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## Sock Monkey Sewing Instructions

There's no right or wrong way to make a Sock Monkey. This is just the way that I make them. Use these steps to create a sock monkey that is unique to you!



### You will need:

- Two socks
- Polyester or other stuffing
- Embroidery floss or other decorative thread
- Scraps of fabric or felt for eyes (optional)
- Scrap of quilt batting or fleece for tail
- Scrap of quilting cotton or felt for heart (optional)
- All-purpose sewing thread
- Hand sewing needles
- Sewing machine with ballpoint or stretch needle
- Time, patience, and humour 😊

### Helpful notes:

**Note 1 – Instagram @fourpatchtextiles:**  
Check out the saved highlights on the Four Patch Textiles Instagram account for videos that demonstrate some of the steps. If you post about your monkey, please tag me @fourpatchtextiles.

### Note 2 – Choosing Socks:

When choosing socks (either new or used) keep in mind that you will need two, patterns will be upside down, the length of the foot will be the length of the body, the length of the ankle will be the length of the legs, the band at the top of the ankle will be the hands and feet, the toe will be the mouth, and thinner socks are easier to sew.

### Note 3 – Fold Over Top Band:

Some socks have a knitted, elastic top band that is folded over and sewn, creating a double layer. Carefully snip the inside stitches and unfold the top band to create a single layer that is easier to sew.





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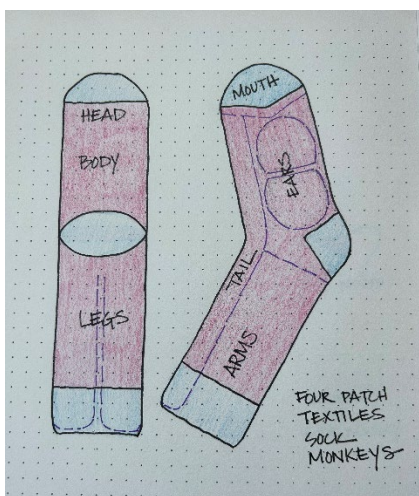
## Sock Monkey Sewing Instructions

### **Note 3 – Machine Stitching:**

Use a small zigzag stitch or a stretch stitch when machine stitching on the socks.

### **Note 4 – Layout of Parts:**

The layout of parts is shown in the sketch. Don't cut the socks yet! Just use this as reference when following the steps.



Machine stitch the legs as shown, beginning approximately 1 cm (3/8 to 1/2 inch) below the edge of the sock heel (shown in red).



Stitch the legs at any width you desire (remember that the fabric will stretch when stuffed. I stitch the legs approximately 2.5 cm (1 inch) from the folded edge).

### **Step 1: Stitching the Legs**

Turn the one sock inside out, and smooth flat heel side up and toe to the top.



Trim along the lines of stitching leaving a few mm of seam allowance (1/8 inch). Add the waste pieces to the stuffing. There will be an unstitched portion or “hole” at the “crotch”. This is the opening for stuffing.





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### Step 2: Cutting the Mouth

Turn the second sock inside out and smooth flat. Cut off the toe of the sock approximately 1 cm (1/2 inch) below the toe seam. Set toe aside.



Trim along the line of stitching (to the left of the stitching in this photo), leaving a few mm of seam allowance (1/8 inch). Set the tail aside.



### Step 3: Stitching the Tail

Reposition the second sock, laying it flat with the heel and bottom to one side. Stitch as shown approximately 2 cm (3/4 inch) from the folded edge.



### Step 4: Cutting for Arms and Ears

Cut the heel from the remaining portion of the second sock as shown, to separate the pieces for the arms and ears. Keep the ear portion folded as is and set aside.





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### Step 5: Stitching the Arms

Unfold the arm portion of the second sock so the right side is facing up. Fold each cut edge to the centre and pin.



Stitch approximately 3 mm (1/8 inch) from the raw edge and across the bottom of each arm as shown.



