

Big Dipper



Star light, star bright...

Always keep the North Star in sight with these plush bear ornaments inspired by the night sky.

Big Dipper Plushie

Supplies:

- Two (2) pieces of felt
- Length of embroidery floss about three feet (3') long
- Stuffing
- Length of ribbon about nine inches (9") long
- Seven (7) sequins
- Templates
- Needle
- Scissors
- Permanent marker
- Tape



Instructions:

1. Cut out **Template 1** and **Template 2** using scissors (**Fig. 1**).
2. Position **Template 1** on a piece of felt so the bear's nose is facing the right. Trace using permanent marker. Reposition **Template 1** on the other piece of felt so the bear's nose is facing the left. Trace. Your result should look like **Fig. 2**.
3. Cut along the inside of the lines you traced in the previous step. You will be left with two (2) felt bears (**Fig. 3**).
4. Position one (1) felt bear with its nose facing the left. Make sure the permanent marker lines are faced down. Affix **Template 2** to the bear using tape (**Fig. 4**).
5. Thread your needle with one (1) strand of embroidery floss (each length of embroidery floss contains six (6) strands). Tie a knot in the end of the thread. Beginning on the underside of the bear, push your needle through the felt and the left-most black circle on **Template 2**. See **Fig. 5**.
6. Thread a sequin on to the needle (**Fig. 6**).
7. Send your needle back through the hole it just made (**Fig. 7**). Pull through, securing the sequin.
8. Tether the sequin to the felt with two more stitches. Your result should resemble **Fig. 8**.

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9. Begin a running stitch along the lines connecting the black circles in **Template 2**. A running stitch creates a dashed line by traveling with the thread, about one quarter inch (.25"), between stitches. See **Fig. 9**.
10. Continue following the pattern, affixing sequins at the black circles and sewing a running stitch following the lines, until you completed the pattern as in **Fig. 10**.
11. Using scissors, carefully cut away the rectangle of paper, as in **Fig. 11**, to expose the felt.
12. Carefully tear the paper away from your stitches (**Fig. 12**). Luckily, your needle holes will have perforated the paper. Don't be afraid to puncture the paper with your needle to make tearing easier. Your result should look like **Fig. 13**.
13. Lay the two (2) felt bears with their wrong sides together. The wrong side will not be visible, so make sure any permanent marker marks are on the wrong side (**Fig. 14**).
14. Holding your layered felt bears, bring your needle from wrong side to right side of one bear, between the two pieces so your knot is hidden (**Fig. 15**). Your hole should be about one quarter inch (.25") from the edge of the felt.
15. Bring your needle to the back of your piece. Push the needle through both felt bears, using the same hole you went through in the last step, as seen in **Fig. 16**. Before tightening completely, pass the needle through the loop you created. Pull tight.
16. Begin a new stitch about one quarter inch (.25") from your first stitch by repeating step fifteen (15). In other words, from the back of your piece, push the needle through both pieces of felt (**Fig. 17**). Before tightening completely, pass your needle through the loop (**Fig. 18**). Tighten so your result looks like **Fig. 19**.
17. Continue around the edges of the felt. Your work in progress should look like **Fig. 20**.
18. When you reach the bear's tail or run out of thread, whichever comes first, end your thread. To do this, thread your needle through only the back piece of felt and tie a knot, hiding the knot between the wrong sides.
19. Stuff the bear (**Fig. 21**). It may be helpful to use a writing utensil or skewer to push the stuffing into the bear's legs and head.
20. To resume stitching, thread your needle and tie a knot in the end of the thread. Send your needle from wrong side to right side, through the last stitch you created, ultimately hiding the knot between the two pieces of felt (**Fig. 22**).

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21. Bring your needle to the back of your piece. Push the needle through both felt bears, using the same hole you went through last step, as seen in **Fig. 23**. Before tightening completely, pass the needle through the loop you just created, as well as the previously exiting stitch like in **Fig 24**. Pull tight.
22. In the middle of the bear's back, pause stitching to tie the ribbon into a loop, as in **Fig. 25**.
23. Insert the knot of the ribbon between the two felt bears. Hold in place and continue stitching (**Fig. 26**).
24. Your final stitch should use the same hole as your first stitch. Pass the needle through the created loop, yet this time, instead of beginning a new stitch, tie a knot to secure the embroidery floss.
25. Lose the remaining embroidery floss in the ornament by scrunching your piece tightly and passing your needle through it (**Fig. 27**).
26. While still scrunched tightly, trim the floss (**Fig. 28**). Fluff the ornament and the thread should be invisible.

