

Art is in the House

— ACTIVITY

Snow Queen and Jack Frost Felt Finger puppets

Suitable for: Ages 7+ (young folks may need help with cutting and sewing)

What you'll need:

Scissors, needle, thread, felt, pattern, marker or chalk to draw on the felt.

Optional: Yarn, beads, embroidery thread, googly eyes, feathers, lace, anything that makes decorating fun!!!

Getting ready: I find it helpful to draw out what you want your puppets to look like, what colours you want to use, and how you might want to decorate it.

Sewing, like most artisan craftwork, can be frustrating, but it's a really valuable life skill. Not only is it a great way to

express your artistic side, but once you learn the basics, it can help you reduce waste. Go slow and be patient with yourself. And remember: if you get too frustrated you can always use glue. :)



New to Sewing? Here are some helpful tips and tricks!

Thread Length: A good bench mark is to measure the thread from your wrist to your elbow twice. Once you've put one end of the thread through the eye of the needle, even out the length and tie the two ends together. Make sure the knot is close to the end of the thread!

Stitch size: Something that can really help folks new to sewing is to mark on the felt where to aim the needle. Putting a dotted line on the felt will help give you a target, you want small stitches. The lines I drew on the pattern are about the size you want to be aiming for.

Running stitch: Bring your needle through the back side of the felt, then move a little bit forward and push the needle through the front of the felt to the back, once through the back move forward another little bit and then push the needle through the back to the front once again. Repeat! You can do it!

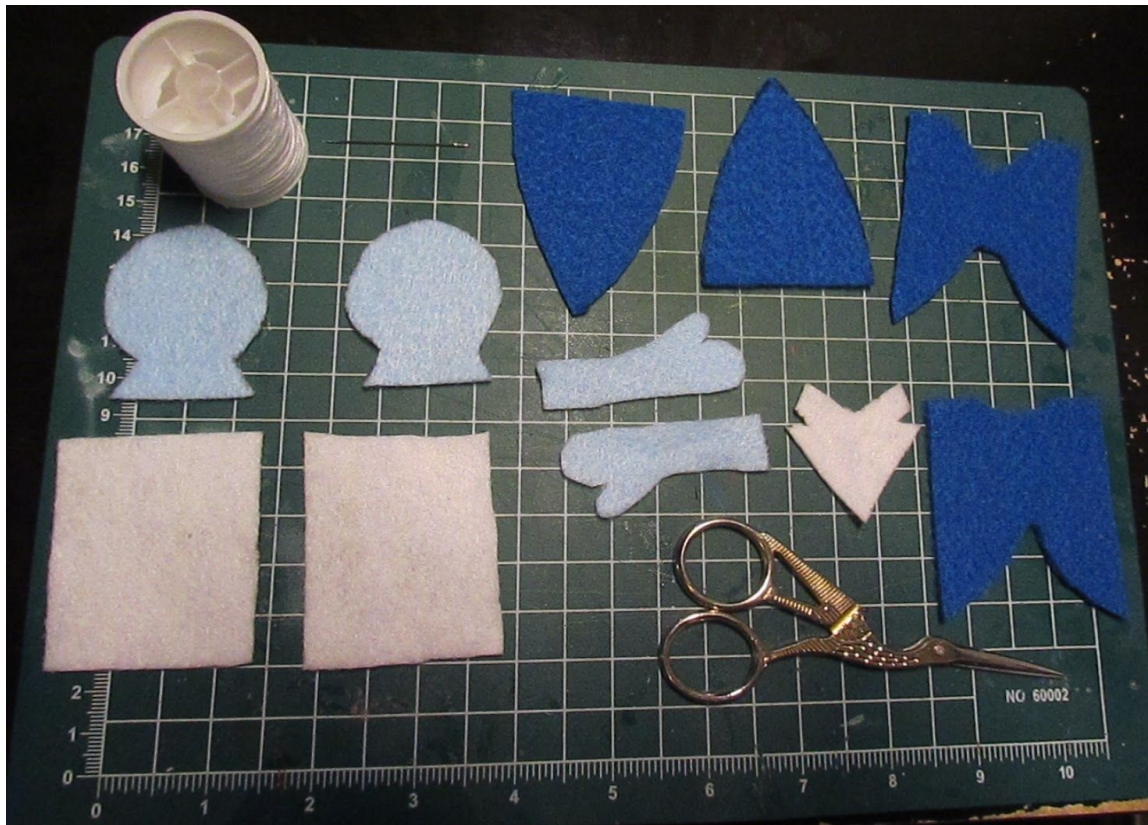
Activity:

