



Miss Maggie Rabbit

A dear little bunny in a calico peasant dress, knitted capelet, and boots



This little hand-stitched bunny is made of wool felt and wears a cotton peasant dress, removable boots, and a knitted capelet.

This pattern includes step-by-step instructions, a stitching tutorial, and all pattern templates to make one dressed-up Miss Maggie Rabbit.

Finished Size: About 14" (35.5cm) tall (not including her ears)



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Give finished bunnies away all you can, but please do not sell items made from this pattern. Thanks!

Hello! Thank you for purchasing my pattern!

Please read through this pattern before you start! This little bunny is simple to make but if you haven't done a lot of hand-stitching you may want to practice on some scraps of felt before you start stitching your bunny.

I also **highly recommend making a practice dress** before cutting into the Liberty fabric. Doll clothes are tricky because they are *small*! There isn't a lot of room for error. But I can promise that if you practice a little bit before sewing your final dress it will be worth the time. I've gotten so much better with each dress I've made.

To make Miss Maggie, you will need:

For Maggie:

One 12" x 18" (30cm x 46cm) piece of National Nonwovens wool-blend felt in color #WCF001-2612 Sandstone

One 4" x 5" (10cm x 13cm) piece of Liberty Tana Lawn cotton in Eloise C (for ear)

For her dress:

Two 9" x 14" (23cm x 36cm) pieces of Liberty Tana Lawn cotton in Emilia's Flowers A, Danjo C, or Meadow C

1 yard (91cm) elastic thread

For her boots:

One 5" x 8" (13cm x 20cm) piece of National Nonwovens wool-blend felt in color #TOY002-2616 Havana Gold

For her capelet:

40 yards (about 10g) of Brown Sheep Nature Spun sport-weight wool yarn in Blueberry 110, Baked Beans 132, or Lanaloft sport-weight in Catamaran Seas LL87

Three colors of 6-ply DMC cotton embroidery floss:

#3023 (tan), #3021 (dark brown), and #823 (navy)

Paper scissors, sharp fabric scissors, and sharp-tipped embroidery scissors

Water-erase fabric marker

Size #5 embroidery needle for stitching bunny

Wool quilt batting, wool stuffing, or polyester fiberfill

Hemostats (for stuffing)

Spray bottle with water

Pink stamp pad and small, short-bristled paintbrush

Spray-starch

Sewing machine and thread to match dress

Iron, ironing board, and dressmaker's ham (for pressing)

Marker matching color of dress fabric (to dye elastic)

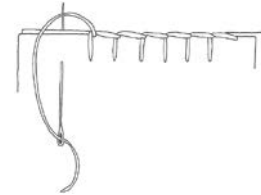
Size #18 chenille needle for elastic thread

Size US5 (3.75mm) knitting needles

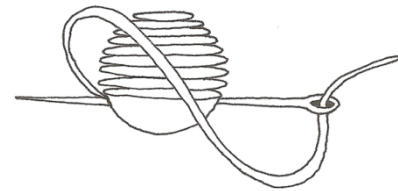
Yarn needle

Some stitches you'll need to know:

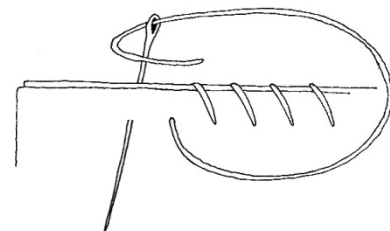
Blanket stitch: To start this stitch, knot the end of the thread and run your needle under the surface of the felt on the wrong side, about 1/2" (12mm) from where you want your stitching to begin. Pull the thread until the knot is secured in the (wrong-side) surface of the felt and your needle is coming out where you want to start. Then insert the needle the same distance below the edge as the stitch is wide, about 1/8" (3mm). Bring the needle up behind the fabric, looping the thread around the back of the needle to form the top ridge. To end a seam, just knot your thread at the top of the stitch, running your needle through a bit of felt on the inside to secure.



