

# Bear Pattern: Classic Charm

Make a grand addition to your hug with this wonderful bear designed by award-winning artist, Gregory Gyllenship Exclusive to TBCI, Jasper is a truly gorgeous ted, who's certain to appeal to arctophiles across the globe. His paws are a slightly different shape to that of traditional bears and lend themselves to a little creative embroidery to define their toes and fingers. Once completed he can stand unaided and measures xcm tall. His luscious long-pile fur makes him extremely cuddly while his golden ribbon enhances his impressive appearance. As this pattern has a fairly complicated structure it is not suitable for a complete beginner and is intended for the more experienced bear-maker.



## YOU WILL NEED

- Approximately 50cm (20") of long pile mohair
- 4 x 64mm joint sets for the limbs
- 1 x 76mm joint set for the head
- 1 pair of eight to 10mm eyes
- Perle cotton for nose and claws
- Strong thread for head closure and fitting eyes
- Stuffing of choice
- Felt for paw pads

## STEP BY STEP

1. Transfer pattern pieces to card remembering to include joint position marks and any other labels. The arrow marked on each piece indicates a suggested direction for the pile. When marking out the pieces pay attention to this instruction as it will effect the finished look of your teddy. If you are using a mohair with irregular pile, ensure to check each piece, especially the head. Cut out all the pieces taking care to cut only the backing cloth and not the pile.

### TIP

• When making a bear I tend to first complete its limbs and then joint it with locked nuts on bolts. Any openings are positioned at the top prior to the jointing method. If you intend to use the nylon self-locking type nuts then you may prefer to joint the bear before stuffing the limbs because you will need to hold the head of the bolt. If you do not like working with the openings at the top of the limbs then feel free to move them elsewhere.

Jasper can stand unaided, so it is probably a good idea to make the leg joints tight to ensure that he is stable.

• Once your bear is completed there should ideally be no fur trapped in its seams. To avoid this you should always comb them out both from inside and out after sewing. Trim all the fur of the sewing margin and as you pin or tack the pieces make sure that you push the pile onto the right side before machining it together. You should only have a few tufts left to comb out and the seams will remain nice and tight without any stitching showing.

2. Jasper's legs consist of two parts which produce a heel shape. To make them up, pin right sides together and machine front from A to X and back from C to Y leaving an opening at the top. Fit the footpad,

noting that the toe is the wider end, matching it to the toe and heel and also at the marker B on the side. Ease the rest into the bottom of the leg. Turn and stuff. When the leg is about three quarters full, insert the joint parts before finishing the stuffing and closing the opening with ladder stitch.

3. Sew the paw pad to the inner arm. It is not symmetrical so ensure to match A to B to make sure you sew it on the correct side. Pin and sew the outer arm to the assembled inner arm and paw, matching the markers at X and at A and B. The wrist is wider on the upper arm so you must pin the marked positions first in order to help ease the pieces together in the right place. The outer arm piece is bigger than the inner and the seams should be eased together as you pin the rest of the seam in place. When you have pinned the arm together check the overall shape. It should curve neatly inward at the paw because of the difference in size between the outer and inner arms. Sew carefully so that you do not pucker the cloth where it is eased in. Stuff the paw area quite firmly to help form the correct shape. The rest of the arm can be made much softer or even be pellet filled. If you do decide to use this method of filling, finish of the top of the arm with more stuffing over the joint.

4. Jasper has a four part body. Join the side seams first. Pin and sew them from A to B leaving small openings at the joint position to accommodate bolts/cotter pins. Machine the two assembled halves together, leaving a small gap at the top to insert the bolt or cotter pin and remember to leave a gap about 12cm (5") long for assembly and stuffing. I tend to leave the gap at the front because I like to finish up along the front seam, but it really does not matter at all if you prefer to have the final closure at the back.

5. If you have used a different length mohair than the one used here then you may wish to make Jasper's ears bigger or smaller. Experiment with some rough designs cut from a piece of the cloth you have chosen. Sew them around the curved edge leaving the bottom edge open. It is easy to make them a little smaller or larger when you turn them and tuck in the straight edge.

6. Assemble the head by swinging the two sides together along the chin from A to B then sew in the head gusset. You may find it easier to sew the head gusset in two stages from C to A on the left then C to A on the right. The point marked X indicates the matching point against same position on the sides of the head. Pin these first then ease in the snout to match at the centre of the nose.

7. The head should be quite firmly stuffed and as you place in the filling, check the shape you are forming. Try to think ahead about how deep you will set the eyes and how narrow you want the bridge of the nose. If you make these areas too hard to start with it will be difficult to sculpt them later.

Pay particular attention to getting the snout firm and even. Filling its end with a little woodwool will help to make a firm base on which to sew the nose. This also helps to prevent the occasional problem of little white fibres of filler pulling through as you sew the nose.

Insert the joint and pin or bolt in the opening, close the opening using a strong thread running around the edge and a gap of about 1cm (1/2") radius around the pin or bolt.

8. The eyes are fitted using strong thread drawn through to the back of the head near the joint. Jasper's expression can be changed by altering the angle at which the thread is drawn through the head, to make him look very



directly ahead the line should continue parallel with the sides of the snout.

9. The ears are attached with ladder stitch, their shape is quite long because they're intended to be quite tightly cupped. Experiment with different positions as a rough guide. They appear to be well placed about as far back from the eyes as the eyes are from the tip of the nose. When I created Jasper I positioned his ears quite high up and evenly spaced across the gusset seam. By now you may, depending on preference, have already jointed your bear, if not fit all the limbs and the head and fill the bears stomach. Don't forget to include the growler if you wish.

10. I find it easier to complete the face last, you may prefer to do this before fitting the head to the body. Trim the fur around the snout, do this slowly and take regular looks at the effect you are creating. At this stage the bear has no nose or mouth, but it is possible and very helpful to create as much expression as you can just by concentrating on the eyes and graduating the fur around the eyes and on the snout. As you are probably aware many of my own designs have quite severe haircuts and shaved down ears. Feel free to experiment with this look, but if you have not tried this before I suggest you make sure you have enough fabric for a second head in case your bear's trip to the barber is not successful!

11. The nose is sewn in a single layer of satin stitch, start at the centre and work to one side then come back to the centre and work the other side. As you sew the nose try to keep the tension even and periodically let the needle fall to untwist the thread. Sew the mouth last, experiment using three pins and a spare bit of thread to see where the mouth looks best. As a rough guide it should be near parallel to the bottom of the chin as viewed from the side. The bears expression however is up to you.

12. You should aim to balance the two sides of the face evenly with level eyes, ears and mouth. His expression depends on how you fine tune the clipping of the snout fur and the placement of his mouth etc. Sometimes the face looks just right and "speaks" to you even when measurement would confirm that you have created a slightly uneven face.

#### **BEAR FACTS**

For further information on Gregory Bear call 0181 9816195.

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