

Free Squeakers the Otter Pattern



Pattern Description:

Squeakers the Otter is a free sewing pattern and tutorial for a fun and simple softie project, ideal for beginners.

It's available in two sizes (full-size and tiny) and can be sewn by hand or machine. The tutorial guides you through making an otter, a favorite animal.

Materials Needed & Measurements:

- **Brown fleece:** approximately 1/3 yard
- **Tan fleece:** approximately 1/4 yard
- A scrap piece of red fleece (if making a heart)
- **Black embroidery floss OR Black felt:** for nose and eyes
- **Stuffing:** (e.g., organic carded wool, organic roving, or fiber stuffing from recycled plastic bottles)
- **Matching all-purpose thread**
- **Marking tool:** (e.g., disappearing pen or water soluble pen)

- **Scissors**
- **Pins or clips**
- **Tool for turning and stuffing:** (e.g., hemostat clamps)
- **Doll Needle**

Instructions for Making the Squeakers The Otter Pattern:

Step 1: Sewing the Otter's Ears

The ears are the trickiest part, but don't stress! If they feel too fiddly, you can skip them or cut felt ears instead.

- Cut out the ear pattern, keeping only the seam allowance at the end.
- Trace the stitch line onto folded or layered fabric.
- Stitch around the traced lines.
- Trim with a 1/8" seam allowance (or 1/4" for beginners or thick fleece).
- Turn the ears right side out and gently shape the seams with a turning tool.
- Baste stitch 1/8" from the bottom edge.
- Fold the outer edges inward at the markings and baste again to hold the shape.

Step 2: Sewing the Arms & Legs

- Trace the stitch lines for the arms and legs onto folded/layered fabric.
- Stitch along the lines, cut out the pieces, and turn them right side out.
- Stuff about 2/3 full.
- Baste stitch the openings closed (1/8" from the edge).

Step 3: Assembling the Otter's Body

- **Join the Head & Belly**
 - Pin the otter belly to the head (right sides together).
 - Sew with a 1/4" seam allowance.
 - Finger-press seam open.
- **Attach Front & Back**

- With right sides together, stitch the front to the back in a U-shape.
- Leave openings for ears and arms.
- Insert ears and arms, baste in place, and check alignment before stitching permanently.
- **Add the Legs**
 - Place legs in the marked spots.
 - Stitch in place, leaving an opening for turning.
 - Clip curves and corners for smooth shaping.
- **Turn & Stuff**
 - Turn the otter right side out.
 - Mark eye/nose placement (if not already done).
 - Stuff firmly, especially around the legs and corners.
 - Close the opening with a ladder stitch (brown thread blends best).
 - Remove any visible basting stitches.

Step 4: Finishing Touches

- **Eyes & Nose Options**
 - **Embroidery (recommended for tiny otters):** Satin stitch for the nose + French/colonial knot eyes.
 - **Felt pieces:** Machine or hand-stitch 1/8" from the edge (best for full-size otters).
 - **Glass eyes or plastic safety eyes/nose:** Only for otters not intended for small children.
- **Tail**
 - Stitch around the tail, leaving an opening.
 - Turn, stuff lightly, and close with a ladder stitch.
 - Attach to the otter's back securely.
- **Heart (Optional)**
 - Trace, stitch, turn, and stuff the heart piece.

- Close the opening and ladder stitch the heart into the otter's paws.
- **Whiskers**
 - Cut 8-10" thread strands.
 - Fold in half and thread through a needle (no knot).
 - Insert at whisker point, pull loop through, and secure tails inside the loop.
 - Trim to desired length.

Extra Sewing Tips

- Use a **90/14 ballpoint needle** for natural fleece.
- With organic cotton thread, a **stretch stitch** is great for durability.
- Don't stress over perfection, little quirks give your otter personality!
- Customize: skip ears, add accessories, or change colors for a unique plush.

Final Thoughts

Making **Squeakers the Otter** is a fun, creative, and beginner-friendly sewing project. Whether you sew it by hand or machine, full-size or tiny, this otter makes a **perfect handmade gift** or keepsake.