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Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

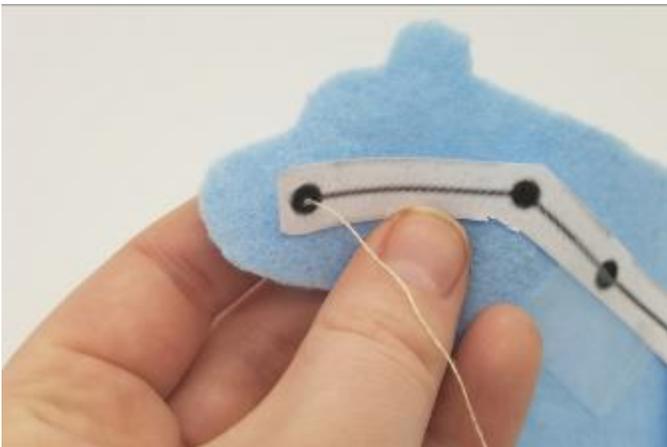


Figure 5



Figure 6

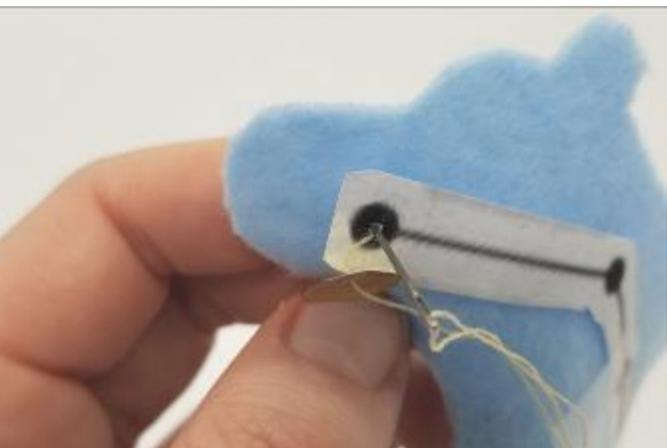


Figure 7

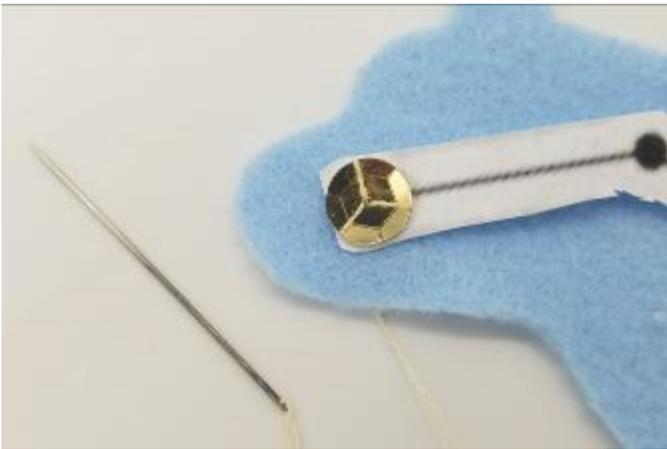


