



Little Ang

Designed by Christina Harris this beautiful bruin would make a gorgeous gift for the festive season

Gabriel has arrived just in time for Christmas and will look lovely sitting under your tree. This traditional style ted is created from curly German mohair and stands at 31cm (12") tall. His bright red bow brings cheer to the cold Winter days. He's simple enough for a beginner to make, so why not start sewing him today?

You Will Need

- 1/4 yard or 1/4 metre of 3/8" pile mohair
- A small amount of wool felt for the paw pads
- Six 1 1/2" and four 1 7/8" hardboard discs
- Four 7/8" and one 1 5/8" bolt with Nyloc locking nuts
- Ten metal washers
- One pair of 9mm black glass looped eyes
- Perle cotton size 3 black
- A good quality machine thread to matching the mohair

Carpet or strong thread for closing the seams

Polyester bear filler (503 - available from Oakley Fabrics)

3 1/2 oz (100gms) of plastic pellets

A sewing machine

Step by Step

1 All seam allowances for this pattern are .5cm (1/4"). Pattern pieces should be transferred to medium weight art board and marked with pile direction, placement marks and joint positions. Once you have established the direction of the pile, lay out the pattern pieces on the back of the fabric. Draw around the pattern pieces using a ballpoint pen. Avoid using ordinary markers as they may bleed. Cut out the pieces using small, snipping movements under the backing of the mohair to avoid catching the pile.

2 Before you start to stitch, trim round all the pieces of mohair about 1/8" in from the edge and

smooth the fur to the inside as you pin the pieces together. I tend to double stitch around the ankle, paw pads and the head for extra strength.

3 Join the two head pieces right sides together and stitch from the tip of the nose to the neck. Next stitch the ear pieces together along the curve. Then sew the paw pads to the arms matching the notches.

Make a small snip where indicated to the end of the stitch line. Fold the arms over and stitch around the edge leaving an opening for stuffing.

4 Stitch around the legs leaving openings at the front and the sole for the footpad. Stitch the body fronts to the backs at the sides. With those pieces together, stitch from the neck around the tummy and the hump, leaving the back opening for stuffing and a small .5cm (1/4") gap at the neck seams for jointing the head at a later stage.

5 Match and pin the marks on the foot pad to the toe seam and heel mark on the leg. Ease and pin around the rest of the pad. With the pad on a machine plate, start at the toe and with the seam open, stitch slowly and carefully around the foot. Next turn the foot up so that the pad is facing you and stitch around a second time making sure you have a nice symmetrical oval.

6 Pin the nose first at the centre of the gusset to the nose centre seam, then part way up each side of the head. Hand stitch this section of the head and turn it right side out to make sure

the nose is perfectly centred. Turn back to the inside and pin the rest of the head together. Next machine stitch around the head with the gusset facing you. When you get to the nose, keep checking that the underside of the fabric is smooth and that the seam is opened out when you stitch over the end of the snout. You can do this by keeping the needle in the fabric while lifting the presser foot and pivoting your work.

7 When all the pieces have been stitched, turn them right side out and gently brush the seams with a cat comb to release any trapped pile. A teasel brush is not ideal for textured mohair as it can make it too fuzzy. It will also ruin your wool-felt pads if you accidentally brush them.

8 Make a hole with an awl for the joint positions on the arms, legs and the body. Slip a washer and then a disc onto a short bolt, push the bolt through one of the limbs and through the body. Add another disc and washer and tighten the bolt by using a spanner and holding the other end of the bolt in a limb with a screwdriver. (The larger discs are used for the legs, the smaller ones for the arms and the head.) Repeat for the other limbs. Tighten the bolts until you can just move the limbs. Once the bear has been stuffed these will slacken slightly.

9 Because the pads are double stitched it is nearly impossible to pull a knot through the seam when sewing the claws, so if you wish Gabriel to have claws, pull a knotted length of Perle cotton from the inside of the foot pad before stuffing, exiting where you want the first claw to begin.