Cut or trim adjacent to the stitching lines leaving a 3 mm (1/8 inch) seam allowance, to separate the two arms. Add the trimmings to the stuffing.



### Step 6: Stitching the Ears

Check that the ear portion of the second sock is still folded as shown in Step 4, and stitch approximately 3 mm (1/8 inch) from the edges as shown.



Cut or trim outside of the stitching lines leaving a 3 mm (1/8 inch) seam allowance and cut down the middle to separate the two ears.



Add the trimmings to the stuffing.



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## Sock Monkey Sewing Instructions

### Step 7: Turning and Stuffing

Set the tail aside. Turn the body and legs, ears, arms and mouth, right side out.



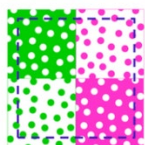
Stuff the body and legs, ears, and arms to the firmness you desire. Leave the mouth and the tail unstuffed for now.



### Step 8: Stitch the Body

Hand stitch the opening between the legs closed. Use a double strand of all-purpose sewing thread and a ladder stitch. This is likely a high stress area, so I recommend you stitch over it twice.





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### Step 9: The Eyes

You can choose your own approach to the eyes. Many sock monkeys have eyes that are stitched directly on to the face with embroidery floss, like Norman the Sock Monkey.



Sock monkeys may have buttons for eyes. Many of the monkeys I make go to little ones so I don't use buttons for the eyes.

I create a sock monkey "face" by cutting out an "eye shape" from scraps of cotton sweatshirt fleece, turning under the edges and machine stitching the eyes on with a dense zigzag and all-purpose sewing thread. Then I add a running stitch outline with embroidery floss. You could use a piece of felt, or other fabric that doesn't fray and avoid turning the edges under. Keep in mind the final care of the sock monkey and use washable fabrics if you plan on tossing the monkey in the laundry.



The bottom edge of the "eye shape" can be left raw because it will be covered by the mouth.

Hand stitch the "eye shape" in place using a double strand of all-purpose thread, a sharp needle and small slip or appliqué stitches.



### Step 10: The Mouth

Position the mouth (the toe of the second sock) across the face, just below the eyes. There isn't any stuffing in the mouth yet. The seam along of the sock toe is on the bottom or chin. Fold the raw edge under a few mm and pin in place.

Using a double strand of all-purpose thread, stitch the mouth in place, beginning approximately 1 cm (3/8 inch) from centre on the bottom or chin of the mouth. Stitch all the way around and stop 1 cm (3/8 inch) from centre, leaving an opening on the bottom or chin. Secure the stitches, but don't cut the thread yet.



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Stuff the mouth to the desired firmness and stitch the opening closed.



Embroider the mouth and nose as desired. I use a six-strand embroidery floss, a stem stitch for the mouth and simple X's for the nose.



### Step 11: The Ears

Fold the raw edges of the ear to the inside, and slip stitch closed using a double strand of thread. Secure the stitches, but leave the remaining thread and needle attached. Do the same with the second ear.



You can choose to go directly to stitching the ears onto either side of the head if you want, or you can stitch and fold the ears to create some dimension.

To create some dimension to the ears, first stitch a line a few mm inside the outer edge with embroidery floss and a running stitch.





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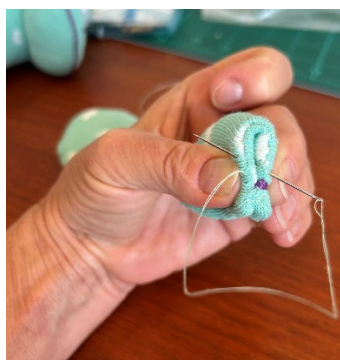
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Again, you can choose to go directly to stitching the ears onto either side of the head or proceed to fold and create some additional dimension.

To create that additional dimension, pinch the ear in half.



Slip stitch the bottom edges together using the thread and needle that you left attached.



Secure the stitches and pass the needle back through the ear to position the thread and needle at the bottom front.



Do the same for the other ear.