Figure 8

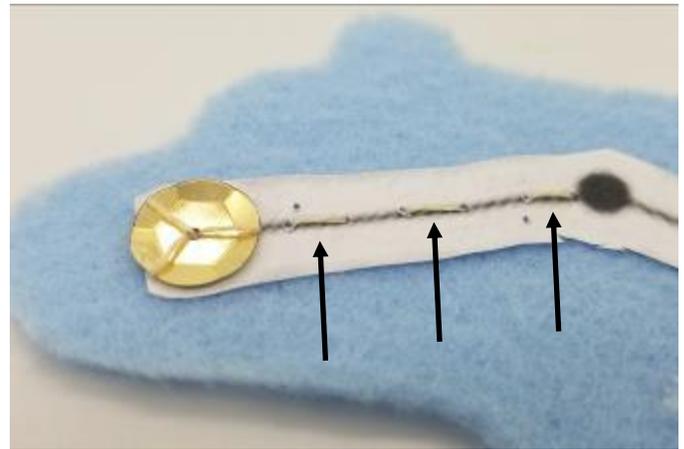


Figure 9

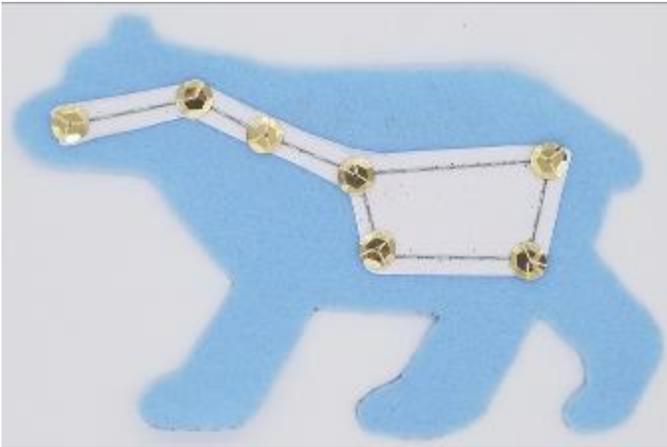


Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 13



Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 16



Figure 17



Figure 18



Figure 19



