

bounding bunnies

These bunnies make multiple appearances throughout the book! With a little stitching, knitting, and pompom making, you can whip up your own!

handmade by **CATHY GAUBERT**

fabric & tools

12 x 12-inch piece of white mohair/felt/fabric for bunny

5 x 5-inch piece of pink minkee fabric for the inner ears and nose

Pink thread (for stitching nose and eyes)

5-inch needle/doll needle

4 buttons for eyes (mismatched are my favorites!); two ½-inch white buttons and two ¼-inch gray buttons (or vice versa)

2 buttons to attach arms (just grab a few from the button jar and see what works best!)

All-purpose cream colored thread

Cream-colored heavy thread/upholstery thread (for whiskers and stitching on arms + legs)

Wool stuffing

Wool yarn (for arms, legs, and tail)

Size US2 knitting needles

Pompom maker (optional)





get started

1 Cut out body, ear, and nose templates. Notice that a ¼-inch seam allowance is included on the bunny body only.

2 Trace two ears onto the wrong side of white fabric (this line will be the stitching line). Place the piece of pink minkee underneath the white fabric, right sides facing. Leaving the bottom of the ear open, stitch around the ear, directly on the line. Cut out the ears and turn (a pair of hemostats is super helpful for the fiddly bits).



3 Trace and cut out one body piece. With right sides facing (pink sides of ears facing fur), pin ears to head and machine baste in place. Pin body, with ears sandwiched in the middle, to the white mohair/felt/fabric (making sure that the ears are tucked inside the body and out of needle's reach). Stitch, beginning at one corner of the bunny bottom and then around the body. You'll be going through quite a few layers around the ears, so go slowly and carefully.

4 Gently grab your bunny's ears and turn right side out. Firmly stuff and set aside.

5 To make the arms, on size 2 needles, cast on 5 stitches. Purl the first row (this gives the 'paws' a nice little rounded shape), and then knit the next. Continue knitting one row and purling the next until the arm is 2½ inches long. Cast off on the knit row, leaving a tail.

6 Weave in the ends at the top of the arm and at the paw; trim excess yarn. Knit the second arm the same way. You can knit both arms at the same time so that they will match, although I assure you that slightly mismatched arms are fine! Do the same for the legs, but cast off at 2 inches in length.

7 Hold the bunny upside down, with the open bottom facing you. With your index fingers, push in the side seams while pushing down and pulling out toward the sides at the same time. It sounds weird, but if you do it just like that, you will quickly and easily tuck under the raw edges so that you can start stitching closed the bunny's bottom.

Tip When you're working with mohair and other "furry" fabrics, be sure that the fur is "growing" in the same direction before you trace and cut your pieces.

8 With heavy thread/upholstery thread, begin at one side seam and start to stitch the bottom closed (I use a simple whipstitch, and I don't mind that my stitches show!) with a few stitches. Insert the top bit of one leg and continue stitching, making sure to catch that part of the leg that is now sandwiched between the front and back body pieces. After that leg is stitched in, insert the second leg. Continue stitching to the other side. Knot thread and bury it in the body, trimming off the excess.

9 To attach the arms, you will need the long needle, a length of doubled heavy/upholstery thread, and two buttons. Begin by burying the knot in the side seam of the body, right below the neck. Come out through the other side seam. Now run the needle through the upper part of the arm (be sure to have the 'underside' of the arm facing the bunny's body) and then through the backside of one of the button's holes. Push the arm and button up close to the side of the body. Run the needle through the button's other hole, through the upper part of the arm, and back through the body again, exiting right around where your knot is. Add the arm and button to this side now. Continue going back and forth a few times to attach the arms securely: button-arm-body-arm-button, and back again. Knot off below the arm and secure thread, clipping the tails.

