

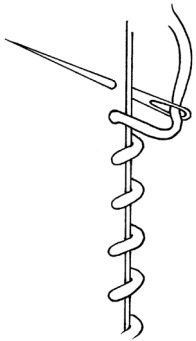
Welcome friends and hand-stitchers!

I hope you enjoy making my newest *threadfollower* pattern. This little Pompom Donkey was inspired by the magical cover image of *Selvedges'* seventy-first issue.

If you have any questions as you stitch, please visit my Etsy shop and convo me there
Cynthiatreenstudio.etsy.com

You can reach me by email at cynthiatreenstudio@gmail.com.
Facebook: Cynthia Treen Studio - threadfollower
instagram [Cynthia_Treen_Studio](https://www.instagram.com/Cynthia_Treen_Studio)
and at threadfollower.com
Happy stitching!

Before you begin, read through these helpful tips.



Whip stitch

Make a whip stitch test:

To stitch this felt donkey a small seam allowance of about 1/16th inch is needed. If you are a beginner to stitching with felt, you might like to make a whip stitch test before you begin.

Use scrap felt left over from cutting out your pattern pieces, to stitch the sample. Knot the thread at the end of your stitch line. Open the seam and tug on it to check its strength. This will simulate stress that the seam will experience after stuffing. If the stitches pull through the felt edge, try making another sample with the stitches slightly deeper into the edge of the fabric. When you are confident about your stitch strength, begin on your pattern pieces.

Guaging even seam allowance:

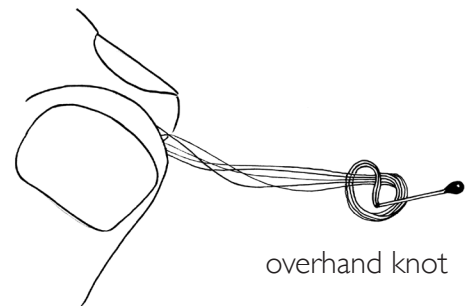
With each stitch, glance at where the needle enters the fabric (about 1/16th in from the edge) then shift your hand so that you can see where the needle exits on the opposite side. Evenly spacing each entry and exit point from the edge of the fabric will help to strengthen the stitches in preparation for stuffing.

Making knots that are tight to the fabric surface:

Loosely tie an overhand knot. Insert a pin into the center of the knot and into the hole the thread and needle just came out of. Pull the thread to tighten the knot so that it slips down the pin to the surface of the fabric. Remove the pin and hide the knot (directions below)

Hiding knots:

After a knot has been made, insert the needle back into the hole just below the knot, exiting its point a short distance away. Gently tug on the thread. This will pop the knot below the surface. Trim the thread at the surface of the felt where you exited.



overhand knot

hand-stitching

Pompom Donkey pattern



~threadfollower

©2016 Cynthia Treen Studio-threadfollower

hand-stitching

Pom-pom Donkey



Gather materials:

Felt: Gray (body), beige (baskets) and brown (inner ears and harness)

Embroidery thread: Thread to match the body and a tonal color for the mane and tail, black (eye) and one skein each in an assortment of five bright colors (pom-poms). Use pearl cotton #8 embroidery thread in tan for the reins. Thread for basting (any color)

Stuffing: Wool stuffing (if available) **Pipe cleaner:** Three 6-inch lengths

Tools: Embroidery needle, small sharp scissors, and a bamboo skewer or wooden coffee stirrer. **Optional:** Pins

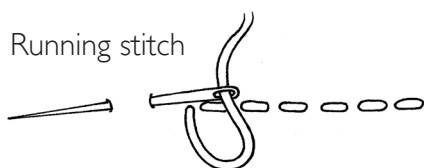
Embroidery thread : Cut embroidery thread into 30 to 36-inch lengths for sewing. These can be separated into individual strands or used in groups to make a thinner or thicker stitch line. The instructions that follow indicate suggested thicknesses for each step.

Cut pattern pieces:

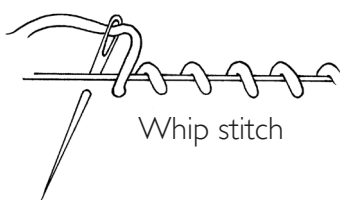
Carefully cut out all paper pattern pieces. ***Baste** each paper pattern piece temporarily to the corresponding-colored felt then carefully cut out each piece of felt. Instead of using pins, basting secures each pattern piece temporarily to the fabric and makes it easy to cut around the small pieces for which the pins may be too large.

***Baste:** Basting is a temporary running stitch used to hold layers together until the final stitch is sewn. It is a long, loose stitch that can be removed easily after sewing is complete.

- Body (gray): cut 2
- Inner leg (gray): cut 2
- Top head (gray): cut 1
- Outer ear (gray): cut 2
- Inner ear (brown): cut 2
- Harness blanket (brown): cut 1
- Harness tail strap (brown): cut 1
- Harness belly strap (brown): cut 1
- Harness head strap (brown): cut 1
- Basket sides (beige): cut 2
- Basket bottoms (beige): cut 2
- Basket connection piece (beige): cut 1

