

SEW  
TOY



LEARNING TO SEW FOR BEGINNERS

# Joy the star

AN ORIGINAL DESIGN

CREATED BY SEWTOY, 2020

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## Hi there!

Welcome. Thank you for purchasing Joy the star sewing tutorial & pattern.

I have designed this little star to be as easy to make as possible, so don't worry, even if you are a beginner. This little star was inspired by the birth of one very special little girl in the middle of pandemic times. She brought us so much joy and hope in the time when good news was not that often received.

While making the star, you will learn the basics of how to make your own simple soft toys and you will pick up a few tips & tricks on the way too.

I hope you will enjoy sewing this little star as much as I enjoyed making it. Let's start sewing & learning together.

*Maja*

p.s. As SewToy customer, you have my full support. If you get stuck for any reason, just message me on Etsy and we will find the solution together.



## Finished size

20 cm x 18 cm / 7,5 in x 7 in

## STEP 1: Prepare all materials

### PREPARE THE MATERIALS

- 2x yellow fleece 24 cm x 24 cm (9 1/2 in x 9 1/2 in)\*
- Dark blue embroidery thread
- Yellow thread for the star
- Dark pink thread for the cheeks
- Light pink wool felt
- Toy or pillow stuffing

General requirements: sewing machine, pins, needles, scissors, trick marker, or chalk.

Prewash the fabric before you start. If the toy is meant for the child, I recommend washing finished toy on a gentle cycle before handing it to them.

\*For this project soft materials like fleece are preferred, but you can also use other materials like cotton, cotton blends, or wool felt.



### PREPARE THE TEMPLATE

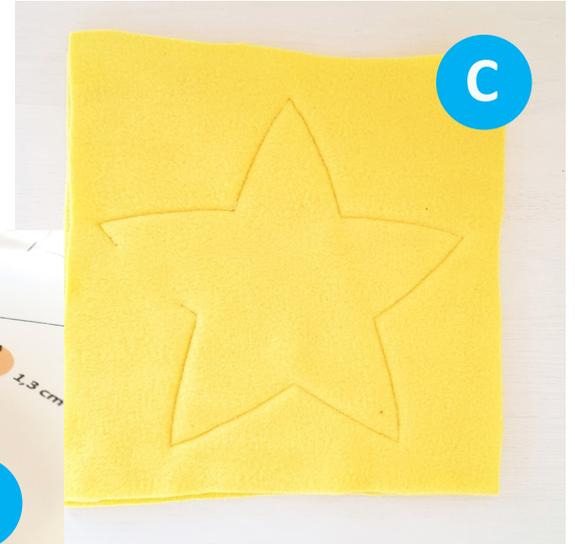
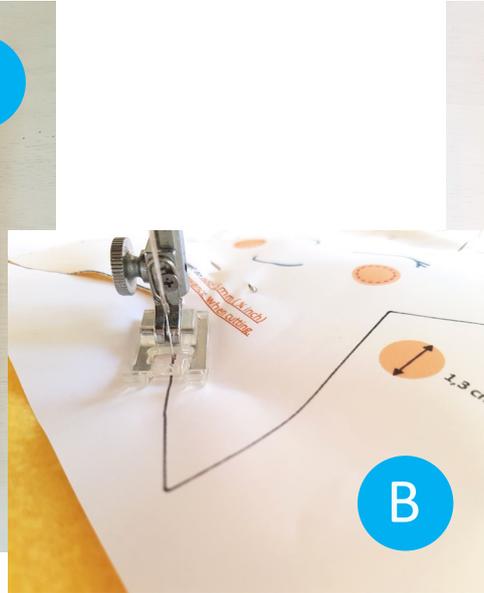
Print out the pattern at the end of this tutorial (page 7). Don't cut it!

