose



**Your templates**  
Enlarge pattern pieces by 120%

### Ladder stitch diagram



Thread needle with extra strong thread at least three times length of seam to be closed. Leaving a long tail push needle in at A and out at B, in at C and out at D and so on until the end of the seam, pulling the thread tight every few stitches and tucking the raw edges in, forming a near invisible seam. Bring your needle back to the starting point A taking large stitches on the inside but making the outside stitches as "invisible" as possible. Tie both thread ends firmly together. Take another few invisible stitches with both threads in the needle and then cut ends close to fabric taking great care not to cut the pile.

