



UP TAILS

all!

Finger puppets are all the rage right now and we're super happy that they are! Make ours and re-enact all your favourite scenes from Kenneth Grahame's classic book, *The Wind in the Willows*

PHOTOGRAPHY RACHEL BURGESS PROJECT LAURA CLEMPSON

Materials

- ♦ wool felt in various colours
- ♦ cotton thread
- ♦ black embroidery thread
- ♦ fabric glue
- ♦ freezer paper (optional)
- ♦ needle
- ♦ scissors
- ♦ iron

"Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats."

Well, Ratty might have a point there, but given that the great English weather is, to put it politely, ever so slightly unpredictable, heading outside to mess about in boats quite often gets rained off.

We think that getting our craft on is just as much fun, and definitely as much worth doing as punting along the river, so we've got a sweet tutorial to show you how to make the characters from Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows* – as finger puppets, no less! We love how cheeky Toad looks and Mole looks exactly how we pictured him when reading the book – and look at those incredibly tiny buttons on their waistcoats! If you loved the book as a child as much as we in the *Crafty* office did, you'll be reaching for your sewing kit and felt right now. And if you haven't read the book yet, you really do need to – the characters are so brilliantly realised, you'll feel as if you've known them for years.

This is a great make for young kids, either to get them sewing for the first time

(although you should definitely do the cutting out!) or to make for them as a present. We can just imagine all the little puppet shows being put on here, there and everywhere by adults and young'uns alike. Just try not to fight over who gets to be which character. We know you all want to be Toad. After all, he is *such* a clever Toad.







how to

1 Copy the patterns onto freezer paper then iron each pattern piece onto your chosen felt colour. Carefully cut out each segment. The freezer paper will help give the felt stability while you're cutting out such tiny pieces. It isn't essential but it definitely makes things a little easier.

2 Layer the outfit pieces and facial features onto the front body piece, using a little fabric glue to hold them all in place.

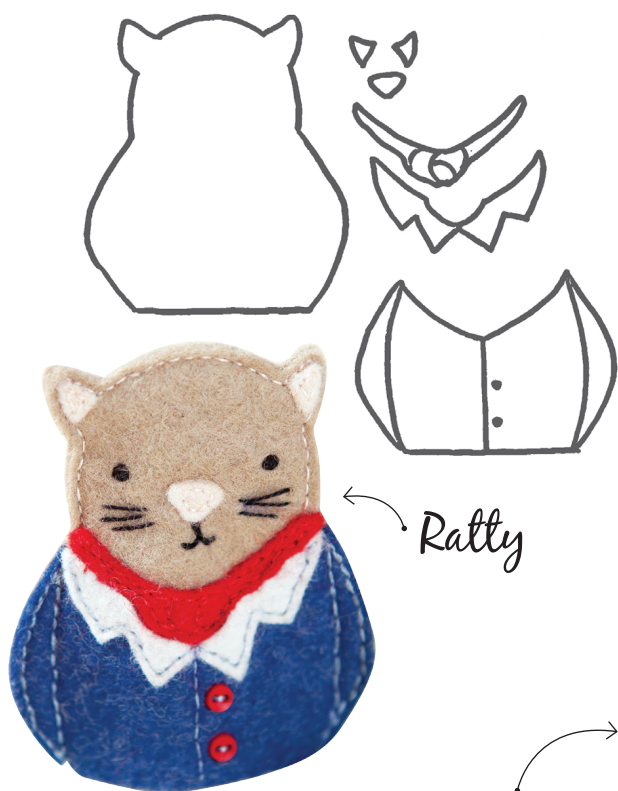
3 Sew the face on using black embroidery thread. Simple running or satin stitches work well for the eyes.

4 Carefully begin hand-stitching each of the felt layers onto the body piece. Do the smallest stitches you can manage.

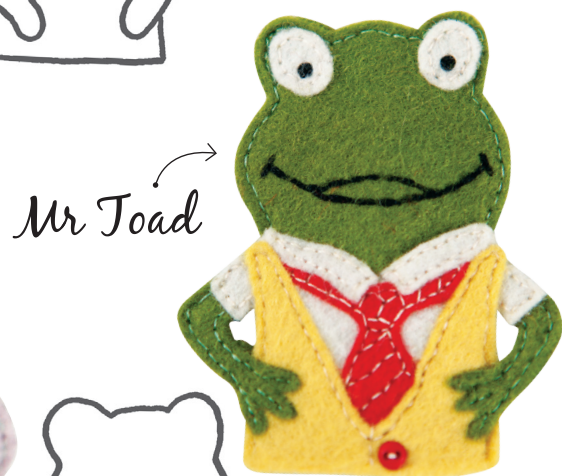
5 Place the completed front piece onto the back body. Stitch together around the edges, remembering to leave the bottom open.

6 Details such as tiny buttons can be used to embellish the clothes and can be added with stitched lines. Voilà! A whole bundle of adorable finger puppet friends!





TEMPLATES
Blow up to desired size



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