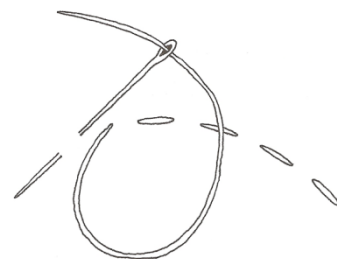
Satin stitch: This stitch is used to fill the eye and nose areas with long, smooth stitches. Stitches should be worked smoothly from one edge to the other, and laid close together so no fabric shows through.



Whip stitch: I use this stitch to sew the Arms and Legs to the Body and to attach the Ears to the Head. Insert the needle from the back to the front, and keep it at a diagonal to move from right to left.



Running stitch: Working from right to left, weave the needle in and out of fabric, then pull thread through.



A quick tip:

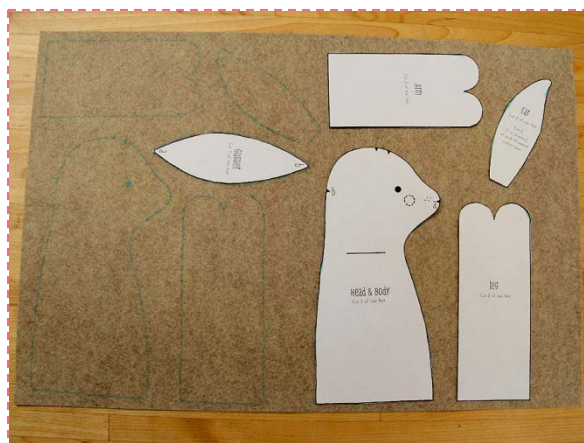
To see how to knot your thread and begin stitching flat pieces together, see blanket stitch (page 2). To secure your thread in the stuffed animal when you aren't able to knot it (to stitch the nose, for instance), insert the needle into the Head near the nose and bring it out about ½" (12mm) away; push the needle back in very near where it came out, and bring it out again about ½" (12mm) away in a different direction. Keep doing this until the thread is totally secure, then bring the needle out exactly where you want to begin sewing.

Let's make Maggie!

Note: Use 2 plies of floss (separate them away from the 6 in the strand) and #5 needle throughout **unless otherwise noted**. After you've tied off your thread at the end of a seam, leave the thread tail hanging (if it is long enough to sew with). You may use it to stitch body pieces together after they're stuffed.

1. Carefully cut out all paper templates. Leaving room to trace multiples when necessary, arrange the Head & Body, Ear, Gusset, Arm, and Leg templates on the tan (Sandstone) felt and trace each piece carefully with the water-erase fabric marker.

2. Transfer the markings to each piece. Do NOT cut notches at the small lines; just make a mark on the felt to indicate these places where pieces will match up. To mark the eye and whisker spots, poke a pin through the pattern piece into the felt below, then lift the paper and mark the spot with the marker. (Don't worry about transferring the cheek circle; just use that as an eyeball-guide later when you paint your cheeks on, after the rabbit is stuffed.) Remember to reverse the markings for the second side of the Head & Body. Cut out each piece.



3. Embroider eyes using navy embroidery floss and satin stitch.

4. To make a whisker, use 1 ply of dark brown floss. Secure your thread on the back side of the Head & Body piece near the whiskers and bring your needle out to the front at a whisker spot. Clip thread and repeat for all 8 whiskers on both pieces.



5. Using tan floss and blanket stitch, match point A of Gusset to point A on Head & Body piece and stitch pieces together (starting at Point A). Point B of Gusset should end at Point B on Head & Body piece.

6. Repeat for other side of Head, starting again at Point A. Take care to make sure that the Gusset ends at Point B. Continue to stitch the Body down the back.



