

Bear Pattern: Curly Wurly

Designed by talented artist Sue Schoen this cute cuddly has traditional charm



YOU WILL NEED

- A small piece of felt or ultra suede
- 25cm (10") square of plush fabric
- Two pairs of 38mm hardboard joints for arms
- Three pairs of 44mm hardboard joints for legs and head
- Polyester filling
- Pellets
- Perle cotton
- Matching sewing thread
- Strong thread
- Stuffing tool
- Needle nose pliers
- Sewing needles and a 7.5cm (3") needle for the eyes
- Fine point felt pen for marking pieces
- Scissors
- Bradawl or knitting needle
- Glass headed pins

Created from luxurious wavy mohair Bertie is a gorgeous hugster. He stands 36cm (14") tall and is firmly filled with a combination of polyester and plastic pellets. Bertie is an endearing design that will complement any collection and would make a delightful future heirloom. This beautiful bear is fully jointed and looks wonderful sitting or standing. Beginners will find this pattern simple to follow but may find it easier to work with short pile fabric. If this is the first time you have worked with thick mohair, read through the hints on using this type of fabric before you pick up your needle and thread. He's fully jointed and looks wonderful sitting or standing.

HINTS AND TIPS

Using Dense Mohair

- Before cutting out the pattern pieces ensure that the pile direction is correct. Slide your scissors through the pile and cut only the backing fabric. Trim the pile away from the 3mm seam allowance around each piece.
- You will find that the pile does not usually follow a dead straight line and will inevitably leave the backing at a slight angle. This is not a problem with the body and limbs but it can reveal a slight kink in the head. You can solve this with the help of a steam iron. Press the pile in the direction you want it to go, then brush it before pressing again. Allow the fabric to dry before giving it another brush.

- You can prevent pile from becoming trapped in the seams by pushing it inside with a blunt knife as you sew.

STEP BY STEP

1. Transfer all of the pattern pieces onto thin card and note all the markings. Cut out each piece carefully avoiding the pile. Where necessary, trim the pile away from the 3mm seam allowance. Fold the leg where indicated on the pattern and stitch from the toe to the notch at the top. Leave an opening for stuffing. Carefully stitch the foot pad to the foot matching X to X and Y to Y. Sew the paw pad to the arm in the same way. Fold the arm where indicated on the pattern and pin carefully. Stitch around the arm from A to B. Leave the top open for stuffing.

2. Stitch the top and bottom dart on each body piece. Pin them together carefully and stitch from C to D leaving a gap where the top darts meet to allow for the head attachment. Stitch the side head pieces together at the chin seam from points E to F. Pin the head gusset to the side head at point E then carefully pin the rest of the gusset to the head, matching point G at the bottom. Tack and stitch from G to G. Stitch the ears together from H to J. Clip the corners where indicated on the pattern.

3. Carefully turn the arms. (I find a small flat-bladed screwdriver is the best tool for this task.) Stuff the limbs firmly and evenly with small amounts of polyester. Fill them half full then make a hole with a bradawl where indicated and insert a cotter pin joint. Continue stuffing until the arms are full and the joint is firmly in position. Ladder stitch the opening using strong thread, losing the end around the joint. Turn the legs half full and insert a joint and finish as per the arms.

4. Turn the head and begin stuffing it evenly and firmly starting with the nose area. Examine the completed piece from all angles to ensure that there are no hollows or lumps. Run a strong gathering thread around the edge of the neck. Insert a joint and pull the thread tightly around the cotter pin. Sew the thread firmly around the joint. Mark the position of the eyes with glass headed pins. Carefully make a hole with a bradawl and remove the pin.

5. Take a piece of strong thread approximately 61cm (24") in length and double it through the needle. Knot one end and thread through the eye loop. Push the needle in through the hole you have made and out at the back of the neck as close to the joint as possible. Repeat for the other side and bring the thread out to no more than 1.5cm (1/2") away from the first thread. Pull the threads so that the eye is pulled down into the head. Tie the ends together in a reef knot. Sew the ends in securely around the joint. Trim the muzzle and cut as much pile away from the nose area as you can. Use a single strand of cotton perle to embroider the nose and mouth. Trim the area around the mouth to allow his smile to show. Clip the corners of the ears where indicated on the pattern. Turn and ladder stitch closed. Pin the ears on the head in your chosen position and ladder stitch them firmly in to place. Pay particular attention to the ends of the ears and make sure that your thread is pulled very firmly so that none of the stitches are visible.

6. Turn the body. Use a bradawl to make holes in the body where indicated on the pattern. Join the limbs onto the body using pliers to roll the cotter pin down onto the body joint. Repeat with the head, pushing the cotter pin through the small hole you made by the top dart when you sewed the body together. Fill the body firmly with a combination of polyester and pellets. Use strong thread to carefully ladder stitch the back opening. Give all the seams a good brush and use a needle to pick out any stubborn pile. If you wish to give Bertie claws then this is the best time to add them to his paw pads.

BEAR FACTS

For more information on Sue Schoen and her Bocs Teganau teddies call 01443 207 775.



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