

GEEK
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CRAFTS!

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

MONSTER SEWING WORKSHOP

THAMES & KOSMOS



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SAFETY INFORMATION

WARNING.

Not suitable for children under 3 years of age. There is a risk of choking due to small parts that may be swallowed or inhaled. There is a risk of strangulation if long cords become wrapped around the neck. This kit contains sharp needles. Do not injure yourself!

Save the packaging and instructions. They contain important information.

Dear Parents,

This kit will teach your child how to sew his or her own personal monster friends. However, handling a needle and thread will not be completely simple at first. Read through the detailed instruction manual and be prepared to offer help and advice to your child. With a little practice, sewing will soon become easy enough.

A sturdy, well-lit table with a top that can take a little abuse will serve as a good work surface.

Do not let the hobby materials get into the hands of small children!

The monsters that your child will be sewing are not a baby's toy, and should be kept away from children under 3 years of age. On top of that, it is important to make sure that all the stitches are tight and that all the decorations are sewn on well, in order to prevent stuffing from coming out or decorations from being pulled off.

**We wish you and
your child a lot of fun
sewing the monsters!**

KIT CONTENTS



- | | | | |
|----------|----------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Colorful fabric pieces (6) | 6 | Red hair tie |
| 2 | Dark blue felt | 7 | Red and black embroidery thread |
| 3 | Red and white felt | 8 | Wooden stick |
| 4 | Thread | 9 | Small clothespin |
| 5 | Needle | 10 | Cotton batting |

YOU WILL ALSO NEED: Colored pencils or crayons, soft lead pencil, paper, ruler, scissors, pins, fabric scraps, various materials such as buttons, beads, woolen scraps, bows, or silk flowers

Dear Monster Friend,

With this kit, you will be able to sew lots of delightfully gruesome monsters for yourself and your friends. And the best part? Only you can decide exactly what your monsters will look like. This manual will show you how to turn your ideas into reality. So what are you waiting for? Grab your colored pencils and let's go!



PART 1

SEWING MONSTERS

Creating a monster

Before you get started sewing your monster, think about how you would like it to look. We have written down a few questions to help you create a really awesome monster.

What shape will your monster be?

Will it be round or shaped like an egg? Maybe shaped like a star or a mushroom?



What colors will your monster have? Take a look at the fabrics and think about which one would be best for your monster!

How many eyes will it have? And how many legs? Your monster can have as many eyes and legs as you want! Maybe it will even have teeth or hair. It's up to you!



Finally, of course, you will have to decide on a name for your monster. And if you like, you can draw a monstrous portrait on the next page.



Mushroom or monster?

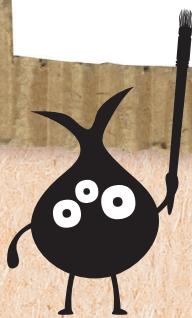
TIP!



You can find ideas for a really cool monster all around you as long as you keep your eyes open!



Off you go! Draw your
super-gruesome monster
in this frame!



PART 2

INTRODUCTION TO MONSTER MAKING

Creating a template

You will need:

Paper, pencil, ruler, scissors

Here's how:

- 1 If you want your monster to be the same color on the front and the back, it will have to be no bigger than half the size of the piece of cloth or felt that you wish to use (in other words, 9 x 14 cm or 8 x 14 cm).

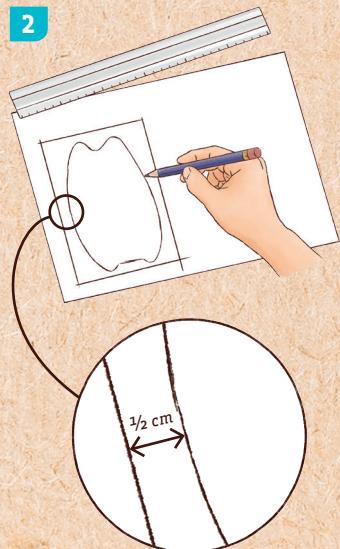
If you prefer to sew a really big monster, you will be preparing front and back sides using different pieces of fabric. In that case, your monster friend can be 14 x 19 cm in size.