7. With tan floss and blanket stitch, from Point A, continue down the front edges, leaving the bottom open.

8. Fold the small piece of cotton lawn in half lengthwise, trace the Ear template onto the fabric, and cut the pieces out. Place the cotton lawn Ear right side up on top of felt Ear and, starting at lower right edge, stitch the lawn to the felt around to the other edge using tan floss and blanket stitch. Whipstitch the bottom of Ear edges together. Stitch Ear to Head/Gusset seam between marks at top of Head with whipstitches. Repeat all steps for the other Ear.



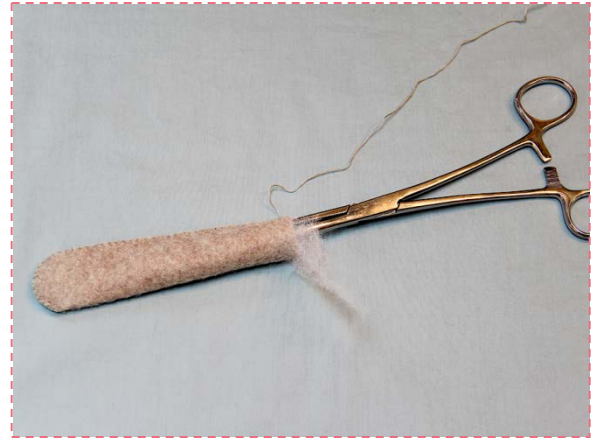
8. Fold one Leg in half lengthwise and, starting at the curved end (the foot), use tan floss and blanket stitch to stitch long edges together (leaving the short end open). Repeat for the second Leg.

9. Fold one Arm in half lengthwise and, starting at the curved end (the hand), use tan floss and blanket stitch to stitch long edges together (leaving the short end open). Repeat for the second Arm.



10. Now for the stuffing! I use wool quilt batting and pull the layers of it apart, then rip those into smaller pieces. Starting with the nose, use your hemostat to stuff the Head & Body, down to the bottom edge. **In order for Maggie to fit into all of the clothes that are designed for the Little Animal Family, her neck circumference should be about 6" (14cm).** If her neck is any fatter than that, the clothes won't fit properly. Using the long tail that you left when stitching the back and/or front seams, blanket stitch one side of the bottom closed. Using tan floss and blanket stitch, secure a new thread at the center seam and stitch the opposite side of the bottom closed.

11. Now stuff the Arms and Legs.



12. Pinch the short edges together and, using tan floss and whip stitch, stitch the openings closed on all appendages. Finish the stitching with a knot, but don't cut off the tail yet (you may use it to attach the Arms and Legs to the Body).

13. With the blanket stitching facing the front, attach the Arm securely to the side of the Body at marking using whip stitches that go through all layers. Repeat for the other Arm.



14. Attach Leg (with the blanket stitching facing to the outside) securely to the bottom of the Body using the thread tail and whip stitches that go through all layers. Repeat for the other Leg.





15. Now for the finishing touches: Use the spray bottle to spritz all marks left from the fabric marker. As the felt air dries, the marks will disappear. To make the nose, use dark brown floss and satin stitch to fill in the small triangle where the Gusset meets the Head pieces. To make the cheeks, use your paintbrush to pick up some of the ink from the stamp pad and dab it on the cheek area. (You might want to practice this on a scrap of felt before doing it on the real Head.) To make the whiskers stiffen up a bit, spray a little spray-starch into a small cup. Use your fingers to saturate the plies of embroidery floss (try not to get the starch on the felt). Pull the strands out to the side and hold the rabbit upside down for a few minutes so that the whiskers don't clump together. Trim them to $\frac{3}{4}$ " (2cm) when dry.

Hi, Mags!!!



Let's make a peasant dress for Maggie!

Note: Use sewing machine and $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) seams throughout, unless otherwise noted.

1. Fold a piece of cotton lawn fabric in half lengthwise. Lay the Dress and Sleeve templates on the fold of the fabric, trace, and cut out. Repeat for the second piece of fabric.



2. Turn under a $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) hem on the cuff ends of each Sleeve and press with the iron. Using your sewing machine, stitch along the hem, halfway between the folded edge and the raw edge.