Figure 20



Figure 21



Figure 22



Figure 23

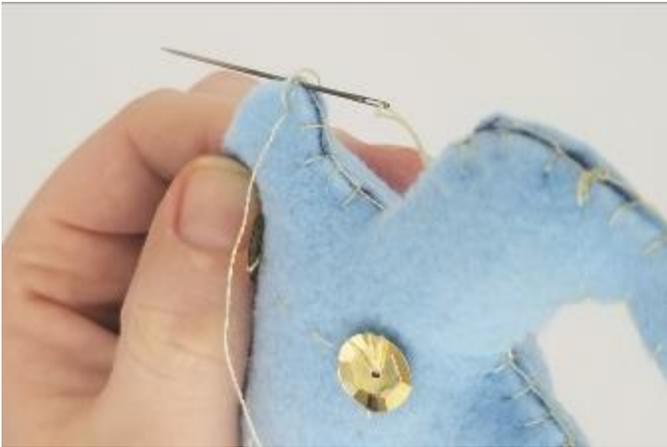


Figure 24



Figure 25



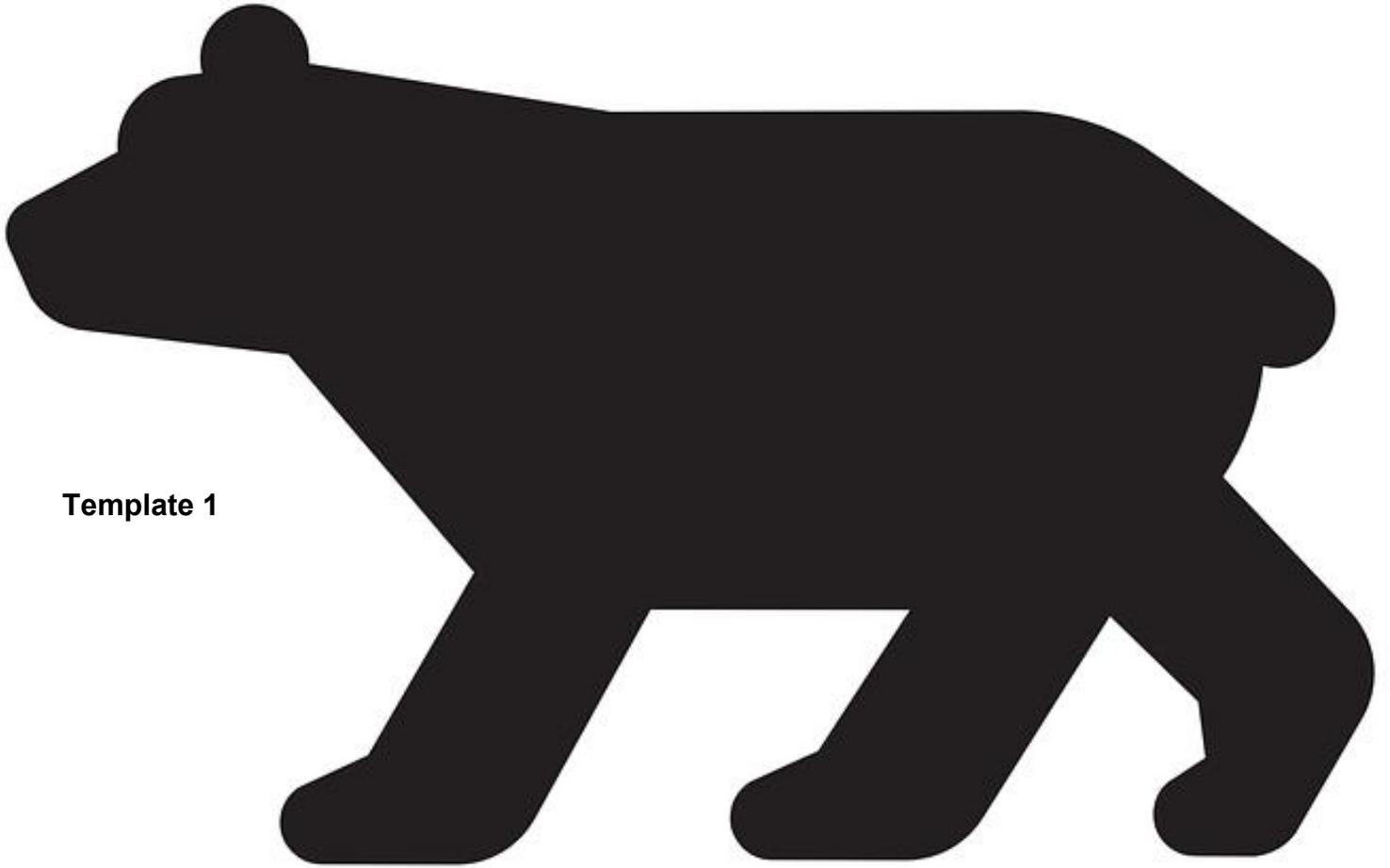
Figure 26



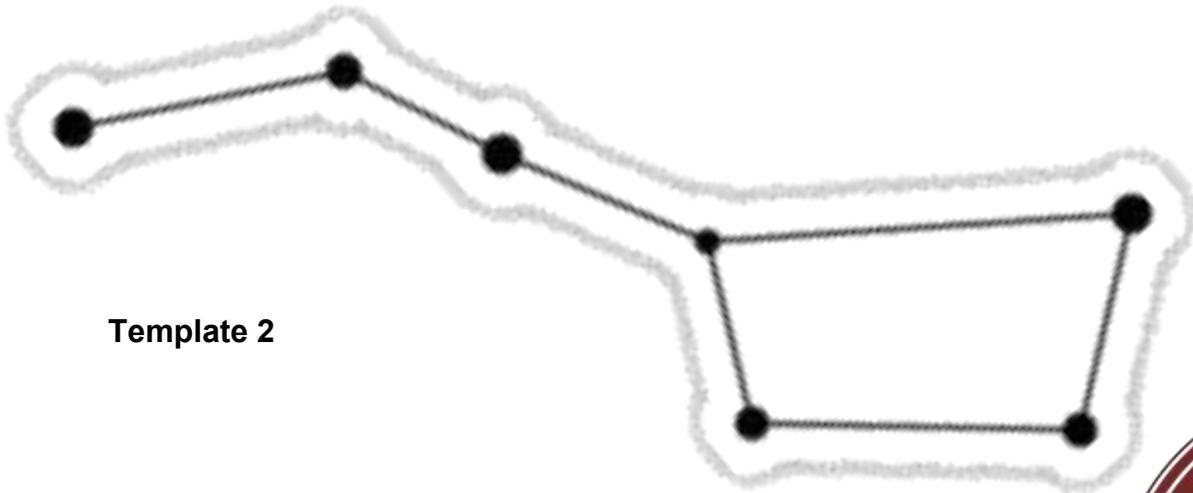
Figure 27



Figure 28



Template 1



Template 2