*Let's connect & sew together!*

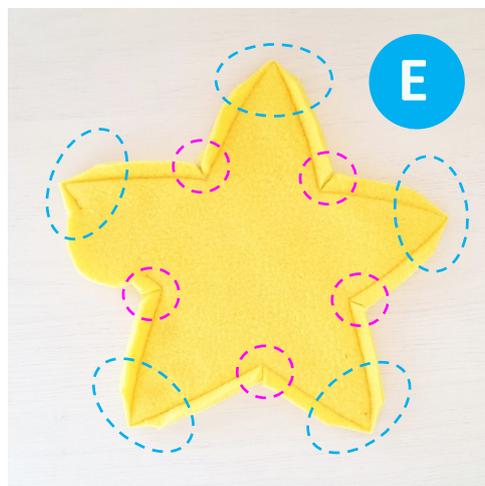


## STEP 2: The star

- A. Position the yellow fleece fabric squares on the top of each other so that the wrong side is on the outside and right sides are together. Position the paper with the printed pattern on the top and pin everything together.
- B. Sew the star together following the pattern line on the paper. Leave an opening as marked on the pattern for stuffing.
- C. Unpin and remove the paper.



- D. Cut the redundant fabric 5 mm ( ¼ inch) from the seam. Around the opening add an additional 5 mm ( ¼ inch).
- E. Make small cuts as shown on the picture (pink circles) close to the seam. Cut off the fabric at the points (blue circles). Be careful not to cut the seam.
- F. Turn the cloud around through the opening for stuffing. Position all edges nicely using your fingers and non-sharp pointy object.



## STEP 3: Embroidering the mouth & eyes

First, use a trick marker or chalk to mark the position of the mouth and eyes. Help yourself by drawing central line first. See picture F on the previous side.

For embroidery of the mouth and eyes, you will use the stem stitch.

### THE STEM STITCH

The stem stitch is an embroidery stitch in which each stitch overlaps the previous stitch to one side. You start on one side and each time return back to the previous stitch, the thread being on outside (above the eyes, / below the mouth) all the time:



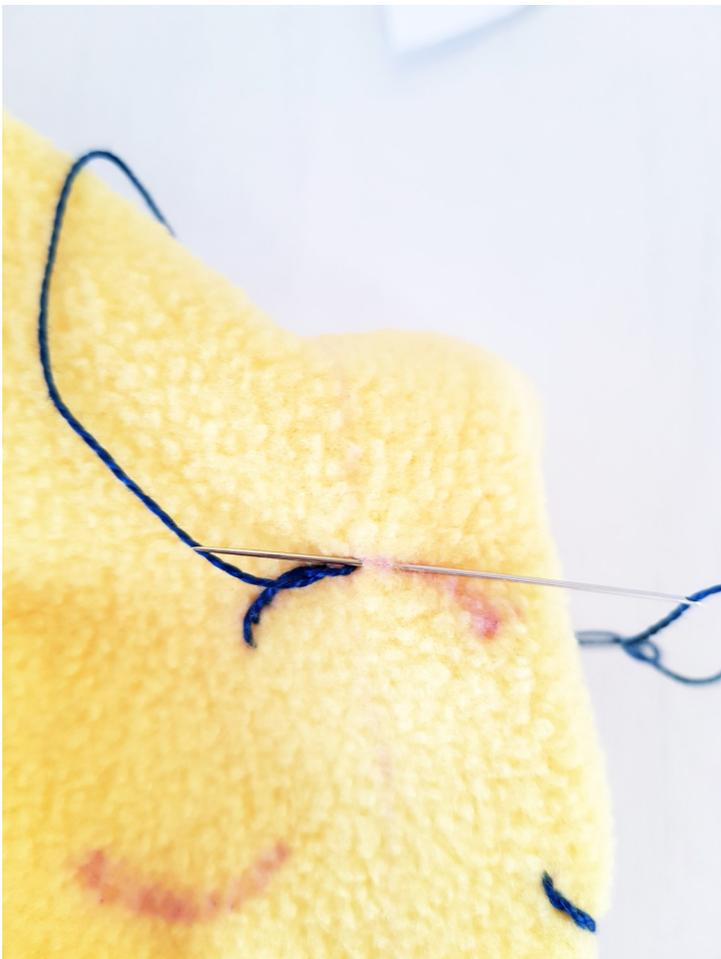
To start embroidery, make a knot on the embroidery thread. Position the opening for stuffing so that the bottom part of the fabric, you will be embroidering, is accessible. When you finish embroidery go around the stitched line on the inside a few times back to the beginning and then cut the redundant thread (See page 5).

