

MAKER SKILLS LIBRARY

Maker Skill: Hand-Sewn Stuffie (whip stitch)

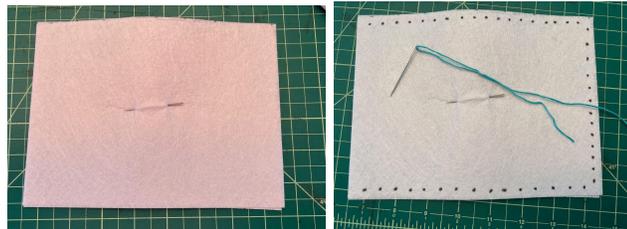
Use this technique to make a stuffed object, like a pillow or stuffed animal, using a whip stitch.

1. Cut out two identical shapes for the front and back of your stuffie. The example photos show a rectangular pillow.



Note: If you'll be sewing or embroidering any decorations onto your stuffie, do so before sewing the front and back together.

2. Align the front and back pieces of fabric and insert one or more pins to hold them together. Optionally, draw dots around the edges of your stuffie to mark where your stitches will go. The more stitches you make, the stronger your seam will be. Thread your needle.

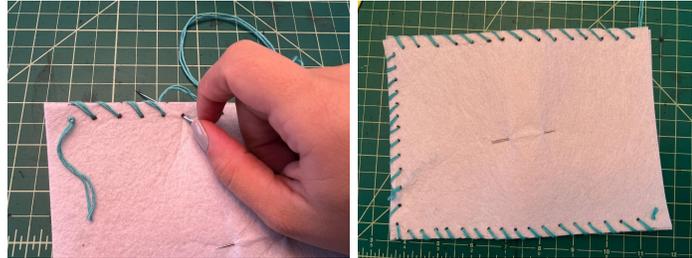


In the example photos, the dots are about ½ inch apart and about a ½ inch from the edge of the fabric.

3. Begin sewing using a [whip stitch](#), pushing the needle through one side of the fabric, pulling the thread through, and bringing the needle back around to the same side before pushing it through again.



4. Continue sewing until you have stitched *almost* all the way around the edge of your stuffie, making sure to leave a 3-4 inch gap between your first and last stitches. If you reach the end of your thread before you're finished stitching, tie it off and continue sewing with a new piece of thread.



5. Remove any pins and stuff your stuffie by pushing stuffing through the gap in your stitching. If needed, use a dowel or a closed marker to push stuffing into the far ends of your stuffie.



6. Once you've filled your stuffie with stuffing, close your stuffie by continuing sewing the gap closed using a whip stitch. If needed, hold together the gap with a pin as you stitch. When you have reached the end of the gap, tie your thread off in a knot and cut the needle off the thread.

