Yellow Elephant

A sewing pattern by Maggie Smith, author & illustrator of My Blue Bunny Bubbit

Please note: this pattern does not teach basic sewing skills. Sewing instruction for children or adults can be found in many wonderful books available at your library.

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Materials & supplies list:

- 1/4 yard of yellow felt
- 1 square of gray felt
- 2” x 2” piece of white felt
- 2” x 2” piece of black felt
- a few yards of gray yarn
- 1/2 yard of 1/2” ribbon
- polyester fiberfil or wool roving for stuffing
- coral, white, and yellow embroidery floss
- craft glue such as Aleene’s
- yellow, gray, and white sewing threads
- sewing needles in various sizes
- pins
- fabric scissors
- sharp pencil
- ruler
- chopstick or new unsharpened pencil for a stuffing tool

* Optional - a yard of yellow yarn for ears, if an adult is sewing them
  - freezer paper to aid in cutting small felt pieces, and iron

Finished size of elephant: about 7” x 11”
How to make your **Elephant:**

1. Cut out all patterns.

2. Pin the elephant pattern to one layer of yellow felt. If the felt has more stretch in one direction, place pattern so it’s “sitting” on that direction (a). Use about 15 pins so the pattern is well-pinned. Carefully cut out the elephant shape.

3. Mark the eye, ear and mouth positions by poking a sharp pencil through the pattern at the blue dots. Twist pencil slightly and be sure it’s leaving a small dot on the felt (b).

4. Remove the pattern and pin the felt elephant to more felt. Carefully cut out the second felt piece to match.

5. Flip the pinned elephant over and mark the other side by flipping the pattern and positioning it in place. Then poke and twist the pencil through the perforated holes. Pin a safety pin at the tail mark.

6. Thread a needle with yellow thread and start sewing at the back of the head, as marked on the pattern. Sew towards the trunk (c). When the trunk is finished, pause and stuff it with small bits of stuffing to prevent lumps.

7. Continue sewing until you reach the safety pin. Then take an extra stitch to secure the thread, remove the safety pin, and set the elephant aside.

8. Make the tail: cut 15 pieces of gray yarn about 10” long. Tie them in a knot at one end to form a tassel.

9. Place knot just inside the body as shown. Sew back and forth a few times through tail and felt on both sides to secure. Then stitch the felt layers together tight on the other side of the knot (d).

10. Continue sewing up the back until there’s about 3” to go, then stuff the elephant firmly but not so thick as to distort it’s shape. Then finish sewing the rest of the back seam.

11. Braid the tail until the braid is a bit less than 3” long. Wrap and tie it with thread to secure the end. Trim the tail tassel to 1.5” (e).

**Tip:** Always use small bits of stuffing at a time to prevent lumps!

**Tip:** A chopstick or new unsharpened pencil makes a good stuffing tool!
There are two ways to make the ears. 12A is easier for children. 12B results in thicker, sturdier ears like those in the photo.

12A. Simpler ears:
Pin ear pattern to gray felt twice to cut out 2 ears. Thread an embroidery needle with a full strand of yellow floss. Make long stitches around each ear as shown on the pattern and in the photo. The ears should be mirrors of eachother (f).

12B. Thicker ears:
Pin ear pattern to a double layer of gray felt twice to cut out 4 ears. Pin 2 ears together and stitch them together around the edge with gray thread. Thread an embroidery (or yarn) needle with a full strand of yellow floss (or yarn) and make long stitches around the edge of the ear (pliers may be needed to assist in pulling the needle out). Repeat for the other ear so it's a mirror of the first (f).

13. Position one ear on the elephant, so that the front edge just hides the placement dots and pin it in place. Stitch ear securely to the body all along the front edge (g). Repeat for the other ear.

14. To make the eyes:
If freezer paper is available, first cut two 2 x 2” squares and iron them, on medium heat, shiny side down, to the pieces of white and black felt. Trace patterns onto the papered side of the felt. Remove paper backing after cutting out the eyes.
Trace larger eye pattern onto white felt and cut it out. Tape smaller eye pattern to black felt and cut out the circle. Repeat both steps for the other eye.

15. Dab a little craft glue on the center of the eye whites and position them on the elephant to just cover all 4 eye placement dots.
When the glue has dried, sew the eyes in place, taking small stitches all around the edges (h). Then glue the eye centers in place (see pattern for placement) using plenty of glue. Let dry.

16. For the mouth: thread an embroidery needle with a full strands of floss and make a small knot at the end. Push the needle into the elephant right behind the ear (so the knot is hidden) and bring it out at the mouth dot (i). Push the needle back in at the mouth dot on the other side and bring it back out behind that side’s ear. Knot thread securely before trimming.

Finishing:
Tie a ribbon bow around the tail and trim it. Enjoy your elephant!
PATTERNS

Eye patterns:

Eye white

eye
(eye center)

Elephant

Start sewing here

(ears go here)
Elephant Ear

Elephant back - join to Elephant front along dashed line

Safety pin goes here

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