Now, position the ear on the side of the head. I position the front of the ear approximately one finger width back from the mouth and aligned with the mouth stitching. Using small slip or appliqué stitch and the needle and thread you had left attached, stitch all the way around the bottom of the ear. Secure the stitches and cut the thread.







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## Sock Monkey Sewing Instructions

Do the same for the other ear.

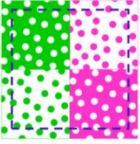


### Step 12: The Arms

I like to tuck in the raw edges and create a flat top on the tube that is the arm before stitching it on to the body. Using a double strand of thread, secure it at the seam of the arm near the top with a knot and a few stitches. Stitch a running or gather stitch around the top of the arm, a few mm from the raw edge. Draw the thread tight to close the tube, tucking the raw edges inside. Secure the thread with a few stitches but don't cut it. Pass the needle through the arm and pull it out at the seam near the top. Don't cut it yet.



Position the arm on the body. I like to tuck them under the ears with the seam facing towards the feet. Using the needle and thread that is still attached, stitch all the way around the arm with small slip or appliqué stitches. Secure and cut the threads. Do the same with the second arm.



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### Step 13: The Tail

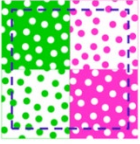
Use the tail as is or cut the tail at the open end if you desire a shorter length. The tail will ultimately be shorter as you will put a curl in the end in a later step.

I find it difficult to get stuffing evenly distributed through the thin tail, so I use a scrap of quilt batting instead. Any fleece, velour or similar fabric will also work. Cut a strip 5 cm (2 inches) wide and just slightly shorter than the tail is long.



Roll the batting on the long edge and hand baste it to stay in place.





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Whip stitch or tack the end of the rolled batting to the seam allowance of the closed end of the tail. Remember that you have yet to turn the tail right side out.



Turn the tail right side out, over the rolled batting. The eraser end of a pencil or the fat end of a smooth chop stick are helpful tools (or anything else that you use for turning tubes of fabric).



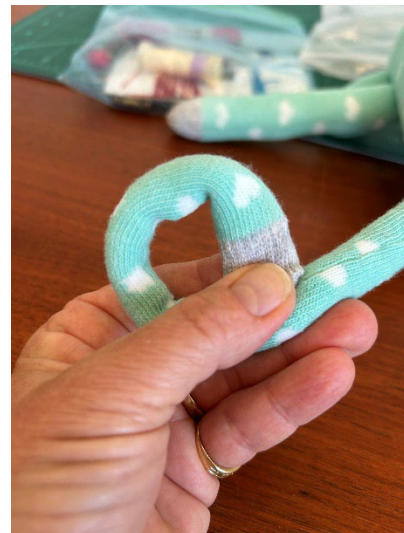
Close the end of the tail, in the same way that you closed the end of the arms (see the

previous steps). As with the arms, secure the thread but don't cut it yet.

Position the tail on the bum of the sock monkey with the seam of the tail facing the feet. Stitch all the way around with small slip or appliqué stitches. Secure and cut the thread.



Put a curl at the end of the tail and secure it with a few small stitches.





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Stitch on a heart or other embellishment if you want.



Congratulations! You are finished!



If your sock monkey likes to play you might find that from time to time it will need a bath. If you have made your sock monkey from washable materials and your stitches are secure, then I recommend hand washing and laying it out to air dry. Or you could pop it in a pillowcase, tie it closed, then wash on a gentle cycle in the machine and lay it out to air dry.

Enjoy!

*If you have any questions, find any errors in these instructions, or have suggestions for improvement, I invite you to send me (Robyn) an email at [fourpatch@outlook.com](mailto:fourpatch@outlook.com) or DM me on Instagram @fourpatchtextiles.*

*Also, short videos of various steps are saved in highlights on Instagram @fourpatchtextiles. You might find them helpful.*

*You can read more about the history of sock monkeys in a [Four Patch Textiles blog](#) post – “Norman the Sock Monkey” – June 2023.*

