



Springtime Bunny

Designed and made by Luann Bowen of Lulu Bears®

Welcome to the wonderful world of stuffed animals! I am sharing a pattern I designed for a Springtime Bunny – just in time for the fast approaching spring season. The larger bunny shown is 12", not including ears, and the smaller is 9". **The pattern supplied will need to be increased by 133 % before starting to make a 12" bunny. Used "as is" will yield a 9" bunny.** Let's get started!

Fat quarter of mohair
 Wool Felt – 5" x 8" for foot pads and inner ears
 10 mm glass eyes
 1 ½" hardboard disks with cotter pins/washers
 (You will need 10 disks, 5 cotter pins and 5 washers)
 Glass Beads or Poly Pellets for weight – optional
 Fairfield Premium 100% Polyester Fiberfill
 Embroidery Thread – for nose
 Fishing line – for whiskers
 Plastic template for pattern – optional
 Black fine point Sharpie – for marking pattern and fabric
 Pearl Cotton for embroidering the nose
 Upholstery Thread



Pattern - I find it much easier to trace my pattern onto plastic quilting template than to work with a paper pattern. Trace all of the pieces onto the template, making sure to transfer all markings, then cut the pieces out.

Fabric/Cutting - Cut out pieces as directed below.

Wool Felt – From the wool felt, you need to cut out 2 foot pads and 2 ear pieces.

Fur -Place your fabric fur side down on the table, with the pile going down towards you. I mark an arrow on the top corner of the back side of the fabric indicating the pile direction so that if I have to walk away and come back, I can pick up where I left off. Place all of the plastic template pieces except the foot pad on the back side of the fabric and trace around each, making sure to transfer the markings. Remember that with the exceptions of the head gusset and tail piece, you will need to reverse all of the remaining pieces, as you need left and right sides.

Before you cut - take the time to insure that you have traced out 2 body pieces, 2 head pieces, and 2 ear pieces, each having been reversed as noted, leaving you with a left and right side for each. You should

have one head gusset piece traced, as well as one tail and 4 legs and 4 arms. You will have 2 left legs, 2 right legs, 2 left arms and 2 right arms. Check that the fur direction is correct **before** you cut! Taking care to only cut the backing, and not the fur pile, cut out all of the pieces. Working from the back side, you can slip your scissors between the pile and backing, and take small snips rather than large cuts. While this takes a bit longer, it ensures you do not cut the pile of the fur.

Now, that everything is cut out, we can start getting the pieces together and be ready to sew! You will use a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam on all pieces and sew the pieces with regular sewing thread.

Starting with the body pieces, sew the darts at the top and bottom of each body piece, making sure to backstitch to lock your stitches. Next, with fur sides together, pin together the 2 body pieces, then sew from "A" to "B", leaving an opening as indicated. Now, pin the head pieces together from the tip of the nose to the bottom of the chin and sew from "A" to "B". Pin the leg pieces together, making sure to sew only from "A" to "B" and then from "C" to "D", leaving an opening in between "B" and "C". Leave the bottom of the foot open as well. Next, pin a wool felt ear piece to the fur ear piece and stitch from "A" to "B", leaving the bottom edge open. Do this for both ears. Pin the arm pieces together and sew from "A" to "B", again leaving an opening where indicated. (*The openings in the arms, legs and body should be at least the width of your joint disks.)

Going back to the head, you will match up the center tip of the gusset with the nose seam on the head. Fur sides together, baste the gusset to the head, sewing from the nose tip to the neck edge on first one side, and then the other. After it is basted in place, sew in place on the machine, taking care to open the seam at the nose.

Next, we'll put in the foot pads. Line up the center of the toe end of the foot pad with the front toe seam on the leg and pin on either side of the seam. Line up the center of the heel of the foot pad with the heel of the leg piece and again, pin on either side. You can baste all the way around, removing the pins, and then stitch all the way around. Repeat for both legs.

To make the tail, use upholstery thread and run a gathering stitch, all around, $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the outer edge. Pull up the gathers until almost closed, stuff firmly with Fairfield polyfill and securely knot off, leaving a length of thread long enough to be used to secure the tail to the body later.

Check both sides of each of the pieces that you have sewn, and make sure that all are sewn all the way on both sides. Trim the seams as needed, and turn the pieces right sides out.