3. With right sides together, stitch the Dress Front & Back to the Sleeves along the curved edges using a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) seam. Press seams open.

4. Press under a $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) hem along the entire neckline. Machine-stitch along the hem, halfway between the folded edge and the raw edge. **Go slow here.**



5. With right sides together, fold the dress in half at the Sleeves and stitch the side seams and the underarm seams, pivoting under the arm. Clip underarm seam just to stitching (to help the Sleeves lay flat) and press all seams open. Turn under a $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) hem on the bottom of the dress. Stitch along the hem, halfway between the folded edge and the raw edge.



6. If the background color of your dress fabric is something other than white, you can place the elastic on a piece of scrap paper and color it with the marker to match. Allow it to dry and cut it into 3 equal lengths. Thread one of the lengths through your size-#18 darning needle. Tie a small knot in the other end.

7. Starting at one of the neckline seams, make 1/8" (3mm) running stitches around the neck edge, just below the hem stitches. Gather the neck edge on the elastic until it's full but so that you can still get the dress on over her head. Knot the elastic on the wrong side of the dress and snip off the excess elastic. Repeat for each Sleeve end with the remaining elastic; try the dress on before knotting and clipping elastic.

Let's make Maggie some boots!

Note: Use 2 plies of floss throughout.

1. Leaving room for multiples, arrange the templates on the brown felt. Trace each piece carefully with the marker and cut out. Transfer the marks by lifting the paper template slightly and marking the felt below.

2. Stitch the short edges of the Upper together using dark brown floss and whip stitches.

3. Stitch the Shaft to the Upper using whip stitches, matching the center back of the Shaft with the back seam of the Upper. I start stitching at the seam and stitch one way, stopping just shy of the curvy corner. Then I turn the boot around do the opposite side.

4. Stitch the Upper to the Sole using dark brown floss and blanket stitch. Make sure to match the markings so that the Upper is centered on the Sole.



5. Using two plies and one length of Dark Brown floss, thread the #5 needle and "lace" the shoe through the markings going up the Shaft just as you would a real boot, one side at a time. Put the boots on Maggie's feet and tie laces in a bow!

Now knit the capelet:

Gauge: 6 stitches and 12 rows per inch in pattern stitch on US5 (3.75mm) needles; capelet should be about 8 1/4" (21cm) long between lower corners when laid flat

Using a long tail cast on and leaving enough yarn to have a 6" (15cm) tail (for capelet tie) after casting on, cast on 14 sts.

Row 1 (Wrong Side): Knit all stitches.

Row 2 (Right Side): Knit all stitches.

Row 3 (WS): Knit all stitches.

Row 4 (RS): Knit 10, turn work, leaving 4 sts on left needle.

Row 5 (WS): Knit 10 stitches on the left needle.

Row 6 (RS): Knit all (14) stitches.

Row 7 (WS): Knit all stitches.

Row 8 (RS): Knit all stitches.

