

# Jingle

## 12" Christmas Bear

Artist Designed Bear

by Laura L. Matthews

Teddies by Laura Lynn

*This is not intended to be a child's toy due to the glass eyes and pellets.*

### **Materials & Supplies**

- Fat 1/8 of white medium pile mohair.  
Edinburgh's HM60 (5/8" regular density, matted white mohair)  
was used for the prototype.
- Fat 1/8 of red medium pile mohair  
Edinburgh's HM60 (5/8" regular density, matted red mohair)  
was used for the prototype.
- 7" x 7" piece of red wool felt
- 2 – 1 ¼" discs (neck)
- 4 – 1 ½" discs (arms)
- 4 – 1 ¾" discs (legs)
- 10 - Washers
- 5 - 1 ½" Cotterpins
- 1 – Pair 11mm glass eyes on wire loops

- 3 – Strands of waxed floss (2 for eyes, 1 for closing head)
- 1 –Black pearl cotton for nose & mouth
- Fiberfill
- Plastic pellets, glass pellets or stainless steel bb's (optional.. for weight)
- All purpose sewing thread to match mohair if sewing by machine.
- Upholstery thread to match mohair for closing seams – and for sewing if hand sewing.
- 7 Small Jingle Bells for Collar

## **Jingle Bear Directions**

Prepare the pattern by copying them onto cardstock or tracing the pattern onto clear plastic. Lie your fabric fur side down and draw a small arrow on an edge to remind you which direction the fur is going. Place your pattern pieces on the mohair backing – making sure that the arrows on the pattern are going the same direction as the arrow you marked on the fabric backing. This way you can be sure the fur all goes the right direction on your bear. Using a fine tipped permanent marker, trace around all your pattern pieces and markings. A 3/8” seam allowance has been included in the pattern.

Draw out the Head Pieces, Ears, Arms & Body Top on the WHITE mohair.

Draw out the Body Bottom & Legs on the RED mohair.

Draw out the Collar on the RED FELT.

## **SEWING**

As you first pin your pieces together, be sure to tuck all the fur to the inside. This will give you nice clean seams.

Use enough pins so that the pieces do not slide around... the fur makes the pattern pieces want to shift a bit more than regular fabric would. For more security, you can pin, hand baste your bear parts together with a whip stitch, remove the pins, and then start sewing either by machine or by hand. If you are sewing by machine – then use the all-purpose sewing thread that matches your mohair. If you are sewing by hand, use the matching upholstery thread.

### **Head**

Match 2 head side pieces together and sew the chin seam from the tip of the nose (line drawn on nose) down to the neck opening. To insert the head gusset, match the line on the nose of the head gusset up to the seam of the 2 head sides. Tack in place at the seam. Pin the gusset in place, then baste together with a whip stitch. Sew the gusset in place. I prefer to hand sew the front of the gusset in (the nose and eye area) and then I machine sew the rest. REMOVE basting stitches!

### **Body**

You have 4 body pieces. Match up each white Body Top with it's red Body Bottom. Sew the 2 halves together. Now, match up each completed body half, making sure to match up where the colors join. Sew, leaving open to turn and stuff where indicated.

### **Arms**

Match up arms so you have 1 left arm and one right arm. Pin, baste (if desired) and sew. Leave open to turn and stuff where indicated.

### **Legs**

Match up legs so you have 1 left leg and one right leg. Pin, baste (if desired) and sew. Leave open to turn and stuff where indicated.

### **Prepare Seam Openings**

Apply a fray check to all seam openings and the bottom of the head. I prefer Aleene's No Fray. When dry, turn pieces right side out and use a blunt stick to be sure the pieces are completely turned.

### **Prepare Joint Assemblies**

Get your joint assemblies ready for when you insert them into your bear. Take each cotterpin and slide a washer over the end up to the top. Add 1 disc: you will use 1 - 1 ¼" disc for the neck, 2 – 1 ½" for the arms, 2 – 1 ¾" for the legs.