Hints and Tips

- A size 14 needle in your sewing machine is essential when working with mohair. It will also become blunt more quickly than usual, so change it often.
- Mohair creates a lot of lint so keep your machine well oiled and free from fluff.
- When hand stitching use heavy doubled thread and sew small even ladder stitches.
- When machine stitching around the tops of the legs and arms, taper the seam down at the back to create a nice rounded shoulder or hip.

10 Stuff the legs and arms firmly. Start with small amounts of filling, and work it well into the toe and paw areas. Pay particular attention to the area around the joint and continue stuffing until the limb is firmly filled. Close the opening with heavy thread using ladder stitch. Sew slowly making sure you do not trap any fur in your stitches.

11 Now it's time to begin stuffing the head. Start with a small amount of filling and push it into the nose area. Keep pushing small amounts of the stuffing in at a time and mould it into position with your hands until the area is firm and tight. The nose will need to be very hard as this is the area that will be embroidered. Once you have a firm smooth nose, larger amounts of stuffing can be added, but make sure you keep both sides of the head symmetrical. Add the stuffing to the centre of the head and





mould with your hands to the sides. Add as much stuffing as you possibly can. Run a gathering stitch around the neck edge using strong thread. Fit the long bolt and washer and disc into the opening with the bolt protruding out and pull the gathers up tightly. Make a few criss-cross stitches and secure.

12 Slip the locking bolt through the small gap you left at the top of the body, slip on the remaining washer and disc and tighten down the nut with the spanner whilst holding the bolt with the pliers between the nut and the disc. When you get the bolt as far as it will go, grasp the bottom of the bolt with pliers, and continue tightening the nut. Cut off the length of bolt leaving about 1/2" below the nut.

13 Start stuffing the body making sure you get the filling well into the hump, around the shoulders and into the bottom and around the leg joints. Add the pellets at this stage. Continue stuffing until the bear is relatively firm but his tummy is fairly soft. Close up the back seam of the limbs beginning at the top. When you get half way down push some more stuffing up into the hump and around the shoulders. Keep adding a little stuffing as you close up the seam.

14 Cut the fur in the centre of each ear (front side only). Turn up about .5cm (1/4") and hold in place as you pin each one into position. Stitch in place using a ladder stitch around the back of the ear, then back and forth through the head, catching the front of the ear, reinforcing the curve. Sew several stitches at either end so that the ear is firmly in place. Trim the muzzle with small sharp scissors and take very tiny snips. Make sure you keep it symmetrical.

15 Next use glass headed pins to determine the eye position then make a small hole with an awl (not on a seam). Take about a yard of strong thread, double it and

slip the looped shank of the eye to the centre and tie two knots. Gently pinch the loop together using needle nosed pliers. Slip the four ends of the thread through a long 5" doll-maker's needle and push it through the eye hole up into the head and out directly behind and as close to the opposite ear as you can get. Make sure the eye loop is pulled through the eyehole in the fabric and into the stuffing. Repeat this process for the other eye.

16 Remove the needle and pushing with one hand on the eye, pull the threads up tightly. Now separate the threads, two on each side and with a shorter needle, thread one side and take a tiny stitch from the exit point and come up about 1/8" away. Take off the needle, grasp each side of the threads, loop them twice around and pull tightly together while pushing on the eye. This will keep the threads tight, enabling you to make a double knot. Thread the ends back into the shorter needle, push down into the same area coming out further away. Cut off the ends and repeat for the other eye.

17 Using a least two feet of Perle embroidery floss, start at the centre top of the nose, just above the seam. With close parallel stitches, work your way to one side of the nose, back to the centre and to the other side. Be sure to keep your stitches straight. The last stitch should come out at the bottom tip of the nose, ready to form the mouth. If you have sewn the gusset straight, the stitch will be directly over the seam. The mouth is formed with either an upside-down V or Y.

18 Thread the length of Perle that you pulled before stuffing and stitch four evenly spaced claws, down through the pad and up through the mohair just above the seam. To secure, push the needle back into the mohair a fraction away from where you came out, bring it across the toe, back in and out again, and cut off.

Your templates

Shown actual size



