

Felt Bee Softie



A cuddly little bee you can stitch in an afternoon - soft stripes, friendly eyes, and a smile of its own.

A Little Bee Crafty printable project

At a glance

Age range	6+ (younger with a grown-up threading the needle)
Hands-on time	About 1.5-2 hours (one cozy afternoon)
Skill level	Beginner (first hand-sewing project)
Mess level	Low (felt scraps and thread snips)
Adult supervision	Some - needle help and pinning

Meet the friendliest first sewing project we know. This palm-sized bee is cut from felt, which is forgiving and never frays, so wobbly edges still look charming. You will hand-stitch two body pieces together with a simple blanket stitch, leave a small gap, stuff it soft and round, then sew the gap shut. Add felt stripes, little wings, and a stitched smile, and you have a pocket-sized buddy. The printable includes a true-to-scale pattern - just print, cut the paper pieces, and trace.

Finished size: about 4 inches long and 2.5 inches tall - just right for a pocket.

What you'll need

Materials

- 1 printed Pattern Page (last page of this PDF), on regular paper
- Yellow or gold felt - two 6 x 5 in pieces (front and back of the body)
- Black or dark-brown felt - one 4 x 4 in piece (the stripes)
- White or cream felt - one 4 x 3 in piece (two wings)
- Embroidery thread or all-purpose thread (black + a color you like)
- Polyester toy stuffing, cotton balls, or clean fabric scraps
- 2 small buttons OR felt scraps for the eyes (see safety note)

Tools

- Child-friendly sewing needle (a blunt-ish tapestry needle is great)
- Scissors - one pair for paper, one sharper pair for felt
- Straight pins OR small paper clips to hold pieces while sewing
- A pencil or washable marker to trace the pattern
- A ruler to check the 1-inch scale box

Safety first

Needles are sharp - an adult should thread the needle and stay close while a young maker sews. For children under 3 nearby, skip the buttons and stitch felt-circle eyes instead, since buttons are a choking hazard. Keep pins counted and stored in a lid or pincushion so none go missing.

Before you print:

Print the template page at 100% / Actual Size (turn OFF 'Fit to page' or 'Scale to fit'). Check the 1-inch box with a ruler before cutting - if it measures 1 inch, every piece will be the right size.

Let's make it

- 1 Print and check the pattern**

Print the Pattern Page at 100%. Measure the 1-inch box with a ruler. If it reads 1 inch, your bee will be the right size.
- 2 Cut out the paper pieces**

With your PAPER scissors, cut out the Body, Wing, and Stripe shapes along their SOLID outlines. The dashed line on the Stripe is a fold guide, not a cut.
- 3 Trace onto felt**

Pin or hold each paper piece on your felt and trace around it with a pencil. You need: 2 Body pieces (yellow), 2 Wings (white), and 3 Stripes (black). Tip: fold the felt to cut two matching pieces at once.
- 4 Grown-up: cut the felt (grown-up step)**

Cut out all the felt shapes with the sharper felt scissors, just inside your traced lines. A grown-up can do the felt cutting for younger makers.
- 5 Decorate the front**

Lay the 3 black stripes across ONE body piece (this is the front). Sew each stripe down with a running stitch, or a dot of fabric glue to hold while you sew. Add the eyes and stitch a little smile in black.

Let's make it (continued)

- 6 Pin the body together**
Place the back body piece behind the decorated front, edges lined up. Pin or clip around the outside to hold them.
- 7 Blanket-stitch the edges**
Starting at the bottom, blanket-stitch all the way around the edge to join the two pieces (see the stitch guide below). Keep your stitches about a finger-width apart.
- 8 Leave a stuffing gap**
Stop sewing about 1.5 inches before you reach the start. Leave that gap open - it is the little door you stuff through.
- 9 Stuff it soft**
Push small bits of stuffing in through the gap. Use a pencil eraser to gently pack the head and tail. Make it plump but still squishy.
- 10 Sew the gap shut**
Keep blanket-stitching across the gap to close it. Tie a double knot, trim the thread, and tuck the tail inside.
- 11 Add the wings**
Stitch the two white wings to the bee's back with a few stitches in the center so the wing tips stay free and flutter. Your bee is ready to buzz!

Stitch guide

Blanket stitch



Loops the thread over the felt edge.
Strong and pretty - use this to join.

Running stitch



Simple in-and-out dashes. Easiest stitch -
great for the stripes and the smile.

