Yay! You’ve decided to make a Teddy Bear!

In these instructions together with the video I will give you all the information you need to make my bear Arthur, named after my 92 year old Grandad xx

Video is on youtube – search for > off\_grid\_artist

I have a range of free craft tutorials and I’ll be adding many many more so feel free to subscribe and come along on this crafting journey with me.

Arthur is a large bear, he measures 56cm

He sits up on his own and is very huggable.

To make Arthur you will need

* 100cm by 55cm of any fur you choose
* A small piece of matching paw pad fabric
* X 5 Joints 50mm, in the video I used the bolt and nut variety but I prefer the plastic clip on ones.
* 1 pair of eyes, 16mm approx.
* 1 x Plastic nose
* 1 x reel of matching extra strong thread
* Stuffing, you can buy some but I’ve decided to use old cushion filling
* A strong needle with a wide hole for strong thread
* A large needle

Cutting out the paper pattern

Photocopy all the pieces and cut them out. If you find it easier and want to make multiple bears you can glue the pieces to card board when you cut them out so they are strong and easy to be reused.

Remember to mark where the openings need to be and where the joint holes are.

Once you’ve cut them out, lay them all down and check that you have everything. There is 19 pieces in total, plus 4 felt pads

The nap of the fabric

Its extremely important that you take notice of the ‘nap’ of the fabric, this is the fabric direction. Run your hand over the fur, it will run smoothly in the direction of the fur. All the arrows on the pattern must be pointing in the direction of the nap.

Laying out your pattern

Lay your fur face down, line up all your pattern pieces with the arrow pointing towards the direction of the fur, once you’re happy with the layout draw around each pattern piece carefully. I use a black marker if its visible on the fur. Mark joint holes and openings on fur.

Cutting out

I use a pair of tiny snips because its very important that you don’t cut any other fur, try to focus on only cutting the backing.

Sewing

I prefer hand sewing the pieces together but you can machine sew them. I’ll show you in the video all of this in detail. I use the blanket stitch.

Joints

There’s about three different types of joints, in the video I’ve used the nut and bolt variety but I prefer the plastic ones for ease, there’s also split pins. Whichever ones you pick just make sure they are secure before stitching up your bear as the last thing you need is limbs falling off.

Stuffing

To stuff him you can use new polyflock or simply reuse an old cushion that may have otherwise found itself in landfill.

Eye, nose and Ear Placement

Eyes. nose and ears are what give your bear his personality. Make sure you’re happy with the placements before committing by clicking on the back.

You can resew the ears if you don’t like the first placement, but have fun and watch your bear come to life!

You can do these parts before sewing the bottom of the neck up as you’ll need to do the eyes and nose from the inside. The stuffing is useful for you to see where you should put things then you can remove it before filling it again.

All in all have fun and I hope you love your bear!

Tag me at @off\_grid\_artist on Instagram so I can see your work! I’d love to see x