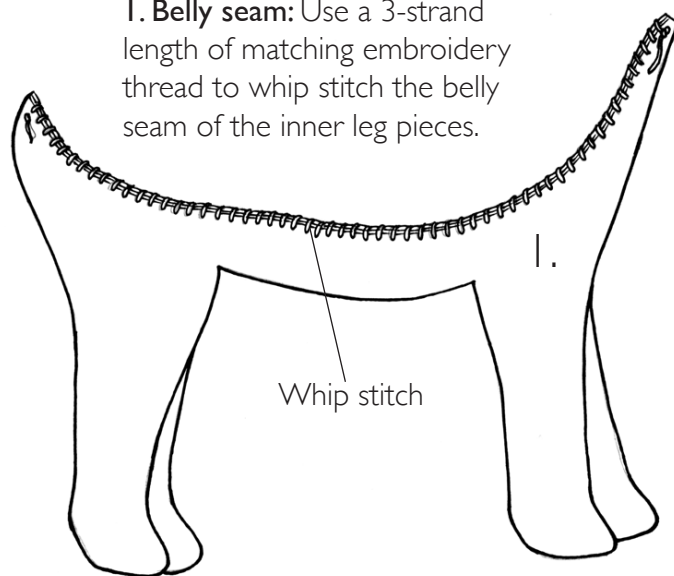


Running stitch

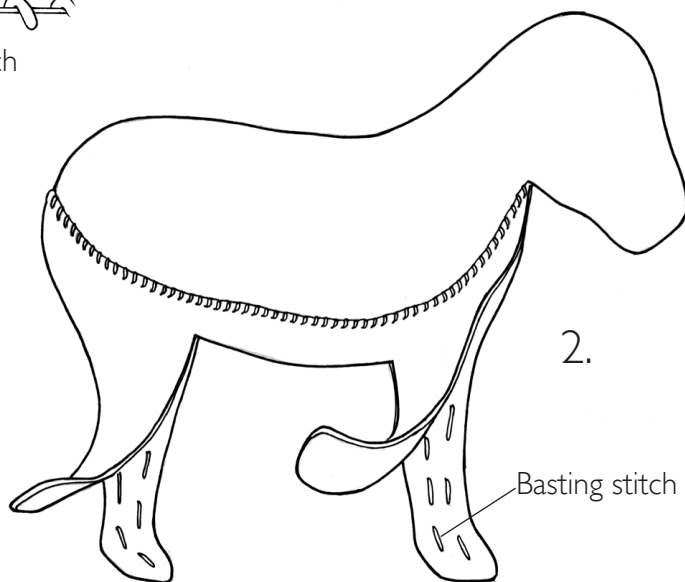


Whip stitch

1. Belly seam: Use a 3-strand length of matching embroidery thread to whip stitch the belly seam of the inner leg pieces.

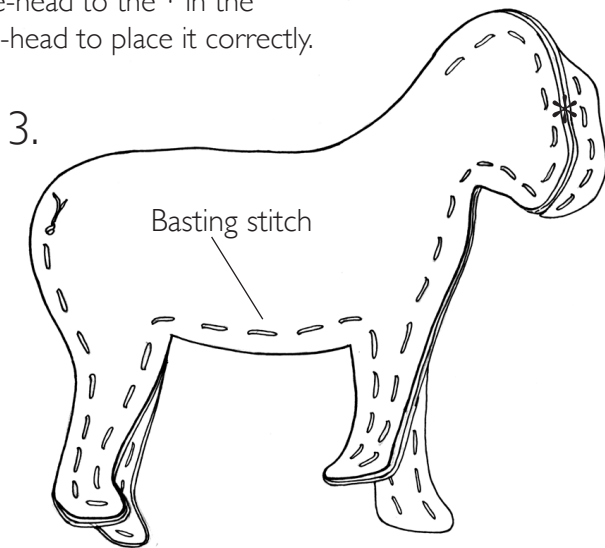


Whip stitch

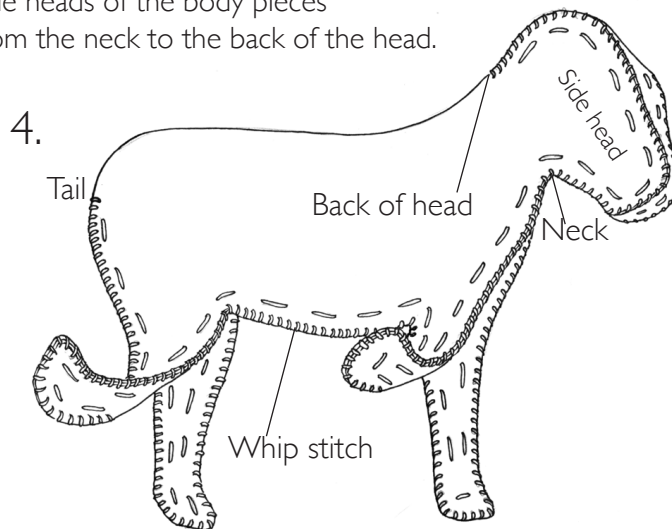


2. Baste first side body: Use a 1 strand length of embroidery thread (any color) to baste the first side body piece to one side of the inner legs.

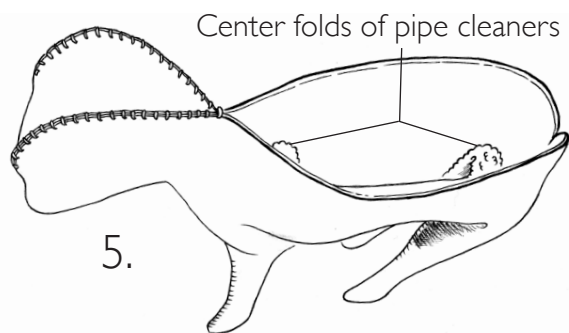
3. Baste second side body and top head: Use 1-strand lengths of embroidery thread (any color) to baste the second side-body piece to the remaining side of the inner legs. Baste the top-head piece to the sides of the head on the body pieces. Match the * on the side-head to the * in the top-head to place it correctly.