JACK FROST

Step one: Begin by cutting out all the pieces of the paper pattern.

Step Two: Trace all the pattern shapes in felt. Cut out all the felt pieces. Set aside the paper pattern as it is no longer needed. If your fingers are shorter than the body provided trim off a little.

Step Three: Separate out all of the Jack Frost pieces, as well as two heads and two arms.

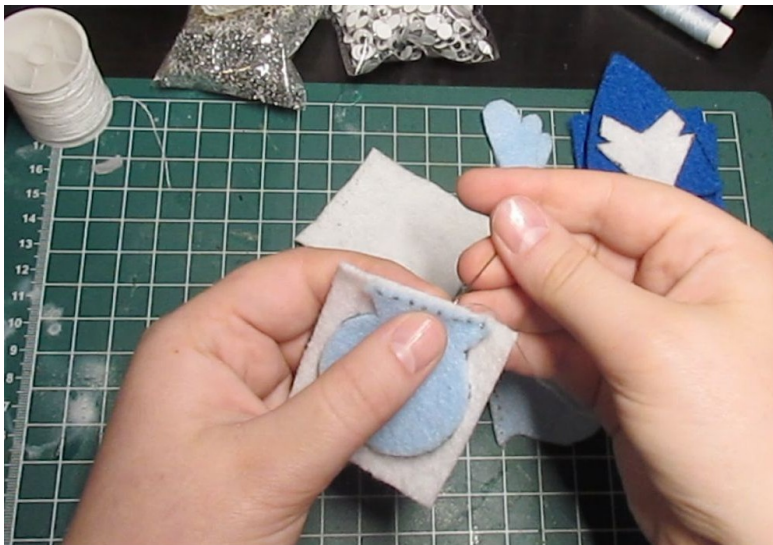


You are doing great!

Step Four: Thread the needle with a colour of thread matching the felt body colour. Lay out the body cutouts on your table and pair each with one head cutout. Turn the head upside down and line up the edge of the body and the neck.

