

- Wrote story, checked diagrams and edited instructions

Socks Appeal

DESIGNED BY RENÉE SCHWARZ

TEXT BY JO CALVERT

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NINA TEIXEIRA



Make a little Christmas magic. Turn an ordinary pair of work socks into a couple of goofy, long-legged lynx – and tuck two truly Canadian critters under the tree.

YOU NEED (FOR EACH):

Men's grey work sock with black stripe around cuff

2 snap-on cat's eyes, 15 mm in diameter or scrap of yellow knit fabric*

Piece of grey knit fabric, 25.5 x 12.5 cm (10 x 5 in)*

Piece of black knit fabric, 25.5 x 6 cm (10 x 2³/₈ in)*

Scraps of black and white felt

Tiny scrap of black fun fur

Matching thread

Black, grey and white buttonhole twist thread

Burgundy and black embroidery floss

Dollmaker's needle

Stuffing

Compass, set square, ruler and dressmaker's chalk pencil

Brown paper

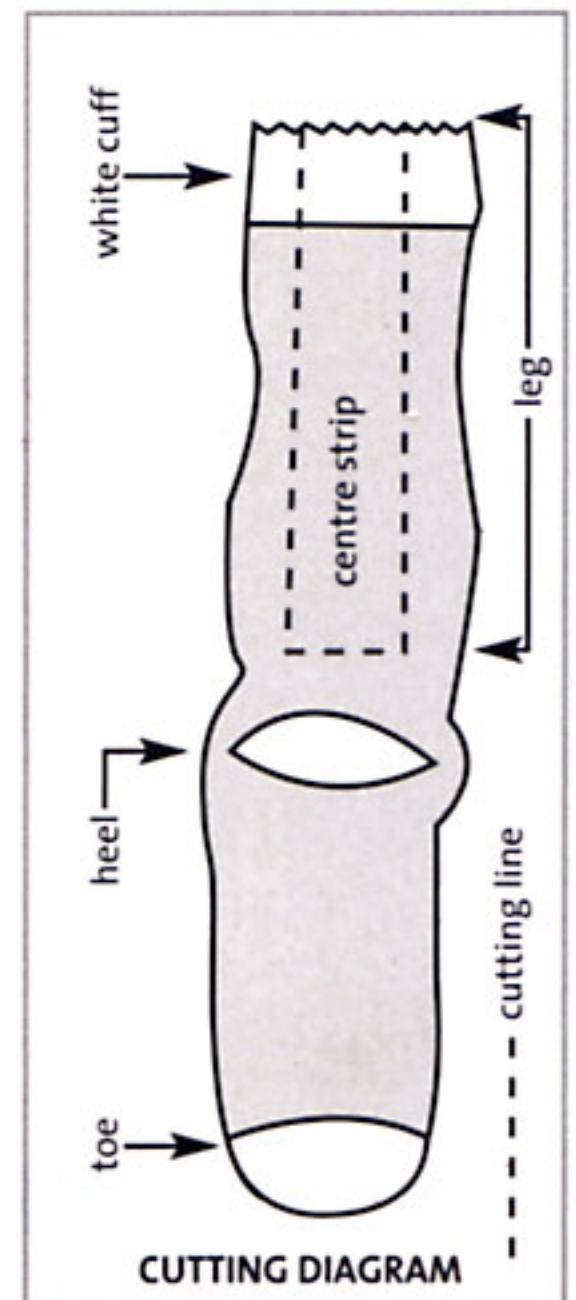
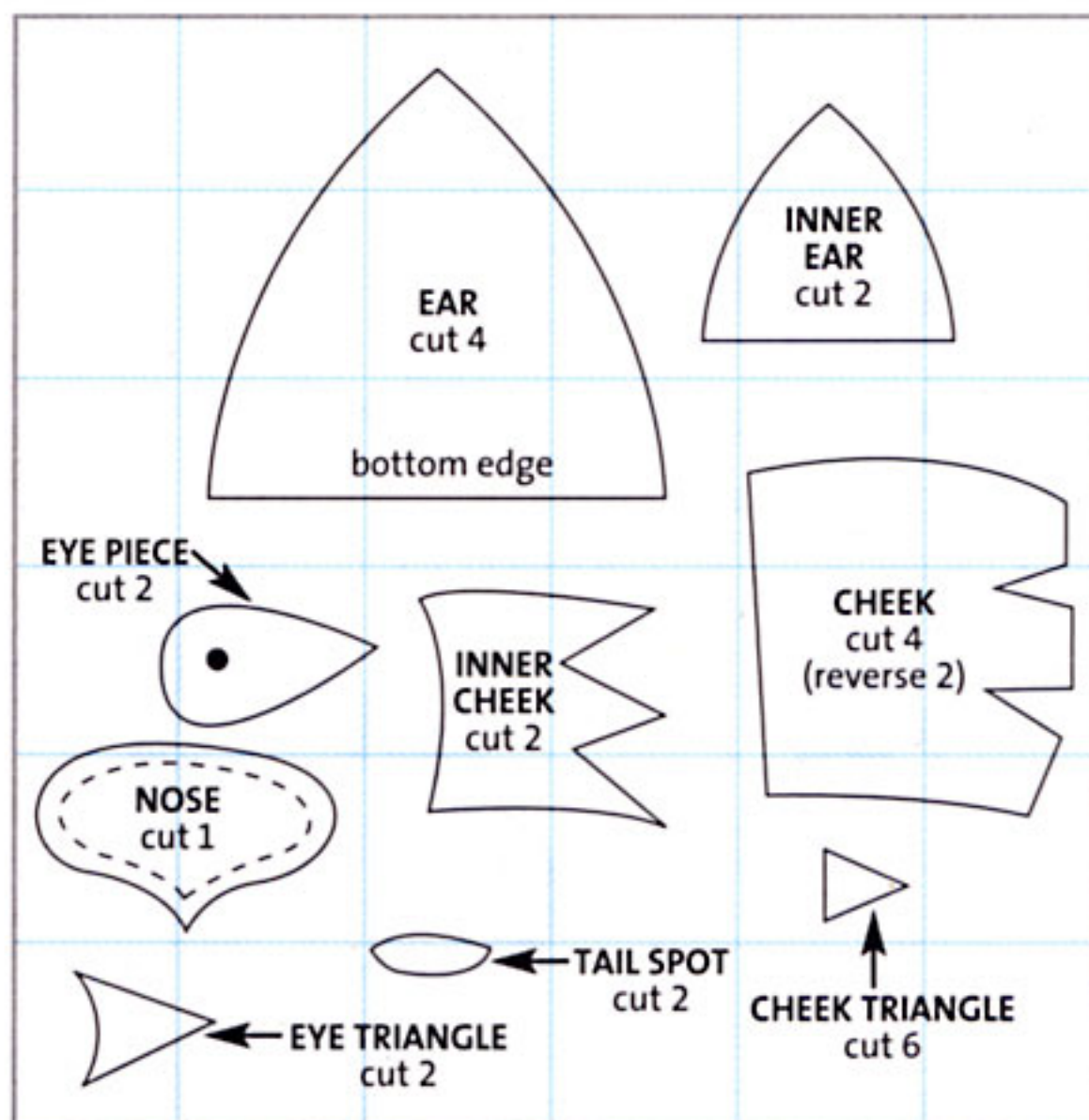
*Such as sweatshirt fleece