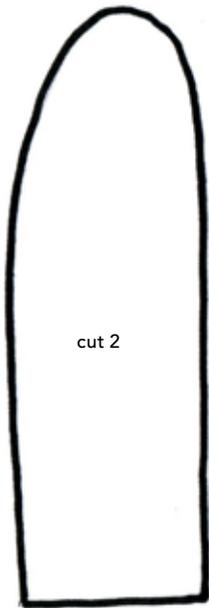
10 Using the remainder of the yarn, make a nice, fluffy pompom. You can use the old tried-and-true method of wrapping yarn around your fingers, or do yourself a favor and get a pompom maker...so worth it! Once your pompom is all trimmed up, stitch it to the bunny's backside. Not only is it super-cute, but it helps him to sit up!

11 To create the face, stack a smaller button on top of the larger one to make an eye. With a length of doubled pink thread, bind the buttons

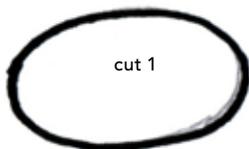


together with a few stitches...do not cut the thread. Refer to the photo for placement, and then hand-stitch the eye in place. If you need an easy place to go in and out of the body, you can do it where the nose will be (which is why we are leaving that for last); you can also use that spot to hide your knots. Repeat for the other eye.

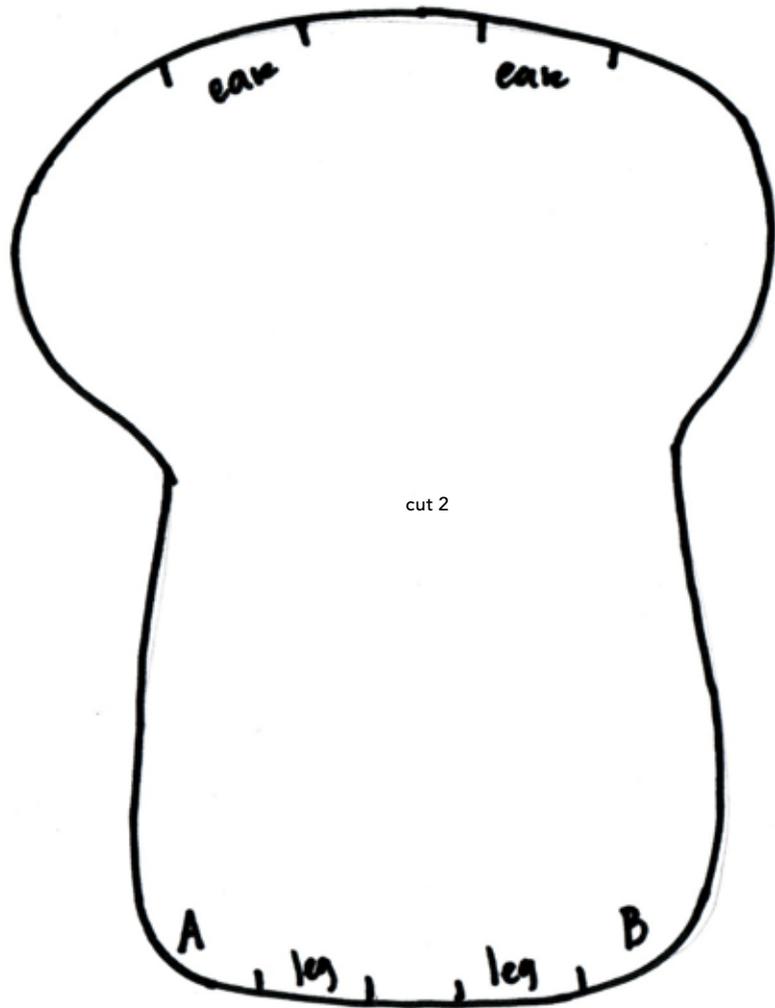
12 For the nose, use the template to cut an oval from the pink minkee fabric. Hand-stitch to the face. Add whiskers with heavy thread/upholstery thread. Thread the doll needle with a long, triple length of thread. Make a knot about 2 inches in from the end of the thread. Insert the needle into the side seam of the head (about even with the eye), coming out in approximately the same place on the other side of the head. Pull the thread taut and knot close to the seam. Trim the whiskers to match.



ear



nose



body

copy at 100%