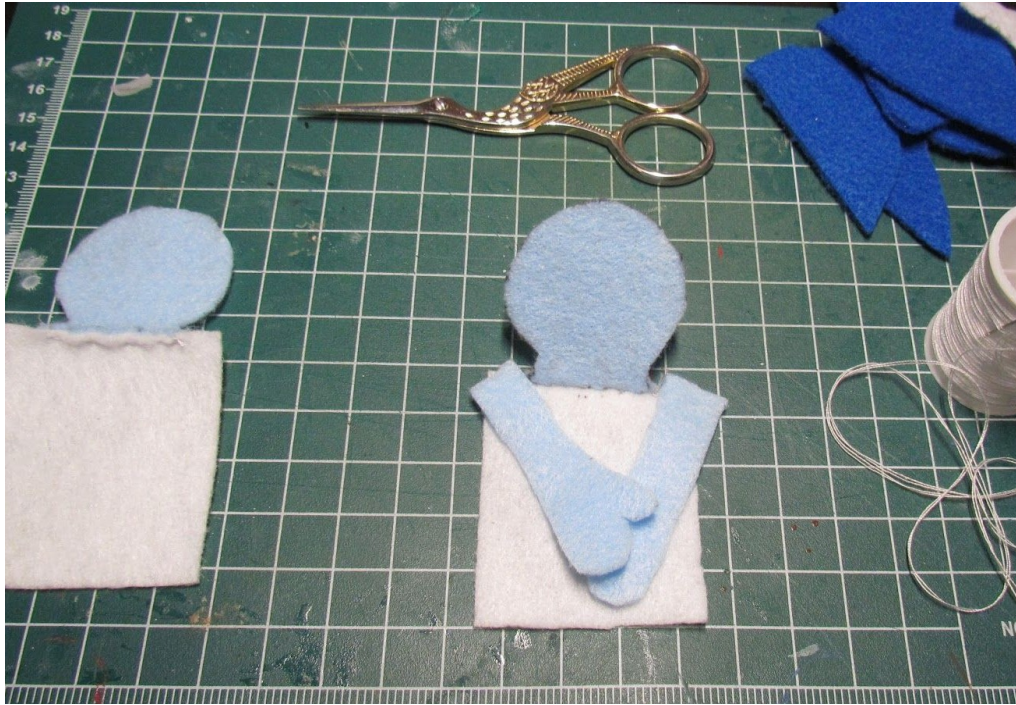


Step Five: Using a running stitch, sew the neck of one head cutout to the shoulder edge of one body cutout. Repeat.



Why are Pine trees bad at sewing? They're always dropping their needles!

Step Six: Place one body + headright side up on the table (The right side is the side with no visible stitches). Place the arms on the body diagonally from the shoulders. It should look like the puppet is holding its hands in front of it.



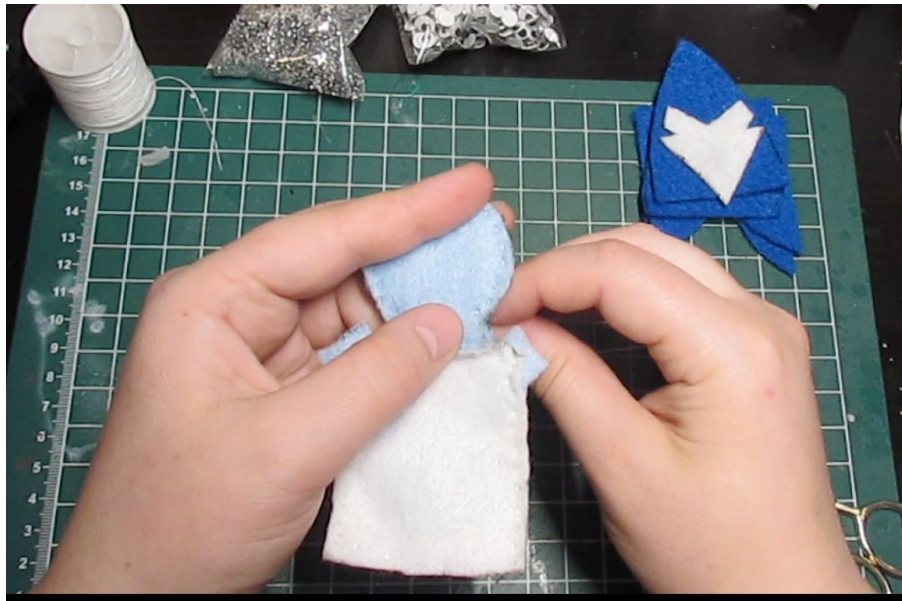
This part is complicated but you're doing awesome!

Step Seven: Place the second head + body top of the arms wrong side facing you. Now you should have a little stack of felt, with the wrong sides facing out and only the ends of the arms sticking out by the puppet's shoulders.



How do seamstresses travel? Stitch-hiking.

Step Eight: Begin at the bottom and sew up along the body edge using the same running stitch as before. Continue sewing around the head and the other body side. Every so often check to ensure you are catching all layers of felt.

