

A simple fish cuddly toy

You will need:

- 1 orphan sock
- padding (or fabric remnants)
- 2 buttons
- fabric remnants for decoration (felt is ideal)
- woolen thread
- 1 thread and a needle
- 1 pair of scissors



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1 Preparation of the body

You'll need an orphan sock. If your sock is not too damaged you can make a simple fish cuddly toy with the whole sock. In this case you can skip this step.



My sock is quite damaged so I want to make a smaller fish without the holes.



Take the sock and cut out the part around the ankle in a triangular shape (see picture).



Turn the sock inside out and mark a line to limit the damaged part with the pins and make your chosen shape.



Sew* next to your marks (I used back stitch sewing) and



cut out the excess part while keeping at least 2mm of fabric after the stitch.



Turn the sock to the right side.

*basic hand stitches:

<https://lifehacker.com/five-basic-hand-stitches-you-should-know-for-repairing-1723233194>

<http://benziedesign.blogspot.com/2013/05/embroidery-basics-whip-stitch.html>

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Filling your cuddly toy



The best material to fill your cuddly toy is padding¹. If you don't have it, you can use the scraps of fabric you have left over from other projects.

Fill your sock well, try to fill all the corners to give the shape but not too hard that it remains a little soft.



Fold the edges of the opening inside and fix them together to close the opening with the pins and sew it with a whip stitch (see above in the links for more details).

¹Padding for teddy bears, dolls, cushions is light, fluffy and soft at the same time. You can wash it, but you can also use it for quilting. (In Brussels you can buy it in places like Veritas, Creacorner or most fabric shops).

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The body of the fish



Your fish is well filled and sewn together. It needs a tail. Decide the proportion between the body and the tail of your fish. Take a thread (I used some leftover T-shirt thread), wrap it around the sock and tie it with a knot at the end.



There you have it, you have made the base. Now it's time to play with the decoration.

4 Fixing the eye



Take two buttons and place them onto the lateral sides of the face of your fish. Make the first point in the body of the fish where you decided to place the eye and



go through the first hole of your button.



Stitch in the opposite hole of the button and cross the body with your sewing needle to the other side.



Attach the second button, stitch to the opposite hole and cross over to the first button.



Repeat the operation several times to secure both buttons. Tie the knot at the end under the button to hide the thread.



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Fin preparation

I used the rest of my sock to make the fins, but you can use any fabric to make them (the firmer, the better).



Cut a rhombus out of the rest of the sock fabric and cut it in half to have two triangles with one corner attached together on each of them.



Sew both sides of the triangle (see picture),



Turn the triangles inside out.



turn it over to the right side, fill it with padding and sew the opening.

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Sew the fin to the body of your fish all around the triangle to secure it. Repeat the operation for the second fin.



For the simple fish you can take just two triangles cut out of cloth and sew them onto the body of the fish.

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Final decoration

Here you can have fun with your creativity. I had added the dorsal fin and small decoration on the tail (caudal fin).



Cut the dorsal fin shape out of thicker fabric. I used the rest of the felt. Sew the fin to the body by passing one stitch through the fin and second through the body to the other side.



Sew with a whip stitch all the length of the tail with the wool thread and pass at



the end in the middle of the tail towards to attached thread that separates the body and the tail to give more shape.



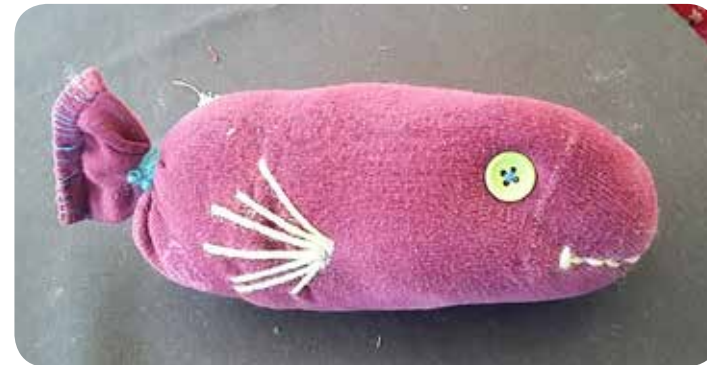
You can also add for example teeth cut out of thinner fabric (sewn or glued on the body).



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Some simple ideas



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