### **Stuffing and Jointing**

#### **Arms & Legs**

You may stuff the arms and legs as firmly or softly as you prefer. When each piece is half way stuffed, take the appropriate joint assembly (listed above) and insert the joint inside the limb. Use an awl or chopstick to poke a hole at the joint marking in the inside of the limb. Be sure you create 1 left arm/leg and 1 right arm/leg! Slide the tip of the cotterpin thru the joint hole so the cotterpin sticks out the outside of the limb, with the disc and washer fitting snugly inside the limb. Finish stuffing and close the seam with a ladder stitch.

#### **Head**

You want to stuff the head nice and evenly. Stuff the nose first. Take small bits of stuffing and stuff FIRMLY into the nose. This part must be very firmly stuffed as it will make it much easier when you embroider his nose. Stuff the nose area about 1/3 – ½ way to start and then start adding stuffing to the rest of the head. Now finish stuffing the nose... very firmly. I find that doing it this way helps to keep the stuffing in the nose area.

You could insert your neck joint and close up the head if that is what you are used to doing. However, I like to embroider the nose while the neck is still open. I like to be able to add more stuffing as needed, or shift it if necessary while I am embroidering the nose.

### **EMBROIDERING the NOSE**

Decide what shape nose you would like your bear to have. If you are not sure, cut out some felt shapes and hold them against the bear's snout. When I am doing a nose, I like to use the 3 inch needle... a good sharp one! Start with a length of pearl cotton about 30" long. I prefer to use 2 shorter pieces than one long piece as I find the long pieces get knotted up too easily. Enter the bear's nose thru the side, and don't pull the pearl cotton all the way thru, let a short tail hang out... don't put a knot in the end of the floss! Bring your needle up near a top corner of where you want your nose to be, and then outline the shape of the nose. Now take your scissors and trim the fur away from the area where you want to embroider the nose.

Now to stitch the nose. I prefer to make vertical stitches, but you can do horizontal if you like. Those outline stitches will help you keep the nose nice and even. I like to start in the middle, and take a few stitches to the right, and then left, working the nose out to both ends at the same time. If you have trouble getting the needle thru sometimes, use your needle nose pliers to help you. I use mine a lot!

When you come near the end of your strand – thread it onto your long 5" needle, and with your next stitch, go thru to the back of the neck on the other side of the head. Pull it nice and taut and snip the pearl cotton. Start your next piece the same way you started the first. When the nose is all done, carefully snip the beginning ends of the pearl cotton that you left hanging on his snout. Be sure to use a very sharp pair of scissors so you don't leave any pieces hanging..

**\*\***Now... as you are stitching the nose with the neck still open, keep adding little bits of fiberfill here and there as needed. You are also able to re-adjust the snout to be centered as it sometimes goes a little lopsided during the embroidery process. He does not have a mouth yet... I prefer to do that after his neck is closed.

### **Closing the Neck**

Here is what you need to close the neck: The 1 ¼” cotterpin joint assembly, 1 – 30” length of waxed floss for closing.

Sit the bear’s head in your lap or on your table upside down so the opening is up. Set the assembled joint inside. Thread your waxed thread on your 3” needle and sew a gathering stitch all around the neck opening. Leave a long tail to start and to end. I like to start and end at the back of the neck. Make sure both tail ends are about the same length and pull the opening closed tightly. Tie a square knot. The waxed thread really helps here as it helps to keep the knot. For extra security, take each tail and sew a large back stitch all the way around the neck. Tie together again and bury the threads.

### **The Mouth**

I like to take another length of pearl cotton, and come up to the center of the nose from the lower back side of the head (near the neck joint) leaving a about 6” of the pearl cotton hanging out near the neck. I take that length and bring it thru also... going in thru the head just a small space away from the first place, but coming out at a different spot on the head where I then clip it away. This helps anchor the pearle cotton in place.