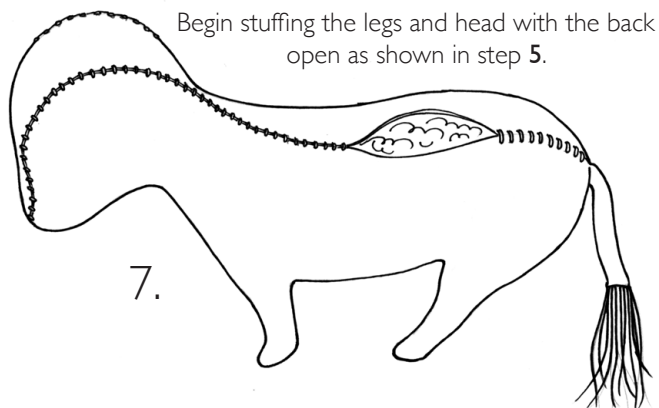
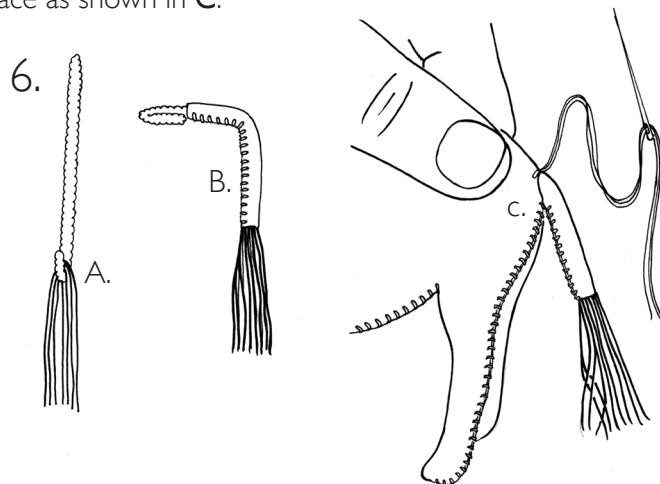
4. Whip stitch side body pieces and top head: Use 3-strand lengths of matching embroidery thread to whip stitch the side-body pieces to the inner leg pieces, from tail to neck (or neck to tail). With a 3-strand length of matching thread, whip stitch the top head piece between the side heads of the body pieces from the neck to the back of the head.



5. Wire the legs: Fold over the ends of the two 6-inch lengths of pipe cleaner about 1/4-inch so they will not poke through the hooves of the donkey. Fold the first 6-inch pipe cleaner in half and insert one end into the right front leg and the other end into the left front leg. Repeat this on the back legs with the second pipe cleaner.

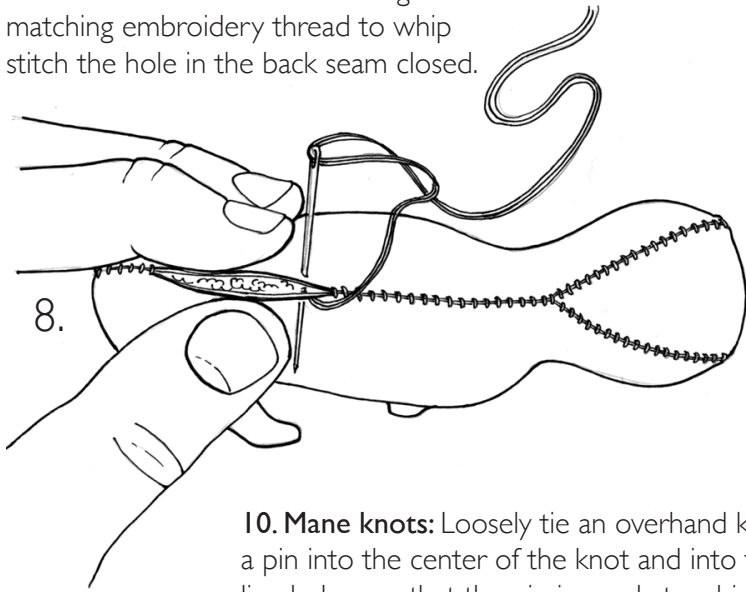


6. Tail: Cut a 2 1/4-inch length of pipe cleaner off of the remaining 6-inch piece to use for the tail. Make a 1/4-inch fold at one end (A). Cut four pieces of matching embroidery thread, each about 2 1/2 inches long and attach them to the folded end of the pipe cleaner (A). Whip stitch the tail felt around the pipe cleaner and fold as shown in B. Stitch the tail in place as shown in C.

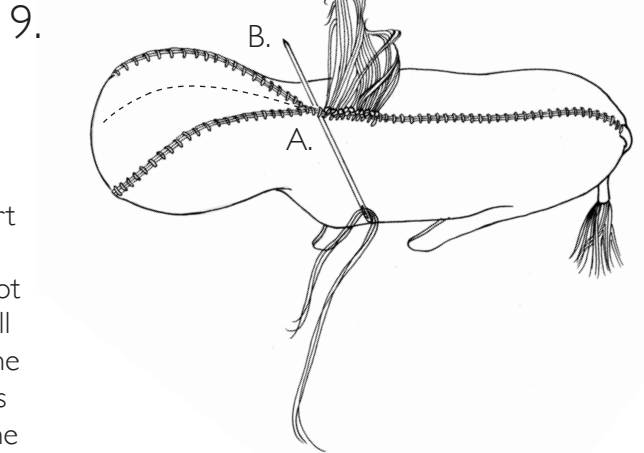


7. Stuff body: Use a skewer or flat wooden coffee stirrer to stuff the legs. Take very small pinches of wool and push them down into the legs, right to the bottom. When the legs are filled, stuff the head, then partially stuff the body. Use a 3-strand length of matching embroidery thread to stitch from the base of the head to the center back (knot off thread) and another from the tail to the center back leaving a hole to complete the stuffing. You can shape the body with further stuffing at this point. Add a bit to fill out the haunches and or wherever you feel you need more bulk. You can push stuffing into the neck and head with the skewer by sliding small pinches between the felt sides and the bulk of the stuffing.