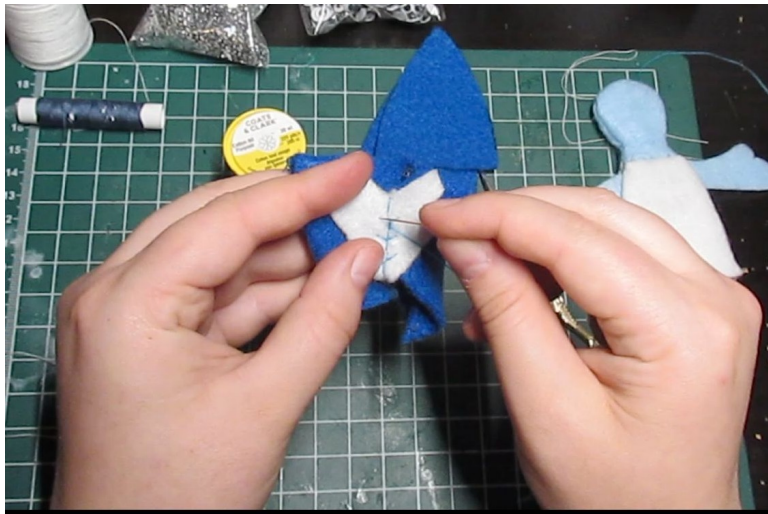


Step Ten:

Gently turn the puppet right side out. Some folks may decide they are finished after this step and want to start decorating. I have included a pattern to make a hat, and a little tux but you may be inspired to create different clothing. Adding beads, yarn, sequins, feathers, pom poms, etc. will really bring your puppet to life!

Tux instructions:

Sew or glue the lapel piece to the front of the tux piece. Then place the back of the tux on top and sew together the shoulder. Leave a space on the side and sew together the edges of the tux. Then turn inside out. For the hat, sew along the edges and turn inside out, you can also roll the bottom of the hat if you want a smaller hat. Decorate!



SNOW QUEEN

Step One: This is going to be very similar to the Jack Frost puppet, but a little more advanced! Begin by separating out all the Snow Queen felt pieces and two heads and two bodies.

If you want to try an extra challenge cut out two extra arms and sew them together. Carefully (this is the tricky part!) flip them right side out. They will look like the picture below.



Step Two: Then lay out the body cutouts on your table and pair each with one head cutout. Turn the head upside down and line up the shoulder edge and neck.

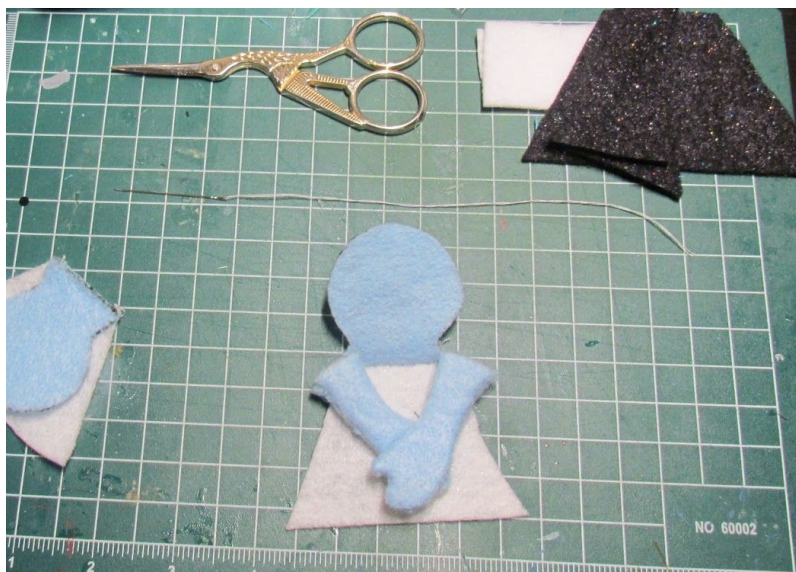


I should stop these sewing jokes. I'm running out of good material!