- 2 Once you have decided how big to make your monster, draw a rectangle of the appropriate size on the piece of paper. Then, draw your monster inside the rectangle. Leave $\frac{1}{2}$ cm of space between the outline of the monster and the rectangle.

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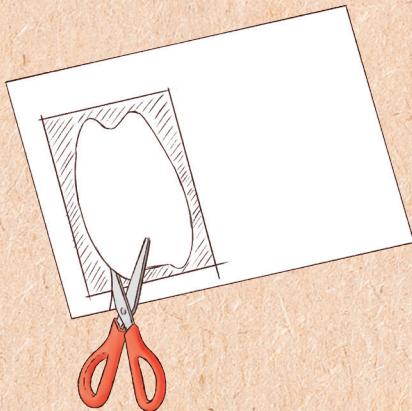


2



3 Your monster can actually have any shape you care to imagine. Just keep in mind that no part of it should be too thin, or it will be too difficult to turn your monster inside out after sewing it.

4 Once you are happy with your sketch, cut out the monster shape.

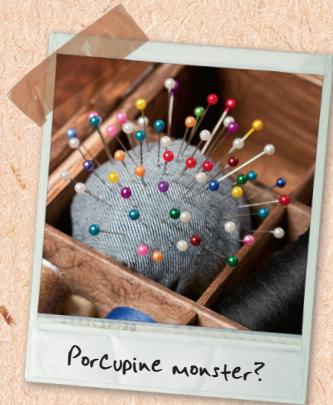


3

Not like this:



4



Cutting the material

When your template is ready, you can take the material you want to use for your monster and get started. If you want to make your monster out of felt, continue reading on page 10!

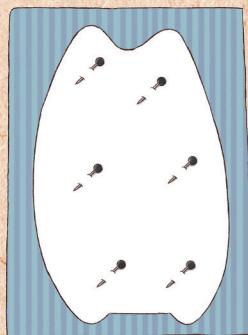
You will need:

Your monster template cut out of paper, piece of fabric, pins, soft lead pencil, scissors

Here's how:

1 Fold the fabric down the center with the pattern on the inside. Align the edges and corners precisely. Use pins to secure the monster template to the folded piece of fabric.

1



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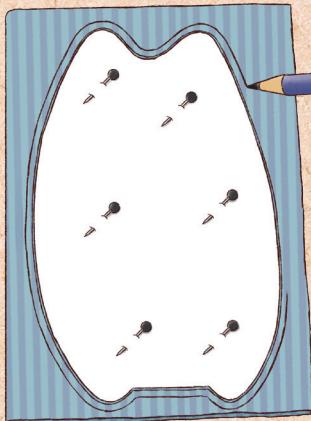
2 Trace the outline onto the fabric with a soft lead pencil. That will be the line for your stitches. Draw another line about $\frac{1}{2}$ cm outside of it. This is where you will be cutting the fabric. The area between the lines is known as the **seam allowance**.

3 Cut out the fabric shape along the outer line. Then remove the paper template. Now, sew eyes, mouth, and so on onto one of the two resulting pieces of fabric. Instructions for that step start on page 11.

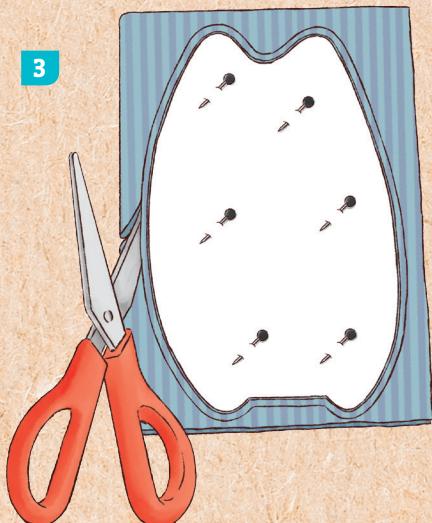
Then place one of the fabric pieces precisely on top of the other again, and secure them in place with pins so they can't slip.



2



3



The most important stitches

1

To sew your monster together, you will need a few different stitches — in other words, a few different techniques for pulling the thread through the fabric with the needle. It's best to first practice the stitches on a small scrap of fabric.