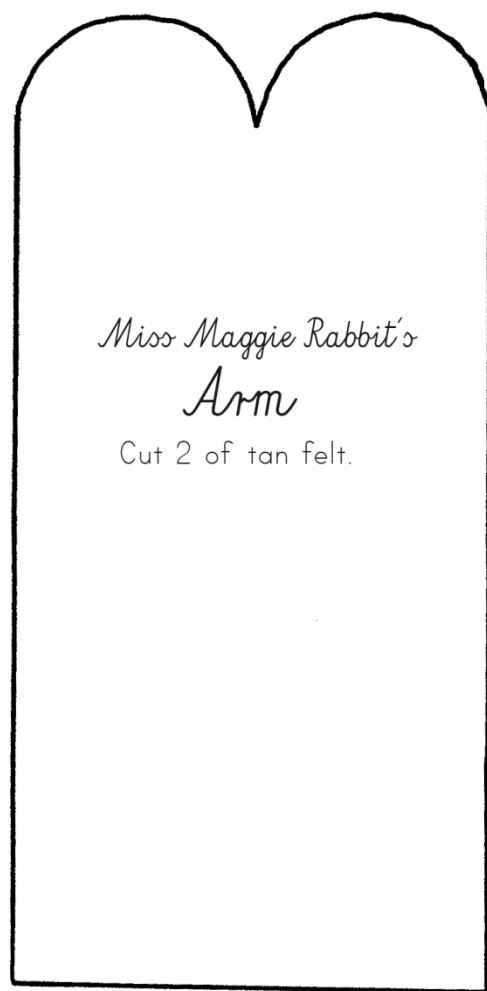
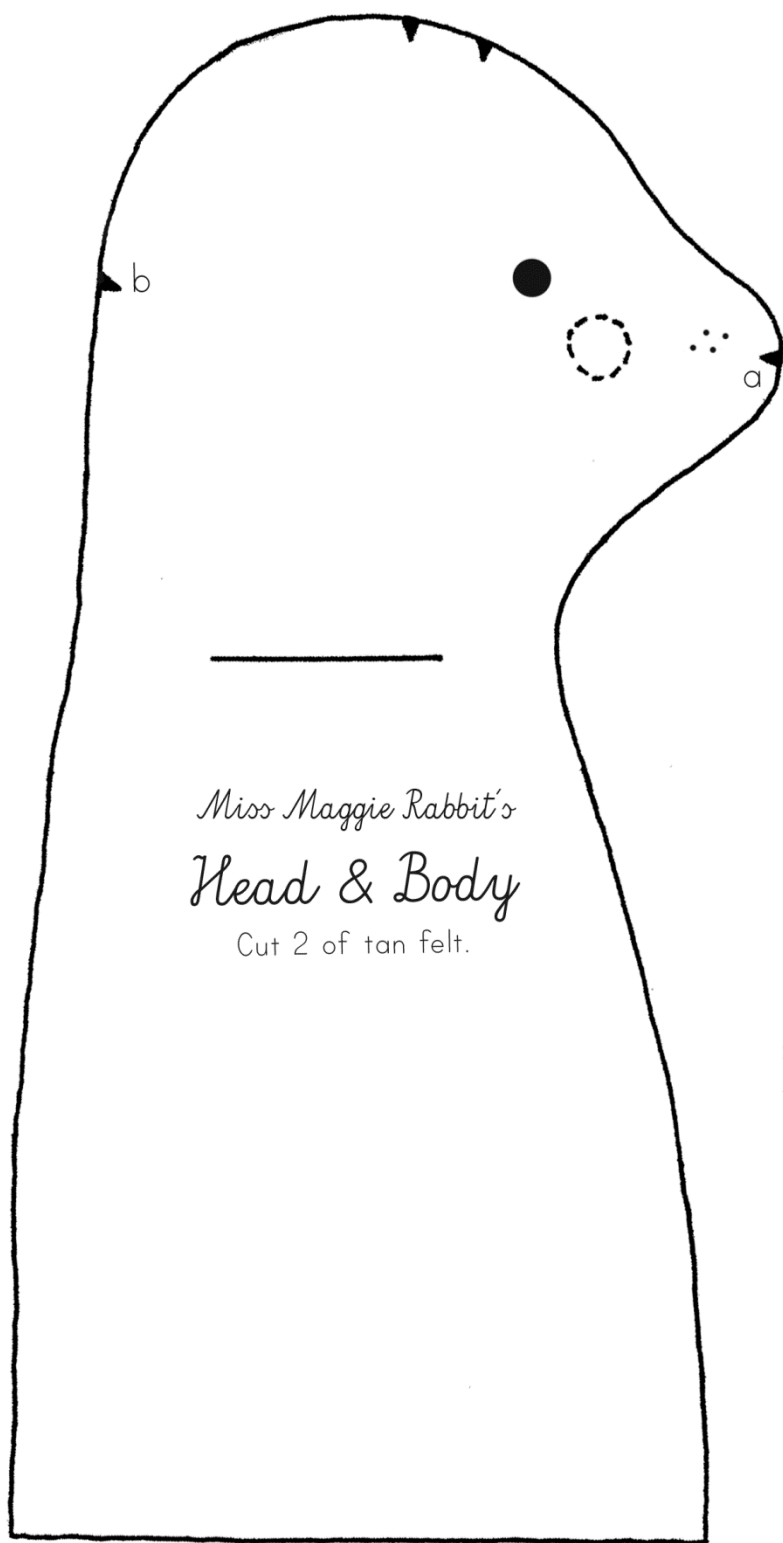
Row 9 (WS): Knit all stitches.