Make it yours

> No-sew bee (ages 4-5)

Skip the needle entirely. Glue the two body pieces around the edge with fabric glue, leave a gap, stuff, and glue it shut. Stripes and wings glue on too.

> A whole hive

Stitch a family - a big bee, a medium bee, and a tiny bee - by tracing the Body pattern at 100%, then again smaller if your printer can scale a copy to 75% and 50%.

> Bumble friends

Swap colors to make a ladybug (red body, black dots), a firefly (add a felt glow-spot), or a moth (gray body, soft fringe wings). The body pattern works for all of them.

> Keychain or clip

Before you close the gap, tuck a folded ribbon loop into the seam and stitch over it. Now your bee clips to a backpack zipper.

The learning (quietly)

First hand-sewing is a quiet powerhouse of fine-motor practice: threading, pinching, and pulling thread through builds the same hand strength and two-handed teamwork that writing and tying shoes need.

Following the steps in order is sequencing; matching the two body pieces edge-to-edge is an early lesson in symmetry and shape. Best of all, felt forgives mistakes, so a maker learns that 'good enough' stitches still make something to be proud of - and that patience, one stitch at a time, turns flat scraps into a friend they made with their own hands.

Felt Bee Softie - Sewing Pattern



Print at 100% / Actual Size. These pieces are the real sewing size. Cut paper on SOLID lines.

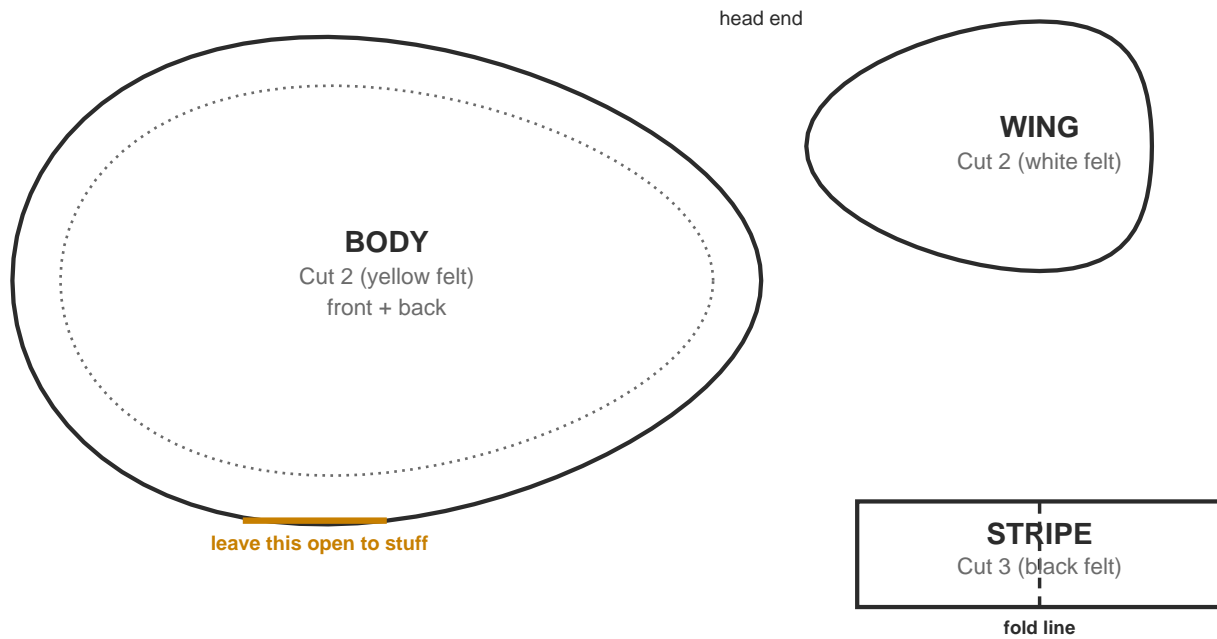
Line key

———— SOLID line = CUT line (outer edge)
----- DASHED line = FOLD here (do not cut)

Check this box with a ruler.
It must be 1 inch at 100%.

1 inch
(2.54 cm)

On the Body, the inner DOTTED line is the stitch line; the felt between it and the cut edge is your seam allowance (about 1/4 in).



How the pieces fit:

- BODY x2: stitch front to back, right around, leaving the marked gap to stuff.
- STRIPE x3: lay across the front body and running-stitch down before joining.
- WING x2: stitch to the back, centered, so the tips stay loose to flutter.