8. Back seam: Use a 3-strand length of matching embroidery thread to whip stitch the hole in the back seam closed.

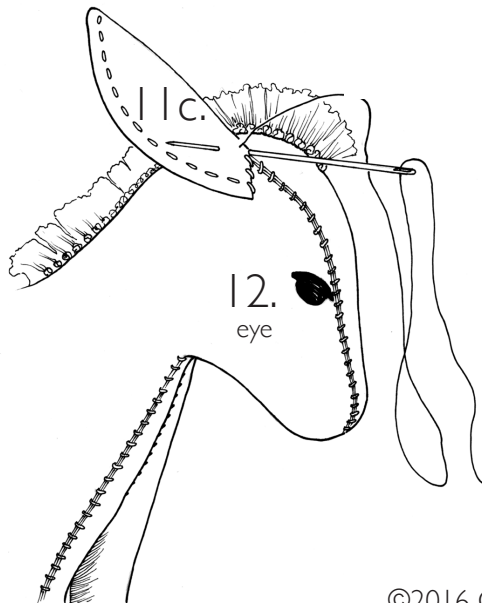
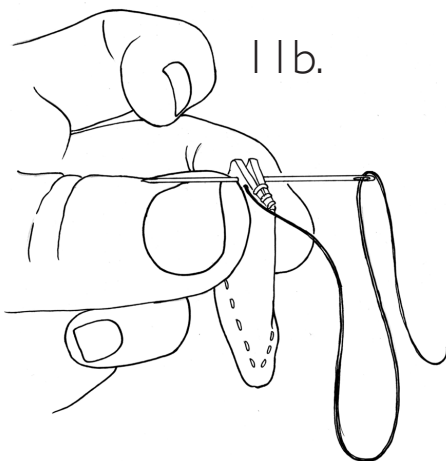
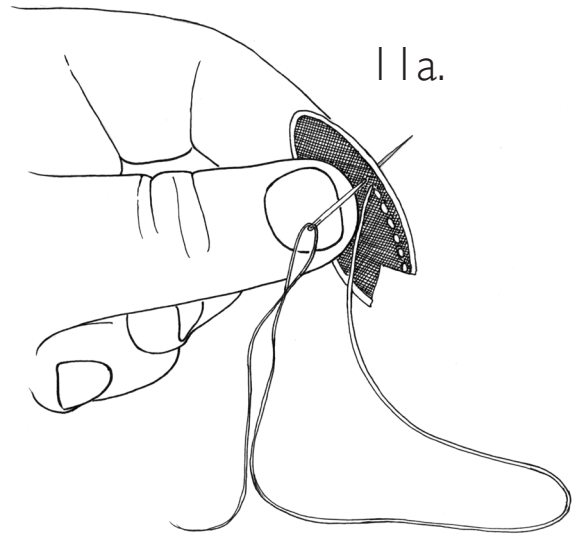
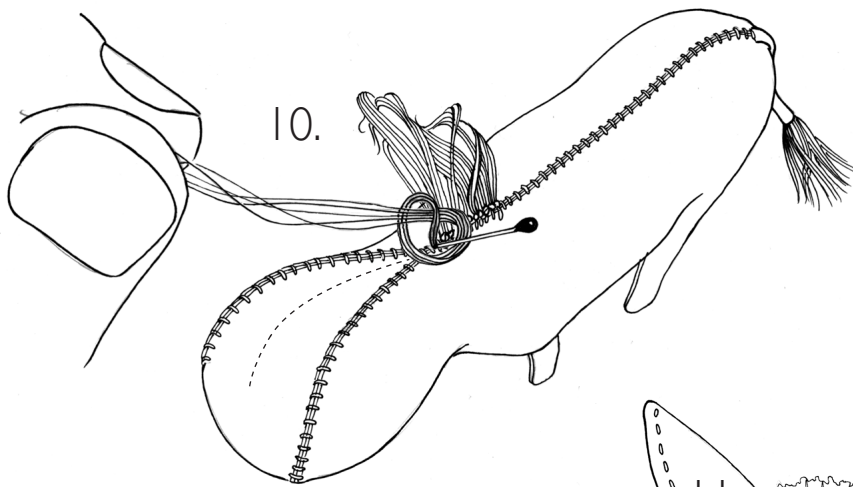


9. Mane: The mane is made by attaching a series of threads to the back seam line and the top of the head with overhand knots. Use a 3-strand length of tonal embroidery thread make each knot. Insert the needle through the seam line. Pull the needle through (from **A** to **B**) so that about 3 inches of thread remains on the **A** side. Cut the thread to 3 inches long on the **B** side, reserving the remaining thread that is attached to the needle for the next section.



10. Mane knots: Loosely tie an overhand knot. Insert a pin into the center of the knot and into the seam line below so that the pin is nearly touching the knot before it (tight spacing of your knots will make the mane more full). Pull the thread tight so that the knot slips down the pin to the surface of the fabric. Remove the pin. To further tighten the knot, separate the strands (3 to the left and 3 to the right) and pull apart. This action will move the knot tighter to the surface. Continue tying knots up the back seam and beyond until your knots reach just beyond the top of the head. Trim the mane so that it stands about 1/4 inch up from the felts's surface.

before it (tight spacing of your knots will make the mane more full). Pull the thread tight so that the knot slips down the pin to the surface of the fabric. Remove the pin. To further tighten the knot, separate the strands (3 to the left and 3 to the right) and pull apart. This action will move the knot tighter to the surface. Continue tying knots up the back seam and beyond until your knots reach just beyond the top of the head. Trim the mane so that it stands about 1/4 inch up from the felts's surface.