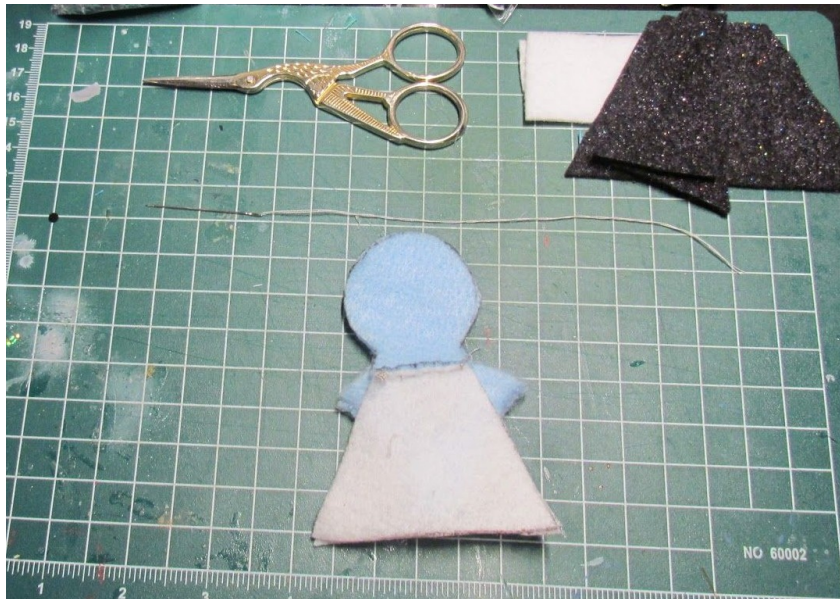
Step Three: Using a running stitch sew the neck of one head cutout to the shoulder edge of one body cutout. Repeat.



Keep going! You can sew it. :) Step Four: Place one body + head right side up on the table. (The right side is the side with no visible stitches.) Place the arms on the felt of the body diagonally from the shoulders it should look like the puppet is holding its hands in front of it.



Step Five: Place the second head + body top of the arms wrong side facing you. Now you should have a little stack of felt, with the wrong sides facing out and only the ends of the arms sticking out by the puppet's shoulders.



Step Six: Begin at the bottom and sew up along the body edge using the same running stitch as before. Continue sewing around the head and the other body side. Every so often, check to ensure you are catching all layers of felt.

Gently turn the puppet right side out.



Wow! Look at that little puppet! I just know it will be so cute!

Step Seven: Again, some folks may decide to just decorate her dress. But I've also supplied sleeve and robe pieces. The robe will be very similar to Jack Frost's tux, but the puffy sleeves make it a little more complicated. To begin the sleeves, fold the fabric in half and sew three stitches along the top and bottom, catching both sides of the felt.



Step Eight: Fold one of the sides of the felt in half again. And add three more stitches along the top and bottom. Repeat this for the remaining side.

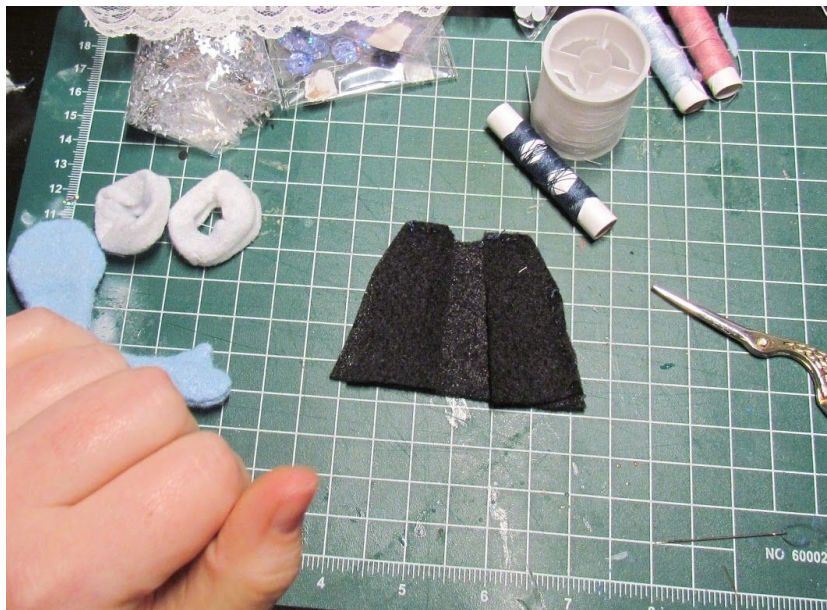


Step Nine: Sew the ends together. Add three more stitches at the top and bottom. It should look like the above picture's roundish shape. Repeat.