Now you can decide what shape mouth you would like to have. It may help to “outline” the mouth shape with some ball headed pins. Stitch the mouth and when you are done, bring the tail ends all the way thru the head near the same place you entered – and snip the ends. The head is done for now.. I know he can’t see or hear you yet.... But it will be much easier to attach his eyes and ears when he is able to stand up on his own!

### **BODY**

Turn right side out thru opening. Take finished and closed head and insert the cotterpin part of the neck joint thru the seam at the top where all 4 body pieces join together. Slide the 2<sup>nd</sup> disc and then the 2<sup>nd</sup> washer over the cotterpin which is now on the inside of the body, attaching the head to the body. Using your needlenose pliers grab one half of the pin about ¼ of the way from the top and curl the pin down, all the way to the washer/disc combo. Do the same for the other half. Now the head is attached to the body.

## ARMS & LEGS

Attach the arms and legs to the body in the same manner – but you will insert the joint at the joint markings on the inside of the body.

Begin to stuff bodyr by filling the bottom inch or so with a weighted material. I use glass sand, you may also use stainless steel bb's. This keeps him from falling over.

Finish stuffing with fiberfill. When he's all filled, close the seam with a ladder stitch.

## **Finish the Face**

### **Eyes**

To insert the eyes you will need: The pair of glass eyes, 2 strands of waxed eye floss strands about 24" long, 5" long needle, needle nose pliers, awl (or sharpened chopstick), ball headed straight pins.

Fold each length of eye floss in half. Be sure each ½ is even. Loop end first, thread it thru the wire on each glass eye. Pull the loop a little bit thru the eye wires, take the tail and pull it thru that loop. Pull the tails tightly, and you have tied the glass eye to the waxed floss securely.

Use your ball headed pins to help determine where to place the eyes. The common place is right where the forehead starts to slope up, just on the outside of the gusset seam. Be sure NOT to place them directly on the seam as that will weaken the head. Move the eyes (pins) away from and closer to the gusset to see which look pleases you best.

When you are ready to insert the eyes, first, thread the tails of the waxed floss from one of the eyes onto your 5" needle. Take your awl (chopstick) and carefully poke a small hole (separate the threads of the backing) where one of your pins is located. Now, take your threaded 5" needled and insert it thru that hole, coming out down at the neck of your bear, on the opposite side of the eye. Do the same for the other eye

At the back of the bear now, separate the tails of the floss for one of the eyes. With one tail, take a small stitch so it is next to its other tail, but not in the same hole. Do the same for the other eye's floss tail.

Carefully tie one knot (just over once) and pull gently. Push gently on the eyes to help them sink in... but you don't want to pull too tightly and accidentally break the glass eyes! Pushing gently on the eyes helps sink the eyes without breaking them. Now go back to those floss tails and tie a square knot. Sink the ends.

## **Ears**

Using a 24" length of upholstery thread, whipstitch the ears closed and do NOT cut off the end! Tie off a quick knot to secure it, but leave the thread hanging from each ear. You will use these to attach them to the head. Position the ears onto your bear & pin them to your bear's head. Move them about until you are happy with their placement. You can really play with a bear's expression by moving those ears about! To make sure they are even, take a look at your bear in the mirror, and also look down on his head

from above. These tricks can help you place them evenly.

When you have the ears placed as you like, you just whipstitch them into place (removing pins as you go) When you finish at the bottom of the ear, tie a knot and hide the threads just like you did when you closed the seams.

## **Finishing Touches**

Using a stiff needle, pull out any mohair that may have gotten trapped in the seams. Brush out the mohair on your bear for a fluffier appearance.

Sew a jingle bell to each of the points of the collar except the back point which is split. fit onto your bear and sew the collar closed with a few stitches in the back. You can now enjoy your Jingle Bear!

Jingle Bear was designed by Laura L. Matthews of : [www.FreeTeddyBearPatterns.NET](http://www.FreeTeddyBearPatterns.NET)

She also designs and sells artist teddy bears from her personal patterns at

[www.TeddiesbyLauraLynn.com](http://www.TeddiesbyLauraLynn.com)