11 a. Ear: Use a 3-strand length of body matching embroidery thread and a running stitch to attach the brown inner ear to the gray outer ear. To make small evenly spaced stitches, pierce the needle from front to back then back to front in separate actions.

11 c. Ear: Use a 3-strand length of matching embroidery thread and a whip stitch to attach the ears to either side of the head.

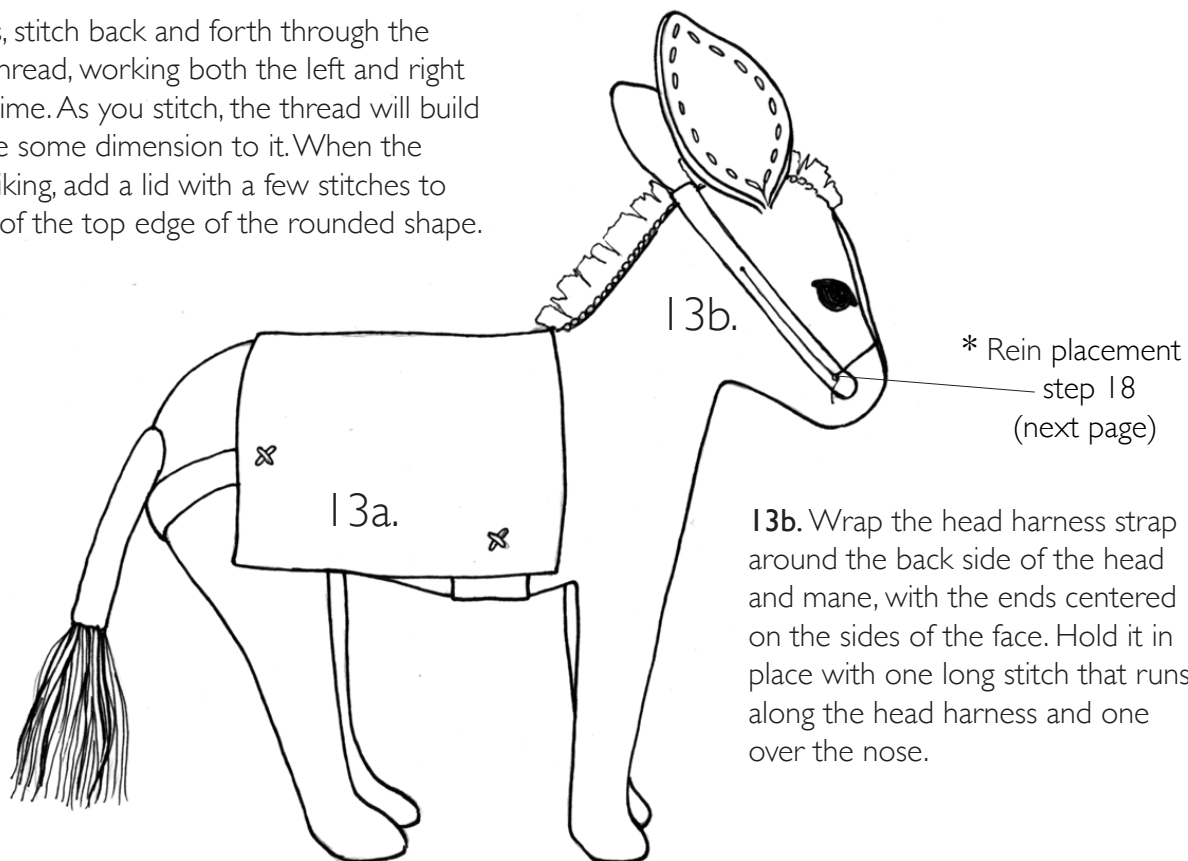
11 b. Ear: Fold the bottom of the ear and use a 1-strand length of matching embroidery thread to whip stitch the fold.

12. Eyes: Illustration is on the previous page.

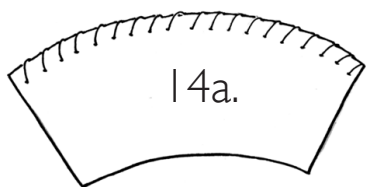
Refer to the pattern for placement of the eye. Use a 6-strand length of embroidery thread to stitch the eyes. When completed, the eyes should have a rounded shape capped by a slight lid.

To make the eyes, stitch back and forth through the head with black thread, working both the left and right eye at the same time. As you stitch, the thread will build up to give the eye some dimension to it. When the shape is to your liking, add a lid with a few stitches to the left and right of the top edge of the rounded shape.

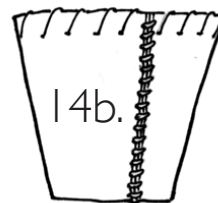
13a. Harness: Use a 3-strand length of beige pearl cotton embroidery thread to stitch the tail and belly straps to the back blanket with small cross stitches.



13b. Wrap the head harness strap around the back side of the head and mane, with the ends centered on the sides of the face. Hold it in place with one long stitch that runs along the head harness and one over the nose.