You will need:

Needle, thread, ruler, scissors, fabric scrap (ideally cotton)

Here's how:

1 The starting knot: Start by cutting off a piece of thread about 40 cm in length. (If the piece of thread is too long, it will get tangled easily.) Thread it through the eye of the needle. It will be hard at first, but it gets easier with practice.

2

Tie a fat knot at the end of the long section of thread by winding it several times around your index finger and then pulling the end of the thread through the “ring.”

3

2 The running stitch: Stick the needle through the back of the fabric and bring it out the front. Then continue inserting the needle through the fabric at even intervals from the front and back in alternation, pulling the thread through each time.

3 The backstitch: Insert the needle and thread through the fabric from the front. On the back side, guide the needle a little to the left and then insert it through the fabric and bring it out the front again.

Insert the needle again through the first hole working from the front to the back, and guide the thread on the back side twice as far to the left as you did the first time.

TIP!

The fabric should always stay smooth and not pucker. If it puckers, that means you pulled the thread too tight.



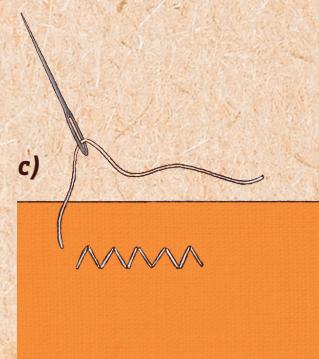
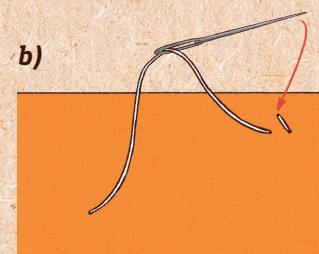
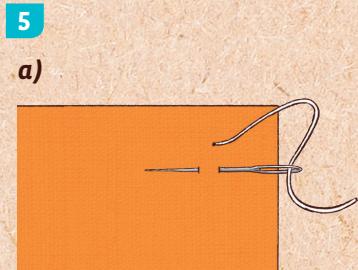
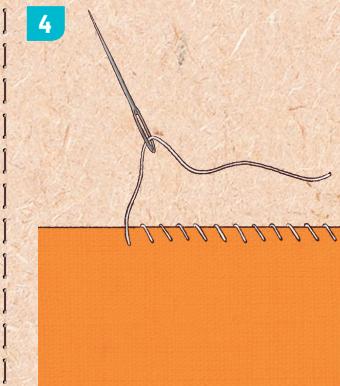
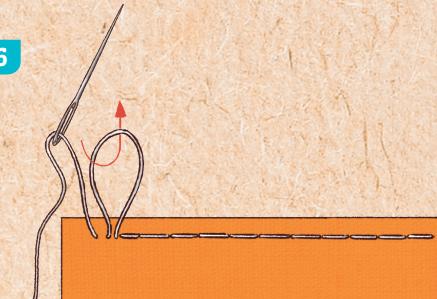
4 **The whipstitch:** This is the stitch you use to close the gap in the fabric after you have filled your monster with cotton. Start by folding the seam allowance inward at the opening.

Then, insert the needle through the fabric at the top from the inside to the outside. Next, insert the needle a little farther to the left on the back and bring it out the front, through both pieces of fabric. The thread “bridges” the opening in the fabric at a slant. Continue until the opening is completely sewn shut.

5 **The zigzag stitch:** You can use the zigzag stitch to sew your monster a ravenous mouth, for example. Start by inserting the needle through the back of the fabric and bring it out the front.

Beneath the spot where the thread emerges out of the fabric, insert the needle from right to left, as shown in picture (a). Now insert the needle again at the spot where the thread first came out of the fabric (b). You will get a little V. On the back side, continue a little to the left, then backwards at an angle, and so on (c).

6 **Burying the thread:** Your seam will only hold properly if you bury it securely at the end. You do this by making several small stitches. Each time, you will make a little loop of thread, guide the needle through the loop, and pull the thread through. Finally, cut off the thread. You have now secured the seam.



Sewing the fabric monster together and stuffing it

Now that you have learned the most important stitches, it's time to start sewing the monster.

But be careful! Decorations such as eyes and mouth have to be sewn onto the fabric from the back side.