### Eyes

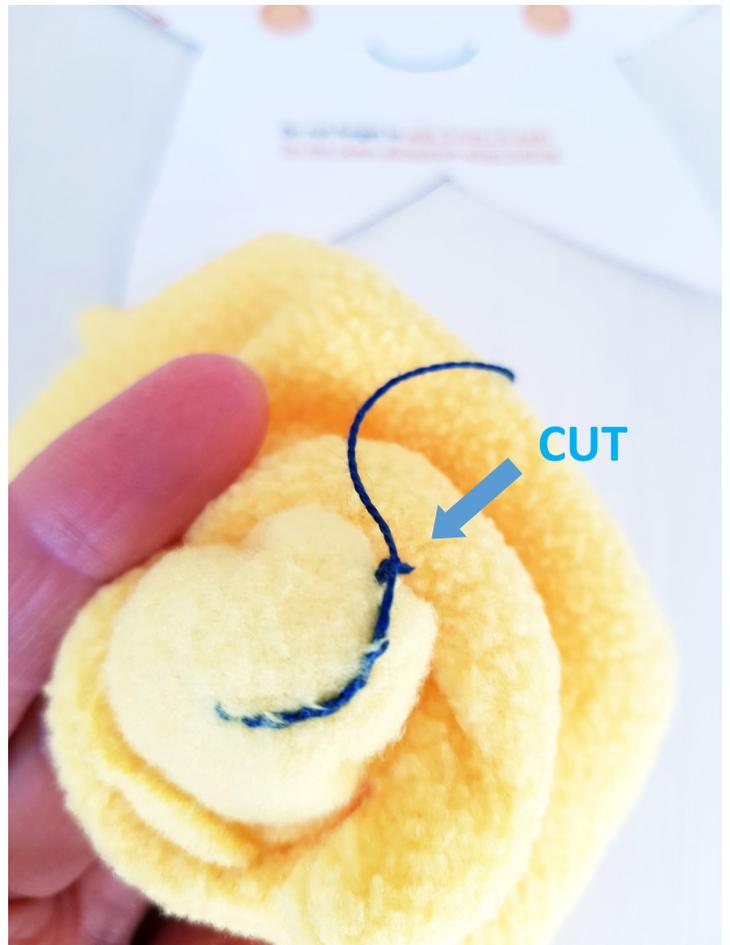
Start on the inside of the eye and go toward the lashes. For the lashes make two small stitches. In the end, go around the stitched line on the inside a few times and then cut the redundant thread.



**IMPORTANT.** Do each eye and mouth separately, don't go directly from one to another with the same thread. Also, make sure you don't have any loose ends inside the fabric because this might cause the dark embroidery thread to be seen through the light-colored fabric of the star and we don't want that.



Begin the stem stitch on the inside, the thread being above the eye all the time.

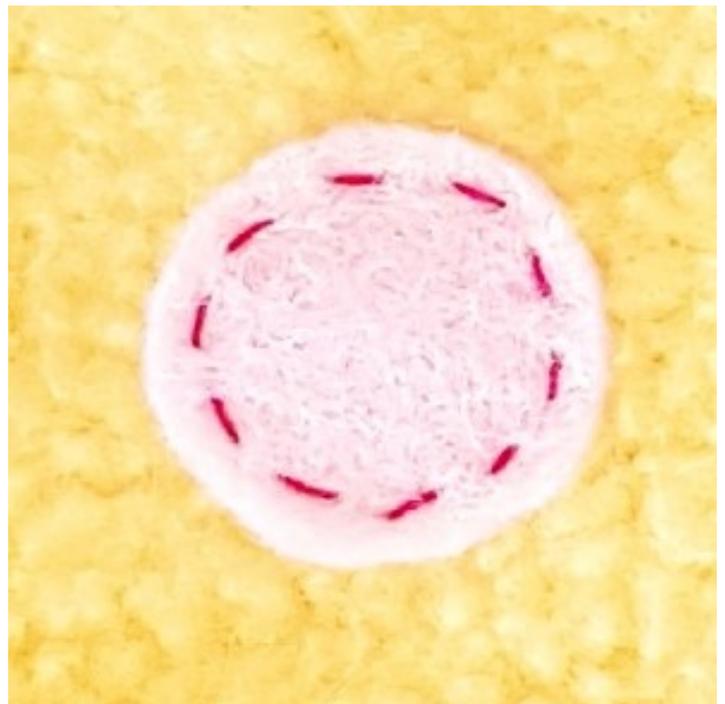


Go around the stitched line on the inside a few times back to the beginning and then cut the redundant thread.

