

The Quite Personable Pickle Ornament

Based on the lovably odd tradition in which a pickle-shaped ornament is hidden deep within the Christmas tree and the first child to find it is blessed with a year of good fortune (and an extra gift), this pickle is sure to be a crowd pleaser!

handmade by **JOHN Q. ADAMS**

fabric & such

1 piece of green wool felt, 11 x 17 inches
(27.9 x 43.2 cm)

Embroidery floss in green and black, 36 inches
(91.4 cm) long

Ribbon scrap

Polyester fiberfill

Cardboard for template, 4 x 8 inches
(10.2 x 20.3 cm)

tools

Basic Patchwork Kit (page 2)

Template (2)

get started

1 Trace the pickle template onto the cardboard and cut out the shape. Trace the template onto the felt. Flip over the template and trace it onto the felt a second time (to make a mirror image of the first).

2 Embroider a face onto one of the pickle shapes, adding two French knots for the eyes and a simple backstitch for the mouth, using an embroidery needle and black floss. Using green floss, stitch a running stitch to create the texture of your pickle on both pickle shapes **(A)**.



(A)

Tip: Use the side of the felt with the template tracing as the wrong side of your embroidery.



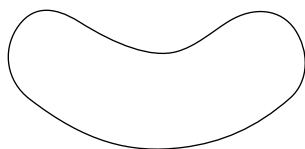
3 Cut out both pieces approximately ¼ inch (6 mm) from your traced line.

4 Cut a small piece of ribbon, fold it into a loop, and place it along the top edge of your pickle front with the loop facing inward, toward the center of the pickle body.

5 Pin the back piece of your pickle on top of the front, with right sides facing. Stitch around your pickle ornament using your traced line as a guide, leaving a 3 to 4-inch (7.6 to 10.2 cm) opening between the start and end of your seam for turning. Backstitch to lock the beginning and end of the stitches.

6 Turn the ornament right side out through the opening, pushing out along the seams to smooth the edges of your ornament. The ribbon loop should stick out from the top of the ornament for hanging.

7 Insert the polyester fiberfill through the opening of the pickle, and hand stitch the opening closed.



Personable Pickle Ornament

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basic patchwork tool kit

- Sewing machine
- Rotary cutting system (cutter, mat, and an assortment of transparent quilting rulers)
- Scissors (sewing and craft)
- Straight pins and quilter's pins (Though, I admit, I rarely ever use pins.)
- Ironing board and iron (My tip: buy the biggest ironing board that fits into your space and budget—it'll be worth it.)
- Seam ripper (Though I try my darndest to never have to use it.)
- Thread
- Tools for your preferred method of basting (I prefer spray basting adhesive, though curved basting pins are the classic choice.)