So first think about which decorations you want to apply, and look at Part 3 of this manual to see how to do it. **Only after you do that will you be able to sew the monster together.**

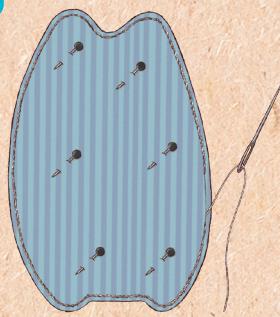
You will need:

Stuck-together fabric shapes, needle, thread, cotton batting, wooden stick, scissors, ruler

Here's how:

- 1 Sew the two fabric pieces together along the inner pencil line with very small backstitches (see page 7). At the end, leave a small opening in the seam (about 2 to 3 cm) and bury the thread (see page 8).
- 2 To be able to see the pretty side of the fabric, your monster will have to be turned inside out. To do that, you will have to push the fabric through the little opening. Be very careful as you do this, so you don't rip the fabric. Then push the arms, legs, or ears of your monster into their proper shape. It's easiest with the wooden stick.
- 3 Next, gradually fill the monster with small portions of cotton batting. You can use the wooden stick for that too. Start by filling the legs, arms, and ears. Finally, fill the body and the head.
- 4 Close the opening through which you turned the fabric with a few small whipstitches (see page 8) and bury the thread.

1



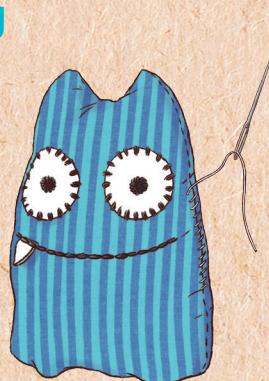
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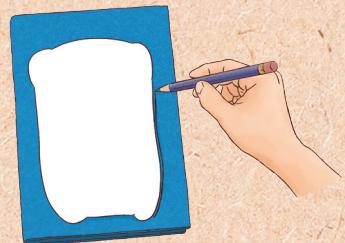


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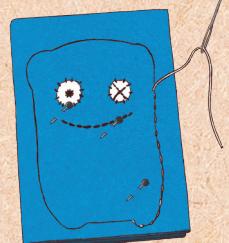


Sewing a felt monster

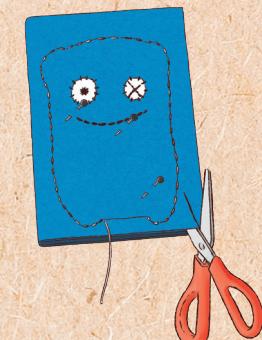
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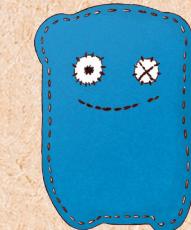
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3



4



You will need:

Your monster template made of paper, blue felt piece, needle, thread or embroidery thread, wooden stick, pins, soft lead pencil, scissors

Here's how:

- 1 Use a soft lead pencil to trace the outline of the monster template onto a doubled-over piece of felt. You won't need any seam allowance for this.
- 2 Then remove the paper template. Now is the time to sew on eyes, mouth, and so on (see page 11 on). Then lay the two pieces of felt precisely on top of one another and secure the pieces in place with pins so the felt doesn't slip.
Thread the needle and tie a knot at the end of the thread. Using running stitches (see page 7), sew the two felt pieces together exactly along the pencil line. Leave a seam opening of about 2 to 3 cm for the stuffing.
- 3 Only now can you cut out the body by cutting about $\frac{1}{2}$ cm outside the seam line. Be careful not to cut into the seam!
- 4 Carefully stuff the monster with cotton batting. The wooden stick will come in handy here. Be sure to fill the arms and legs with cotton, too. Then, close the opening with a few more running stitches and bury the thread on the back side of the monster (see page 8).

PART 3

MAKE YOUR MONSTER ONE OF KIND!

Besides choosing your fabric, you have a lot of options for giving your monster your own personal touch. Little details like eyes, mouth, teeth, and scars can give your monster its own unique character, as can ornaments and decorations. So you can make different versions based on a single shape, or even create an entire monster family.

The mouth

The mouth gives you the best opportunity to give your monster a friendly or a gruesome appearance.

