

Gordon Turtle: wrist pincushion

a sewing pattern by Deborah Fisher of

Fish museum + circus



Wrist pincushions are super convenient to use when going from sewing machine to cutting table, and are wonderful for taking with you to classes!

Gordon is the perfect companion! He is quick to make, great for customizing, and is just the right gift for your sewing friends. Make a bunch of Gordons!

Gordon Turtle: wrist pincushion

THINGS TO KNOW

- Seam allowances are $\frac{1}{4}$ " unless otherwise noted.
- If you have the Gordon Turtle *Kit*, you will only need to provide the fill. The kit includes pre-printed cotton sateen fabric, wool felt, and elastic. The face is already printed on the fabric so embroidery floss is not required unless you would like to add further embellishment.
- For best results, use a new, sharp needle in your sewing machine.

YOU WILL NEED

- Fabric for Shell (about 4"x 8")
- Fabric for Head (about 2" x 4")
- Felt for Legs (about 1"x 3")
- Embroidery floss for the Eyes and Mouth
- Fill (batting scraps, fiber fill, fabric scraps, etc)
- About 8" of $\frac{3}{8}$ " wide elastic
- Cardstock or thin plastic for barrier (optional)

WHAT TO CUT

- Cut 1 Top Shell piece from fabric
- Cut 2 Bottom Shell pieces from fabric
- Cut 1 Head piece from fabric
- Cut 1 rectangle from head fabric about $1\frac{3}{4}$ " x $1\frac{1}{2}$ "
- Cut 4 Legs from felt

HOW TO MAKE GORDON

1. Trace the Head template onto the $1\frac{3}{4}$ "x $1\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangle of fabric and mark the position of the Eyes and Mouth. Embroider the Eyes and Mouth. You just need to make a few tiny stitches for the eyes and a few stitches for the mouth.



2. Cut the embroidered Head out. Place the Head pieces right sides together and sew around the curved side, leaving the straight side open. Trim and clip the sewn seam allowance. You can also use pinking shears instead. Turn the Head right side out. Stuff the Head.



3. Place the Top Shell right side up. Fold the Legs in half lengthwise and pin the Legs to the Top Shell according to the markings on the template. The fold on the front Legs should be oriented towards the back and the fold on the back legs should be oriented towards the front.

4. Pin the Head to the Top Shell according to the markings on the template and matching the straight side of the Head to the edge of the Top Shell. The Face should be against the right side of the Top Shell.

5. The Head and Legs will all be facing towards the center of the Top Shell. Sew the Head and Legs on to the Top Shell using $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam allowance.

6. Prepare the Bottom Shell. Place the 2 Bottom Shell pieces right sides together. Sew along the straight side, $\frac{1}{2}$ " from each corner, leaving the center unsewn. Press the seam open.



7. Place the Bottom Shell piece on top of the Top Shell piece, right sides together. The Head and Legs will be inside the Shell sandwich. Sew around the outside of the shell.

8. Trim and clip the seam allowance, or use pinking shears to trim.

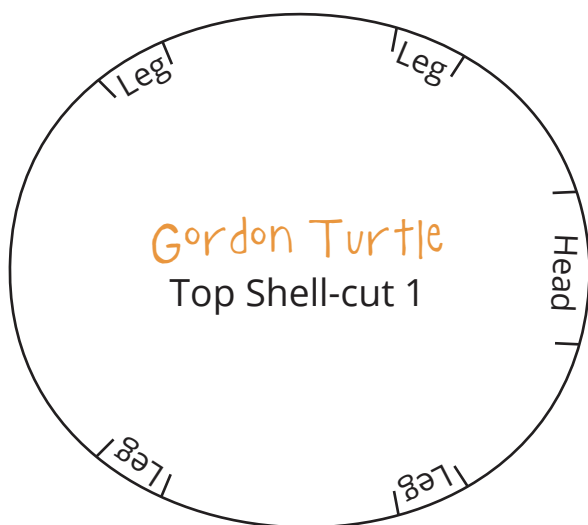
9. Turn the Turtle right side out through the opening in the Bottom Shell. Stuff the Turtle.

Optional: Add a cardboard or plastic barrier to keep from poking yourself in the wrist with the pins when using your wrist pincushion. Use the Barrier template to cut 2 pieces from your barrier material. Insert the pieces, 1 in each direction, through the opening, on top of the fill.

10. Sew the opening in the Bottom Shell closed using a ladder or whip stitch.

11. Wrap the elastic around your wrist until it is comfortable. Trim to fit PLUS $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Place the 2 cut ends together and sew with $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam.

12. Sew the elastic to the underside of the Turtle, placing the seam in the elastic next to the Turtle. Have fun sewing with Gordon!



Gordon Turtle
Legs-cut 4