Repeat Rows 4-9 14 times more. Repeat Rows 4-7 1 time more. Bind off on next row. Leave 6" (15cm) tail for capelet tie. Tie a small knot close to the end of tie. Tie capelet on Maggie with bow!



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Pattern templates for a dear little bunny, her peasant dress, and her boots

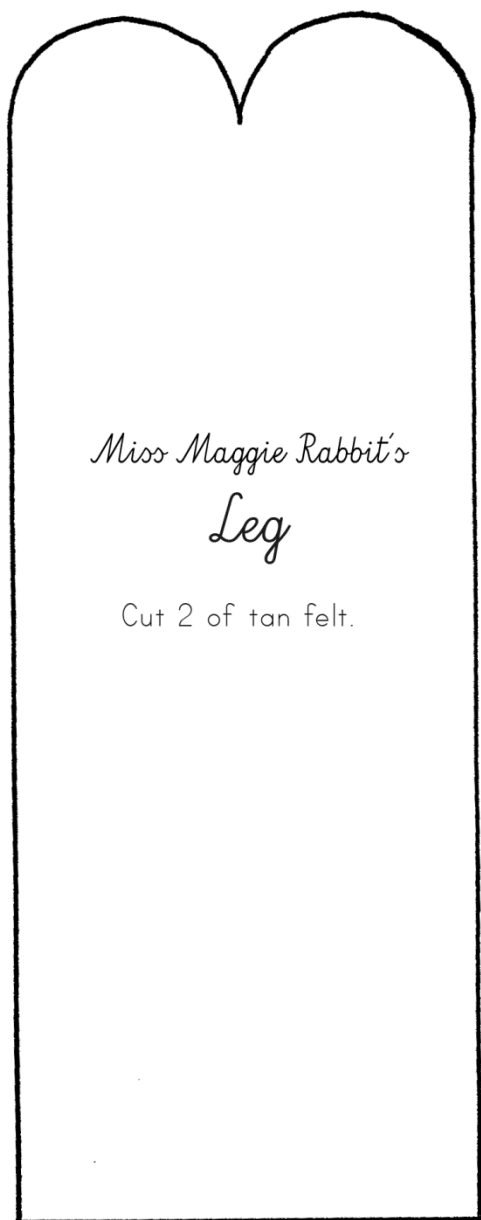


Stitch the short ends of the Upper together to form the back seam.



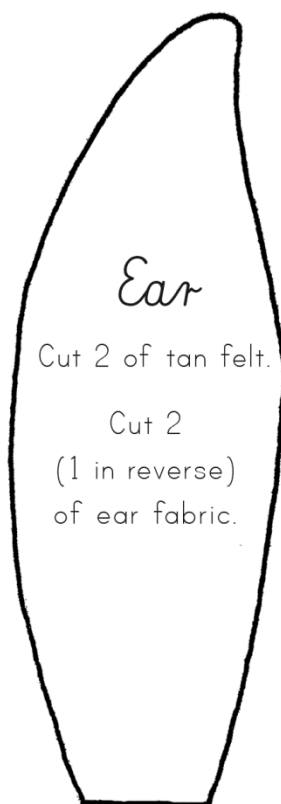
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*After finishing the boot, stuff a bit of batting in the toe to help give it some shape before you put it on Maggie's foot!

Match the heel mark to the back seam on the Upper.



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