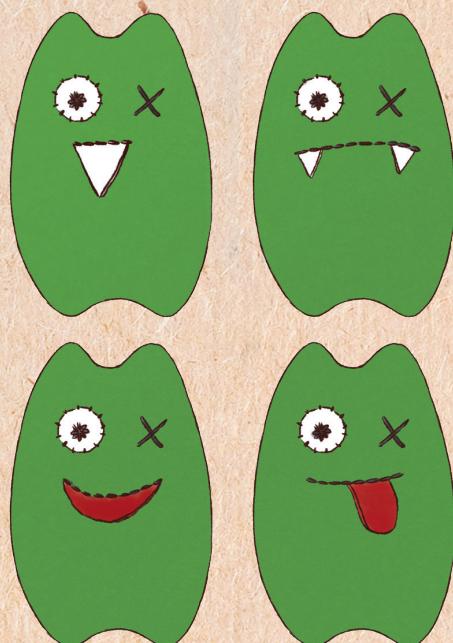
You will need:

Needle, thread, embroidery thread, felt, scissors

Here's how:

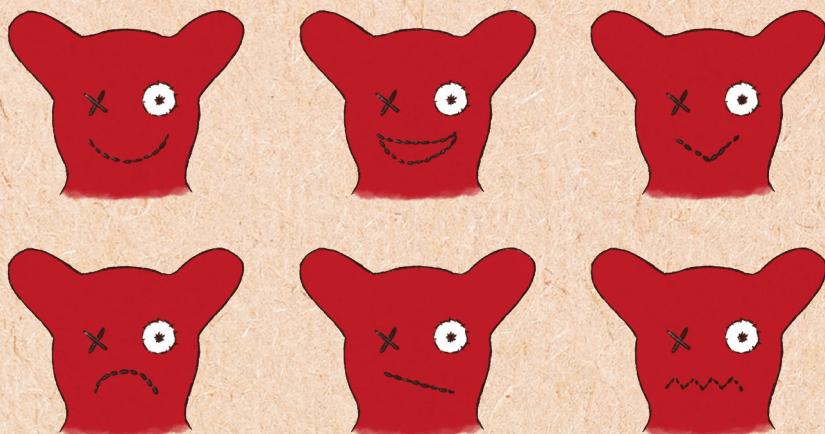
- 1 Use sewn-on pieces of felt to give your monster a beak or a big laughing mouth, or to make it show its teeth or stick out its tongue.

1



2 Use embroidery thread and a backstitch (see page 7) to sew a simple but striking mouth in a shape of your choosing: smiling or sad, open or closed, impish or indecisive. It can also be fun to make a zigzag seam or even a simple "V."

2



The eyes

The simplest eyes are little stitched-on crosses. But you can also cut eyes out of felt and sew them on. Or maybe you have some beads or buttons? It can also be fun to give your monster two different kinds of eyes. Or you can even try giving your monster just one eye, or lots of them!

You will need:

Needle, thread, embroidery thread, felt, scissors, various materials such as buttons and beads

TIP!

If you decide you don't like your stitches while sewing, simply remove the thread from the needle and pull it back out of the material.



Sewing on felt eyes

Here's how:

1 For stitched eyes, thread the needle, make a knot at the end, insert the needle through the fabric from the inside out, and sew two crosses.

2 For a felt eye, cut a small disk out of felt and take a different-colored piece of thread, preferably embroidery thread. Thread it through the needle and tie a knot in the end.

Stick the needle through the fabric, from the inside out, at the spot where you want the eye to be and through the center of the felt disk. Make a few stitches close to one another to create the pupils. Then use small stitches along the border of the felt to sew it down tight.

3 For a button eye, thread the needle with ordinary thread and tie a knot in the end. Place the button in the location where you want the eye to be.

Sew from the inside out through the fabric and one of the button holes. Next, stitch back through the opposite hole to the inside again. Then it's back out through the third hole and back in through the fourth.

Carefully pull the thread tight, and start over again from the beginning. Go through the entire sequence of steps four or five times to be sure the button holds well. Finally, bury the thread on the inside.

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TIP!

For a bead eye, simply stick the needle with the thread through the fabric from the inside out, then through the hole in the bead and back through the fabric to the inside again. Do this four or five times to hold the bead tight and bury the thread on the inside.