Step Ten: Smush the sleeves flat so that they look like donuts. It can be helpful to add a few stitches to hold both sides of the fabric together.

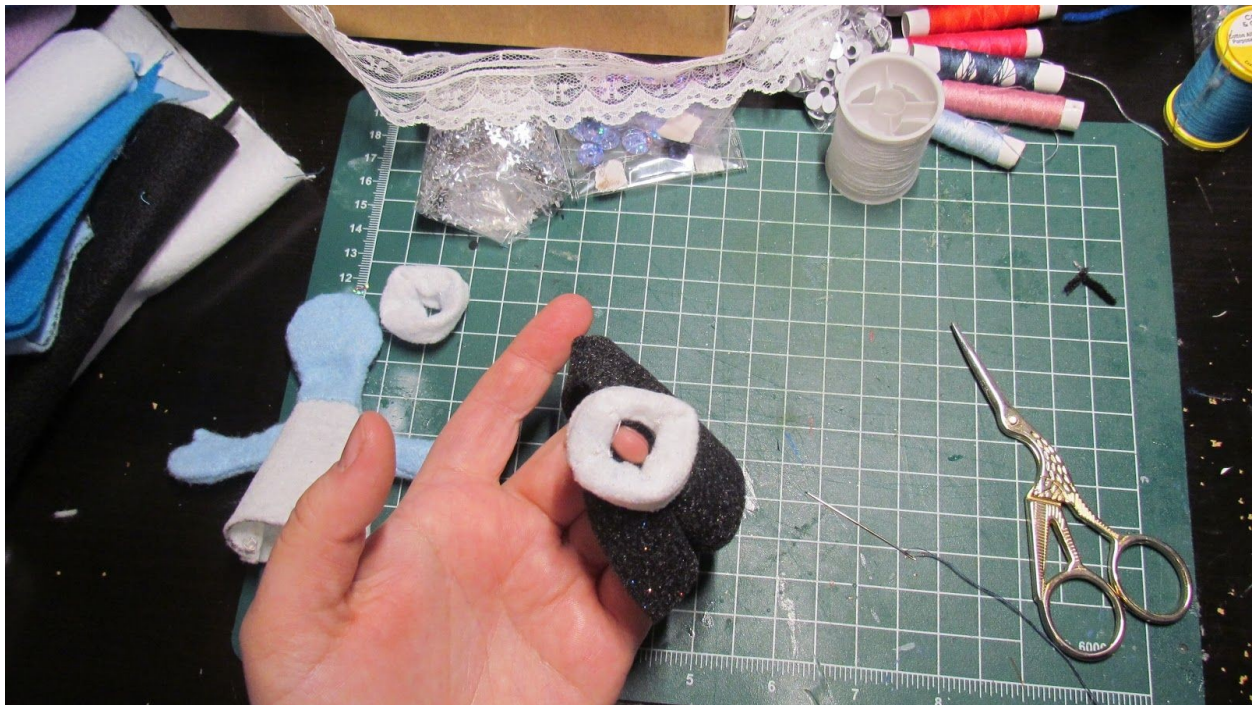


Step Eleven: Line up the robe pieces and sew together the shoulders and side leaving an arm hole on each side. Turn right side out.



Almost there!

Step Twelve: Poke your finger through one arm hole and add two stitches to the top and bottom of the sleeve, attaching it to the robe.



Step Thirteen: Put the robe on the Snow Queen and decorate!



Have fun playing with your new puppets!!!!