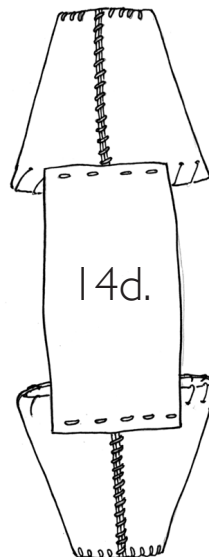
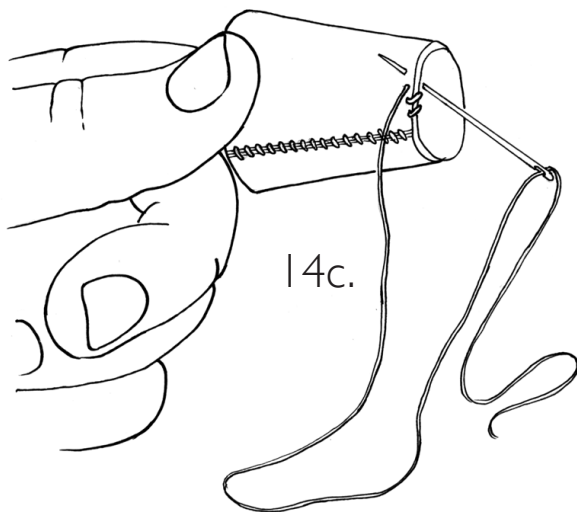


14a. Baskets: Use a 1-strand length of brown embroidery thread to whip stitch the top edge of the two basket pieces. Make stitches about 1/4 inch from the edge and 1/4 inch apart.



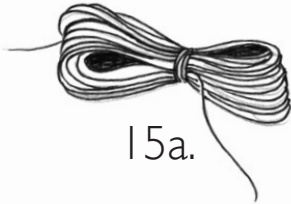
14b. Baskets: Use a 3-strand length of beige embroidery thread to whip stitch the back seams of the two basket pieces.

14c. Baskets: Use a 3-strand length of beige embroidery thread and a whip stitch to attach the bottoms of the two baskets.

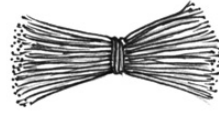


14d. Baskets: Use a 3-strand length of beige embroidery thread and a running stitch to stitch the connecting piece to the basket pieces.

15a. Pompoms: Use a 40-inch, 6-strand length of colored embroidery thread to make each pompom. Fold the length in half five times. Thread a needle with a single ply of embroidery thread. Tightly wrap the single-ply thread around the center of the bundle six to eight times. Stitch through the wrapping several times to hold the thread bundle securely. Knot the end of the thread close to the bundle. Make 21 pompoms.



15a.

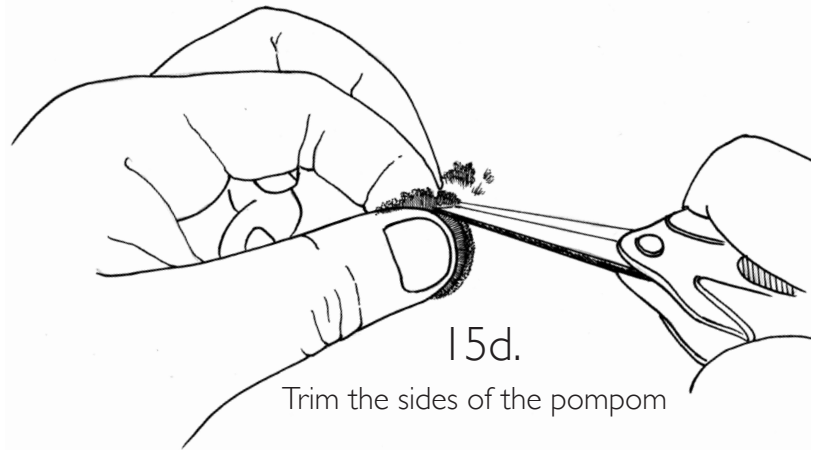


15b.

Trim the ends off of the thread



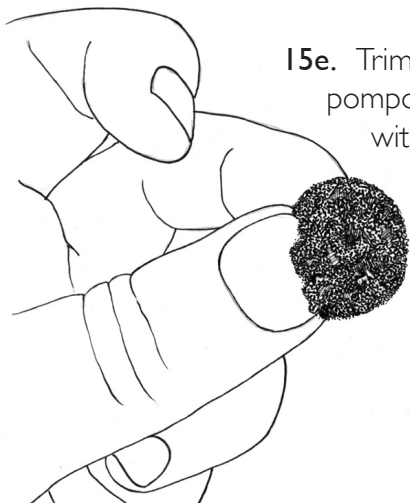
15c.



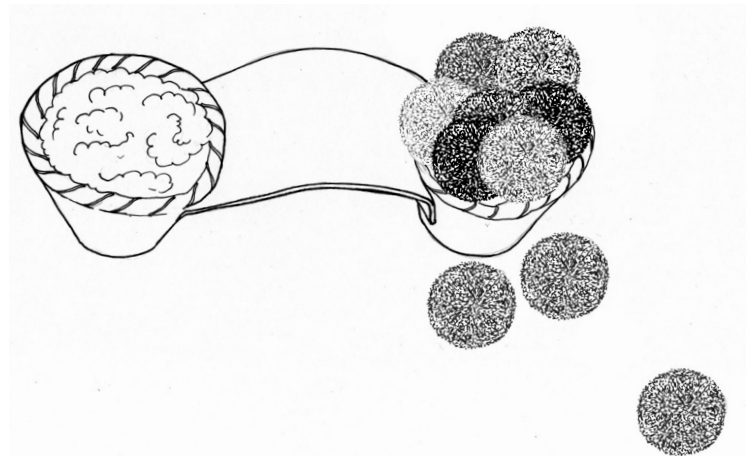
15d.

Trim the sides of the pompom

15c. Open the bundle from the center and flatten it.



15e. Trim and shape the pompom, then fluff it with your fingers separating the fibers of the ends of the embroidery thread.