Arms, wings, fins... and hair

You will need:

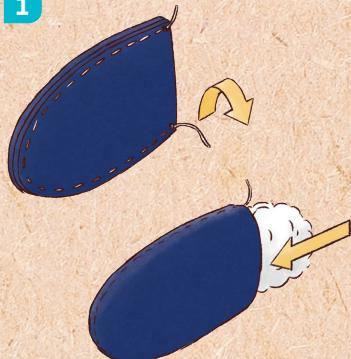
Needle, thread, embroidery thread, felt, cotton batting, wooden stick, scissors, pins, woolen scraps

Here's how:

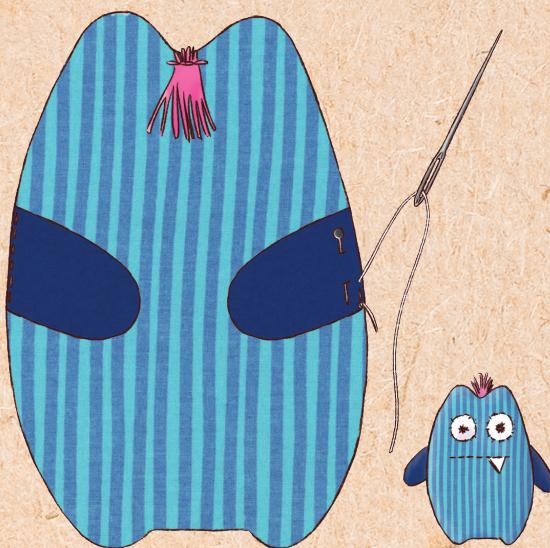
- 1 You can simply cut arms, wings, or fins for your monster out of felt. Or you can also cut the shape twice (double the felt over), sew the pieces together, turn it inside out and fill it with cotton batting. Suggest fingers or toes with a few stitches.
- 2 Sew on these extra body parts before the monster halves are sewn together. Lay the fabric for the back side of the monster flat in front of you and use pins to secure in place the part that you want to sew on. Then use small running stitches (see page 7) to sew the part on tight. Create hair by the same method, simply sewing on a few pieces of embroidery thread or wool.



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Special decorations

You can accentuate certain body parts by sewing on a second type of fabric, for example for the face (with the eyes and mouth sewn on afterwards, of course) or the belly. This is known as appliquéd. You can also add loving little details such as hearts, pockets, backpacks, and more.

You will need:

Needle, thread, embroidery thread, felt, colored fabric pieces, scissors, various materials such as bows and silk flowers

Here's how:

- 1 Start by cutting the desired shape out of a different-colored piece of fabric or felt, and then sew it on. For smaller shapes, a simple running stitch will do (see page 7). You can create an extra eye-catching detail by using a different-colored type of thread, especially if you're sewing on a solid-colored piece of felt.

Larger shapes such as faces are better sewn on with a backstitch (see page 7) or zigzag stitch (see page 8).

- 2 Little adornments and ornaments can also give your monster some special character. Try sewing on a heart, bow, or flower. Look around the house to see what you can find.

You will quickly find out that sewing monsters is easy and a lot of fun. You will definitely get more ideas as you go. Give them a try and soon you'll have a completely unique monster of your own creation.

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Monster decorations



Mini-monster

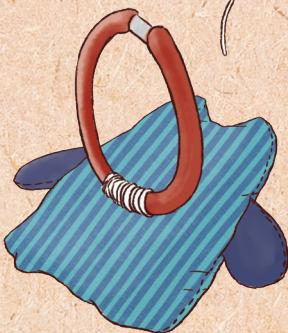
In your kit box, you will also find a small clothespin and a hair tie. You can try sewing a tiny monster onto each of them and use them to decorate a hair braid or to clamp to your pocket for good luck.

You will need:

Needle, thread, hair tie, clothespin, 2 tiny monsters, scissors

Here's how:

- 1 Cut off a piece of thread, thread it into the needle, and tie a knot at the end. Stick the needle through the back of the fabric and pull the thread tight to make sure it's well secured. Then guide the needle through the hair tie and through the fabric again. Pull the thread tight. Do that a few times so the monster holds well. Finally, bury the thread (see page 8).
- 2 Attach the monster to the clothespin in the same way, except pull the thread through the wire coil in the center of the clothespin.





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