Stuff the head firmly with Fairfield polyfill, taking care to be sure the nose area is nice and firmly stuffed, as this insures a nice base to embroider the nose. Run a gathering stitch around the bottom of the neck edge of the head – $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the edge. Place a washer, then a cotter pin through a disk and place inside the neck opening, drawing the threads up tight and knotting off. (The rounded portion of the cotter pin will be inside the head, with the other end sticking out.) Using an awl, make a small hole through the dart at the top of the body, and poke the cotter pin extending out the neck edge of the head through the top of the body. Take another disk and place it inside the body, pushing the ends of the cotter pin that are sticking out from the head through the hole in the disk. Using needle nose pliers, turn the ends of the cotter pin in opposite directions of each other, curling them as tightly as possible.

Next, place a disk inside the top of the arm, pushing the disk all the way to the top. Use an awl to poke a hole through the disk and through the arm fabric, making sure the hole is to the inside of the arm. Place a washer on the cotter pin and push these through the hole you just made. Stuff the top of the arm and then the paw portion of the arms with Fairfield polyfill, making sure the paws are nice and rounded. Add about ¼ cup of glass beads or poly pellets, if desired, and finish stuffing arm with Fairfield polyfill. Stitch the opening closed, using a ladder stitch. Repeat for the other arm, insuring that you have a left and right side arm. Repeat this same procedure for the legs, making sure that you have nicely stuffed the foot pads with Fairfield polyfill. To attach the arms and legs to the body, poke a hole with the awl in the body on the marks made earlier. Push the cotter pin sticking out from the arm and/or leg through the hole in you made in the body. Place a disk inside the body and push the cotter pin through the hole in the disk. Curl the ends of the cotter pin outward in opposite directions of each other until nice and snug. ***Before you tighten any limbs down, make sure the arms and legs are facing the front*** Stuff the bottom portion of the body with polyfill, lining the belly area lightly with Fairfield polyfill. Add stuffing to the neck area, insuring it is nice and full. Pour in glass beads or poly pellets for weight and finish filling with Fairfield polyfill. Close the opening on the back with a ladder stitch. Secure the tail to the back by taking a stitch in the body, then in the tail, going all the way around until completely attached. Secure by knotting off tightly and burying the knot in the body. Position the ears to the top of the head, and attach using a ladder stitch.

Using sewing pins with large heads on them, place them on the head to determine the eye placement. Once you have decided where you want the eyes to go, thread a doll needle with a doubled length of upholstery thread and knot at the end. Insert the needle into the head, and come out where you have placed one of the pins, pulling the knot through and into the fabric. Go back through the head to the other side, coming out where the pin is on the opposite side. Go back and forth a couple of times, pulling gently to create an indentation. Remove the pins and place a glass eye on the needle, crimp the wire, and poke a small hole with your awl where the indentation is on one side. Pull snugly, going back through to the other side and repeating the procedure with the other eye. Go back and forth a time or two, making sure the eyes are secure, then make a knot, and bury it in the fabric.

Trim the fur off of the area on the nose where you are going to embroider. Using even, firmly pulled stitches, embroider the nose with pearl cotton, ending with an embroidered, upside down "V" for the mouth. Add whiskers to either side of the nose by running length of fishing line one at a time. I cut a length of fishing line, make a secure knot, and pull the knot through and into the fabric. Repeat for each side until you have the desired number of whiskers. Enjoy!

I'm pleased that you have decided to make a bunny using my pattern. You are welcome to make them for personal use and/or gifts. I would, however, ask you to respect my copyright and not offer the pattern and/or finished bunnies for sale.

If you need any of the supplies to make bunnies, bears and or want to purchase finished items, you can visit my website at www.lulubears.com Please feel free to e-mail with any questions at plbowen@earthlink.net

Substitutions: You can substitute synthetic fabrics for the mohair, but need to take into consideration that the knit backing on some synthetics can be stretchy and may be a bit more difficult to work with. There are synthetics available without the stretch. Plastic doll joints, as

well as plastic safety eyes can be substituted as well. If safety eyes are used, they will need to be placed into the head **before** the head is stuffed.

You can change the size of the finished bunny by shrinking or enlarging the pattern to the size you desire. Your fabric requirements, as well as the joints and eyes sizes will differ if you change the size of the pattern or use a longer pile/ different type fabric. You can use this chart to determine the reduction/enlargement amounts: <http://www.thequiltedsnail.com/scale.html>