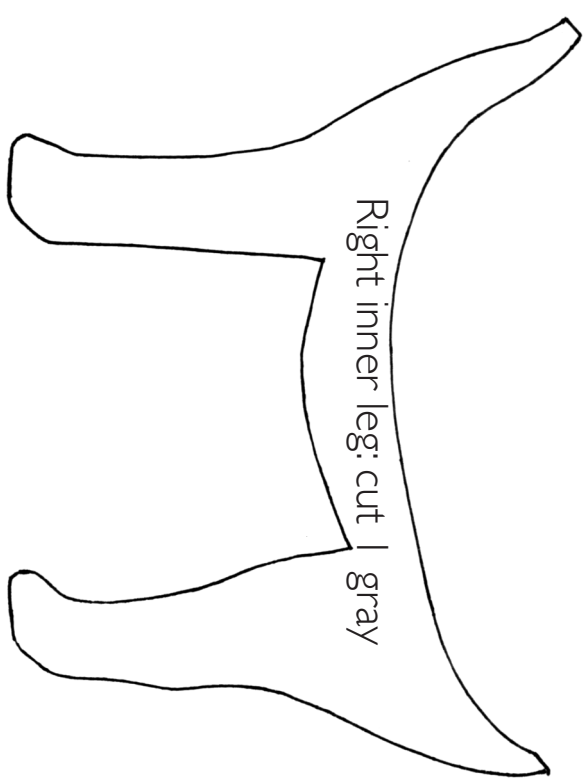
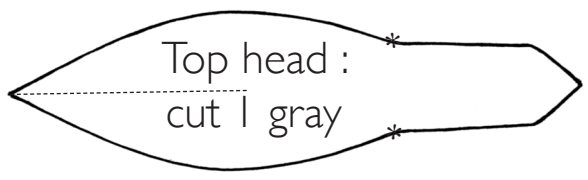
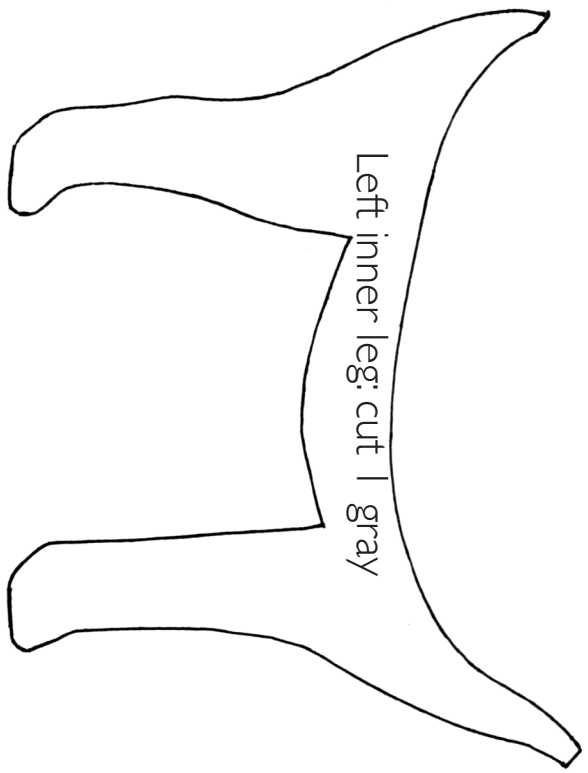
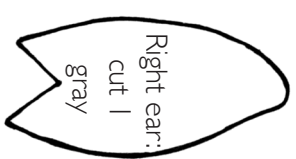
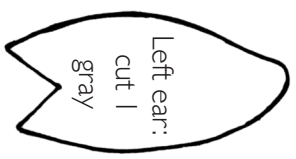
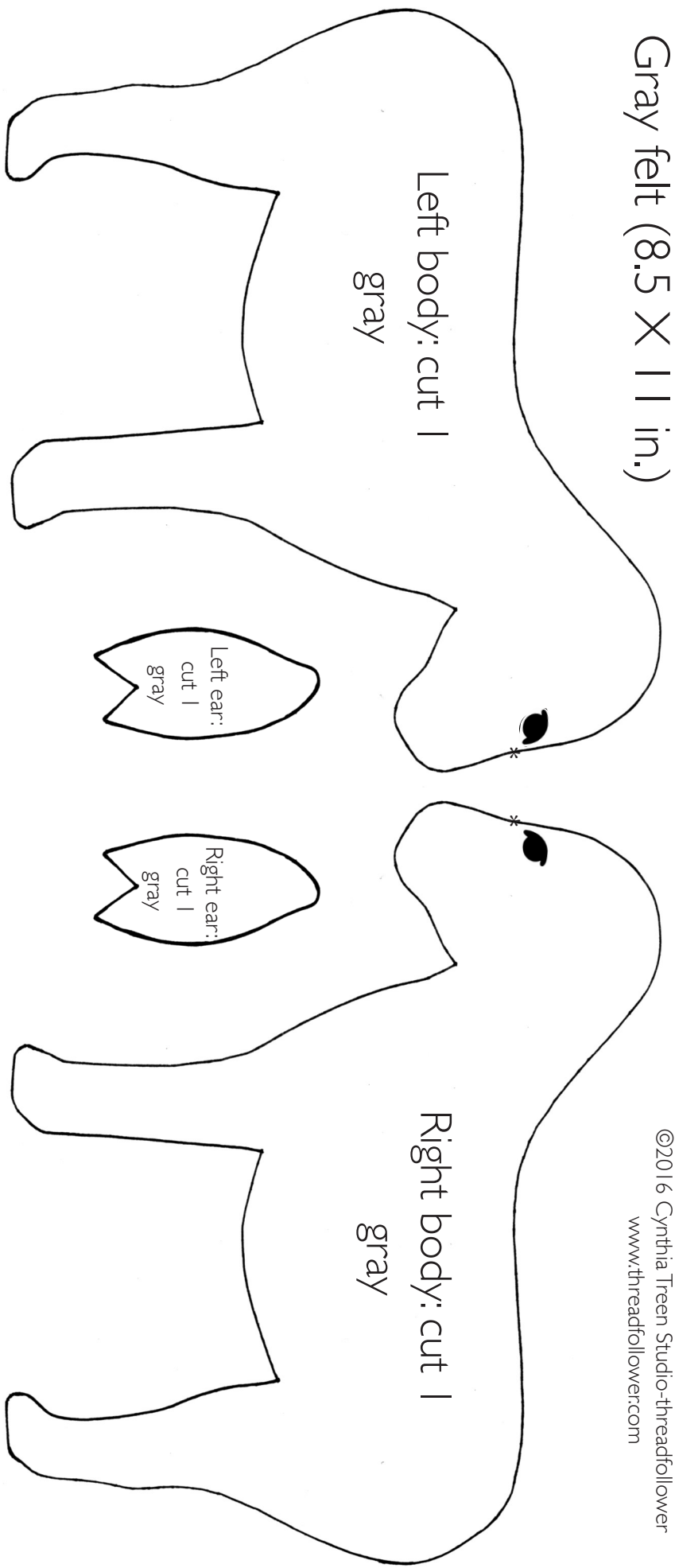
16. Fill baskets: Fill the base of each basket with stuffing. Remove the stuffing and attach five to six pompoms in mixed colors to the top of the stuffing. Each pompom will need one to two stitches through its center binding and through the stuffing to hold it in place. Place the stuffing back into the basket so that the pompoms fill the top surface without any stuffing visible.

