

# Mom's Christmas Ornaments

Would you like to make a Christmas ornament just like the one Mom taught  
Nessie to make? It's not difficult at all!

## Supply List

### Materials

- Felt: Each ornament requires a strip of felt 28" long and 1.5" wide. You can use white, red or green felt, just like Nessie, or any color that you like!
- Fabric Marker Pencil (marks will disappear when brushed away or dampened)
- Permanent fabric marker pen
- Thread: Contrasting thread to embellish your ornament
- Cotton Crochet thread #10 or comparable cord
- Metal Jingle Bells -- about 1" in diameter (one for each ornament)
- Spacers -- 2-holed buttons between ¼" and 3/16" make good spacers. Buttons from a man's dress shirt (not the 4-holed ones, though) are great for this.
- Ornament Hangers -- You can make a large loop to hang the ornament, or a small loop that will hold a metal ornament hanger.
- Optional: Stop-Fray solution

### Tools

- Large-eye tapestry needle
- Needle threader
- Sewing machine that does both straight and zig-zag stitching
- Fabric shears
- Embroidery scissors or thread snip scissors (4")
- Sewing ruler, preferably acrylic and about 6" X 24"

## **Basic Skills Required**

- How to operate a sewing machine
- How to tie a square knot
- How to tie an overhand knot
- How to use a needle threader

## **Instructions**

### **Step One: Cut and Embellish Felt Strips**

1. Cut felt strip(s) 28" long and 1-1/2" wide.
2. Mark center of strip(s) with fabric marker.
3. Stitch zig zag stitch or straight stitch along center mark the entire length of strip.
4. Add other stitching to make it fancier, as desired.
5. Finish ends of each line of sewing using back stitch on machine OR cut threads close to stitching and use small drop of stop-fray solution.

### **Step Two: Mark Strips for Stringing**

6. Using permanent fabric pen, mark points along felt strip where cotton crochet thread will pass through:
  - a. Fold felt strip in half. Mark mid-point with fabric marker. This will not show on finished ornament.
  - b. Set felt strip along ruler. Starting from center mark, place a visible dot 4" from the center mark on each side of the center. Place a mark 4" from that mark on each side. When you finish, you will have a total of 7 marks on the felt strip, and there will be a piece about 2" from the last mark at each end of the strip.

c. Duplicate the marks on the other side of the strip. This makes stringing much easier.

### **Step Three: String Bell and Button Stabilizer**

7. Cut a piece of crochet cotton thread about 24" long.
8. Put the thread through the loop at the top of the bell and position the bell in the center of the thread.
9. Tie an overhand knot (Left over Right, Right over Left).
10. Tie a second overhand knot.
11. Put each end of the crochet thread through a hole in a button. Put a clip on one of the threads. Use the needle threader to thread the second strand onto the tapestry needle.

### **Step Four: String Ornament**

12. Starting at one end of the felt strip, push needle through the mark, then bring felt strip up and over so you can access the next mark. Push needle through this second mark, fold the felt strip back up and over and push needle through the next mark. Repeat until you have threaded crochet cotton through all seven marks and felt strip is folded back and forth on itself.
13. Before removing the needle from the thread, slide on a button. Arrange the felt in loose loops.
14. Thread the second strand of crochet cotton thread onto the needle. Starting just like you did with the first strand of thread, push the needle through each marked point. Keep about 1/8" away from the first cord, but stay in the center of the felt.
15. Once you have sewn the cord through each of the seven marks, slide the needle through the second hole of the top button. Remove needle.

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### **Step Five: Finish Ornament**

16. Grasping the two cords, pull gently while arranging the felt folds with your fingers. Tie the piece off above the button, using two square knots.
17. Taking both crochet cotton strands in your hand, tie an overhand knot. Adjust the knot height for desired loop size. Clip and discard excess thread.
18. Use your thumb and forefinger in each set of folds, squeezing toward the center and opening the folds. Use your hand to puff open each fold.

### **Tips and Variations**

- These ornaments make great gifts for the special people in your life. Relatives, teachers and friends will love them!
- Turn a lovely handmade ornament into a treasured keepsake by printing your name and the date on the inside of the loose end on the bottom. Be sure and use a pen designed for permanently marking fabric. Test it on a scrap piece of felt first to make sure it doesn't bleed through.
- If you don't have access to a sewing machine, make ornaments without the fancy stitching. Follow the directions, but skip #3, 4 and 5 in Step One.
- Make a set of ornaments that are monotone -- the felt and bell are all the same color -- for a designer look.
- Glitz it up! Make ornaments without fancy stitching. Cover bells with foil to protect them, then spray or paint on glue as desired, and sprinkle with glitter. Try a white ornament with a white bell and tinsel 'snow flurry' glitter.