## *Cheeks*

Pin both cheeks in the right position.

Sew them on with dark pink sewing thread using regular running stitch. Finish as with the embroidery thread, hiding all ends.

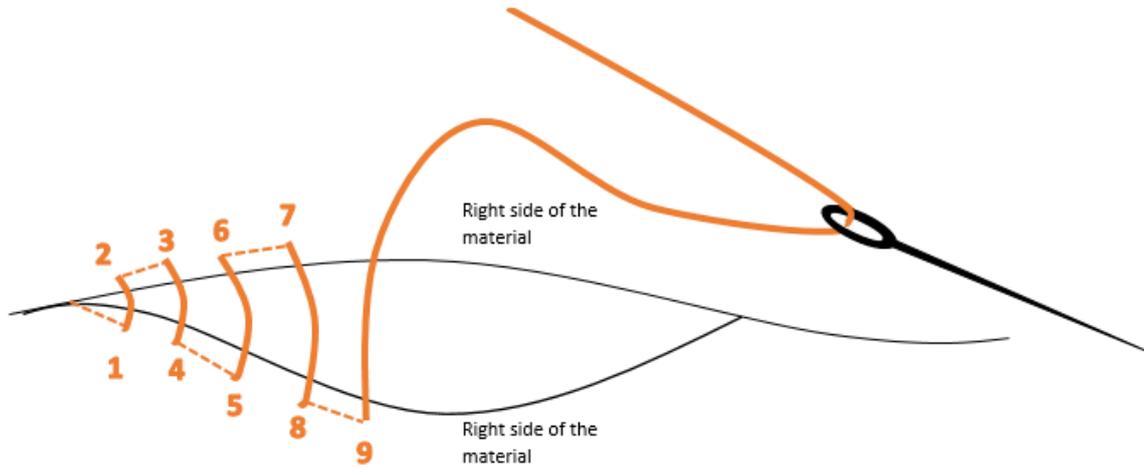


## STEP 4: Stuffing & closing the opening

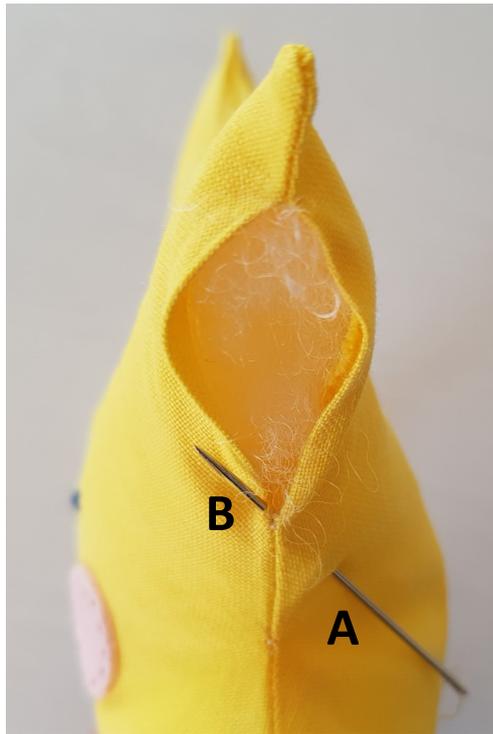
Stuff the star with a toy stuffing through the opening. Close the opening with the **ladder stitch**.

### THE LADDER STITCH

Ladder stitch is the best way to close the openings when sewing toys.



Stuff the star through the opening.



Stab the needle a few cm (inches) away from the opening (point A) and come out at the beginning of the opening (point B). Make three very little stitches there (instead of a knot) and cut the excessive thread.



Close the opening using the ladder stitch, just follow the diagram above. When you reach the end of the opening finish with three little stitches and hide the thread ending in the cloud (the same as you did at the beginning of an opening). Give a star a good massage to reposition the stuffing nicely.

*Congratulations!*

You are finished now. I would LOVE to see how it turned out.

*Let's connect & sew together!*



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Design by SewToy, 2020

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