17. Attach baskets, head and tail pompoms: Center the baskets on the donkey's back. Stitch the center basket-connector in place to the brown back blanket with a few small whip stitches along the front edge. Stitch two colored pompoms to the top of the donkey's head and one near the top of its tail.

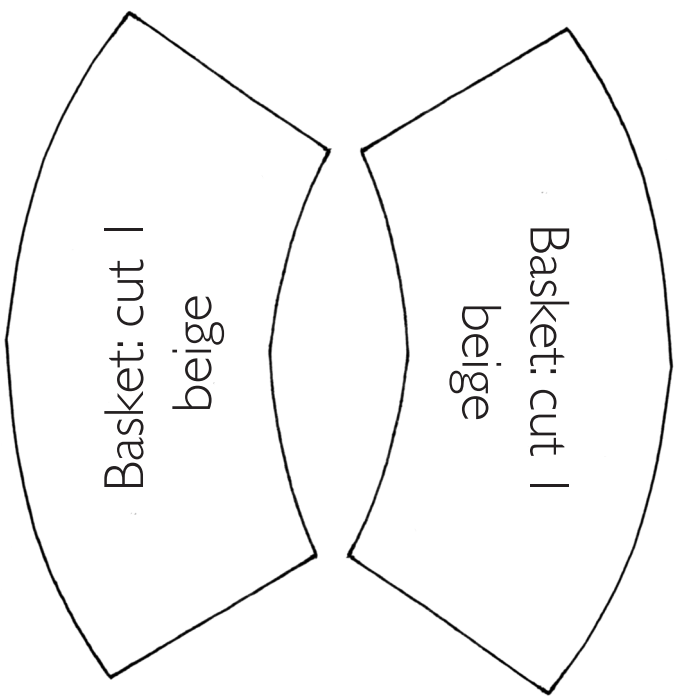
18. Reins: Make the reins using beige purl cotton embroidery thread. Pearl cotton is twisted like miniature rope. Knot the end of the thread and stitch through the end of the head harness where it crosses over the donkey's nose (*at 13b.). Thread six pompoms onto the pearl cotton. Separate them on the thread over a distance of about 6 to 7 inches. Insert the needle back through the head harness to the opposite side and knot the thread, leaving the knot visible.

Gray felt (8.5 X 11 in.)

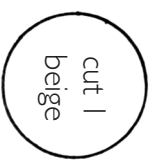
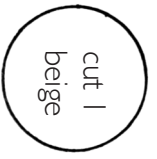
©2016 Cynthia Treen Studio-threadfollower
www.threadfollower.com



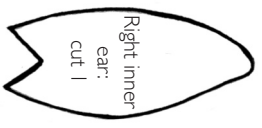
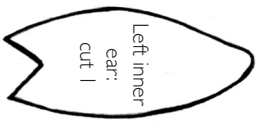
Basket connector:
cut 1 beige



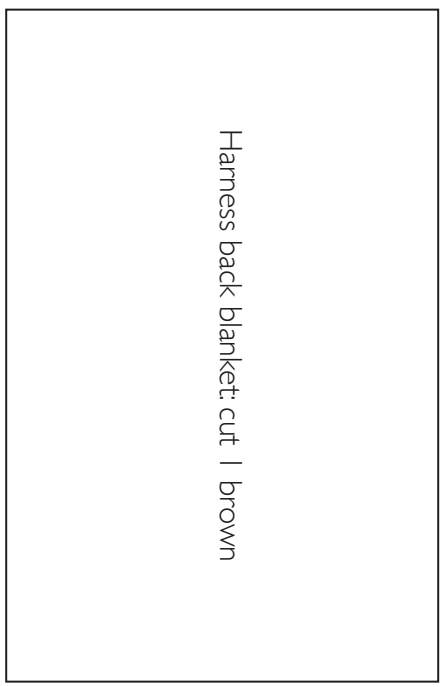
Beige felt (4.25 x 6.5 in.)



Basket bottom



Harness head strap: cut 1 brown



Harness back blanket: cut 1 brown

Harness belly strap: cut 1 brown

Harness tail strap: cut 1 brown

Brown felt (4 x 5 in.)

