

raven plushies

by rose hughes



overall materials:

- Fun fabrics for the body—fat quarter
- Beak—5" X 7" scrap of fabric or wool (fabric should be fused for stability before cutting to shape)
- Fabric for wings—fat quarter or large scrap
- Scraps of wool felt—5" square (as many as you want)
- Buttons
- Woolies (see instructions to follow)
- Decorative threads and yarns
- Sewing machine
- Walking foot or even feed foot for sewing machine
- Fiberfill for stuffing (cotton or poly is fine)

raven body cutting instructions:

- Using the shape on page 4 of this PDF, cut out your raven body; you will need (2), one for the front and one for the back, so place your fabric RST before you cut them out.
- Create a left and right wing based on the examples in the photos—have fun with these! When you draw the wings, create an arm to attach to the body of the raven by making a large tab. Once you have your pattern, pin to fabric and cut (2) RST left and (2) RST right wings. These are better if they are a contrasting but complementary fabric to your 'body' fabric.
- Sew the wings together, RST and leaving a 2" opening where it attaches to the body of the raven for turning inside out. Before you turn, clip into curves (by making a clip up to but not including the stitching line) and trim any excess bulk at corners.
- Turn wings Right Side Out and stuff with fiberfill, hand stitch or pin closed with wrong sides together and keeping raw edges even, these will be captured in the body of the raven later.
- Using decorative threads, stitch designs onto your wings through all thicknesses—you might want to use your walking foot for this step! You are basically quilting the lines for the feathers and actual wing structure, so have fun with it.
- Add the wings to the body of the raven by pinning the tab section of the wing with raw edges together, to the edge of the back of the raven body. The wings should be laying on top of the raven back fabric, completely inside pattern.
- Pin the raven front to the raven back, RST and sew all around the body leaving a 2"-3" opening near the bottom for turning the raven right side out. (If you made larger wings, you may need the opening a bit larger to accommodate pulling them out.) Be sure you don't accidentally capture the wings in the seam as you sew, and keep the opening away from the area where the wings have been pinned.
- Before turning the raven right side out, clip any curves as

designed and made by
rose hughes
rosehughes.com

before and trim bulk near wings if necessary. Turn right side out and stuff with fiberfill.

- Sew the opening closed by hand or machine. (If the opening is on the bottom of the raven, it may be easier to sew it closed with an edge stitch on your machine.)
- Cut out the decorations—you know how ravens like sparkly things—and the beak and sew on by hand using decorative threads. You might want to add some yarn for top feathers, a.k.a. bangs for birds.

woolies instructions:

Materials needed:

- 2 or 3 colors of wool roving
 - Batting scraps
 - (1) pair of knee high hose (each knotted at the toe)
 - Beads and beading supplies
 - Washing machine for felting process
 - Laundry soap
1. The wool is first prepared to create the desired shapes and then wet-felted by machine.
 2. Cut 3-4 layers of batting in the desired shape and size.
 3. Pull small wisps of the main color of wool roving, spread it delicately out into a relatively flat layer.
 4. Continue this 3-4 more times laying each additional layer perpendicular to the previous layer and adding layers of high-light colors as desired. (This 'cross-hatching' will help bind the fibers together during the felting process.)
 5. Place the batting into the center of the layered roving gently wrapping the batting with the fibers.
 6. Repeat steps 2 and 3, then turn and wrap the batting from the opposite side so that the batting is completely covered with the wool.
 7. Gently tucking the wool in around the wrapped batting, place it into a stocking, tying a knot to hold it in place.

felting the bundles:

Wool felting is a process of combining moisture, heat and pres-

raven plushies, continued

sure to raw wool to create matted wool fabric or felt.

- Place the stocking wrapped bundles in a washing machine along with hot, soapy water set for high agitation. (Throwing the stockings in with a load of towels works great.)
- Once the washer has topped, each of the wool wrapped shapes is removed from its knotted stocking.
- Allow the shapes to dry on a flat surface covered with paper towels.
- Once dry, fly away fibers may be trimmed and each 'woolie' may be beaded as desired. ✨



Rose Hughes of RavenSpeak Quilts brings life's landscapes alive through her seemingly magically stitched together art quilts. She uses her simple method, called Fast-Piece Appliqué™ and has shared this and other fabri-magic in her three books with Martingale.



Raven body template