TO MAKE:

General Notes

- Enlarge patterns by the squaring method as follows: On brown paper, draw grid of horizontal and vertical lines, 2.5 cm (1 in) apart. Each square on diagram equals a square on your paper. Enlarge by drawing each line of pattern onto corresponding square on your paper. Transfer any markings. Seam allowance is included.
- Using compass, set square, ruler and dressmaker's chalk pencil, measure and mark circles and squares on wrong side of fabric, then cut out.
- Unless otherwise noted, pin and sew with right sides together, using 6 mm (¼ in) seam allowance and matching thread, and backstitching at beginning and end of each seam.
- Bind seam allowance with machine zigzag stitching.
- When handstitching and shaping, knot thread ends securely.

1 From black fabric, cut 4 circular paws, each 5.5 cm (2¹/₈ in) in diameter. From grey fabric, cut 6 cm (2³/₈-in) square tail; then 4 ears and 4 cheeks. From black felt,



cut nose, 6 cheek triangles, 2 tail spots, and 2 eye pieces (use with snap-on eyes) or 2 eye triangles. From white felt, cut 2 inner ears and 2 inner cheeks. If making fabric eyes: from yellow knit, cut 2 circular eyes, each 4.5 cm (1³/₄ in) in diameter.

2 Along bottom edge, trim black stripe off sock. Perpendicular to trimmed edge, cut stripe into 3 equal lengths; set aside.

3 Lay sock flat. On leg, measure 2 cm (¾ in) from each folded edge, then mark with pin at trimmed edge. Beginning at each pin and ending 3 cm (1¹/₈ in) from heel and parallel to folded edge, cut top layer to create centre strip (standard sock has 21 ribs, so strip is approx 5 ribs wide). Turn sock over; measure and cut in same manner, then cut straight across bottom of each centre strip (as shown in Cutting Diagram) and remove strip for front leg. Set sock aside.

4 Fold each front-leg strip in half so long edges are even; stitch from bottom of white cuff down long edge. Pin each cuff edge around edge of 1 paw, stretching cuff to fit; stitch. Turn right side out. Stuff paws until firm and round, then loosely stuff legs. Machine-zigzag each top edge closed. Set aside.

5 Turn sock inside out. Fold each attached strip in half so long edges are even; stitch from bottom of white

cuff, down long edge. Stitch on paws, turn right side out, then stuff paws and legs, as above.

6 Form firm, lemon-size ball of stuffing; push into toe. With white buttonhole twist, sew running stitches around edge of white toe; pull up thread to shape snout, and knot.

7 If using snap-on eyes: Push each through eye piece at dot, then through sole (sole is face and back of lynx), approx 1.5 cm (5/8 in) above snout stitching and 1 cm (3/8 in) from centre front; affix.

8 Form firm orange-size ball of stuffing; push into sock against snout. With grey buttonhole twist, sew running stitches around sock approx 7 cm (2³/₄ in) above snout stitching; pull up thread to shape head, and knot.

9 Form 1 cm deep fold along sole, approx 2.5 cm behind head on each side; into fold, push top edge of 1 front leg, then topstitch in place through all layers. Stuff body. Turn under 6 mm around opening; slipstitch closed.

10 Sew 1 stripe length (cut in Step 2) to 1 end (tip) of tail, then fold tail in half so long edges are even; stitch across tip end and down long edge. Turn right side out and stuff. Turn under 6 mm around opening; slipstitch to centre of heel. Handstitch spots to top of tail.

11 Centre 1 inner ear on right side of 1 ear; edgestitch in place for ear front. Repeat. Fold 1 stripe length in half so wrong sides are together and long edges are even; with cut edges even, baste to 1 ear front, along right-hand edge from bottom corner to tip. Repeat with remaining stripe length and left-hand edge of other ear front. Stitch 1 ear front to each ear, leaving bottom edge open. Remove basting, then turn right side out. Turn under 6 mm around opening; slipstitch closed. From fur, cut 2 small tufts; stitch 1 to tip of each ear. At centre of bottom edge of each front, pinch fold to shape ear, then slipstitch bottom edge to head.

12 Centre 1 inner cheek on right side of each cheek; edgestitch in place for cheek front. Stitch 1 cheek front to each cheek, leaving straight edge open. Clip seam allowance at corners, then turn right side out. Handstitch cheek triangle to each front point. Turn under 6 mm around opening; slipstitch 1 cheek at each

side of face, along snout stitching.

13 With 6 strands of burgundy floss, satin-stitch nose tip on nose between broken lines; handstitch nose to snout. With black buttonhole twist, take 6 mm stitch just beyond nose edge at each top corner, knotting ends close to snout; trim to make two 6 cm (2³/₈-in) whiskers.

14 **If making fabric eyes:** With buttonhole twist, sew running stitches around edge of each eye; centre small ball of stuffing on wrong side, pull up thread tightly to shape eyeball, and knot. With 4 strands of black floss, satin-stitch long pupil on each, then outline with backstitch; with white buttonhole twist, satin-stitch highlight at top. Slipstitch each eyeball to head, 6 mm from centre front; handstitch eye triangle alongside.

15 With grey buttonhole twist, make series of 6 mm-wide vertical stitches, back and forth, above each eye; pull tightly to shape brow, and knot.

Make similar series of horizontal stitches, 1 cm wide, between eyes; pull gently to shape bridge of nose, and knot. With dollmaker's needle, make several stitches, back and forth, from inner bottom corner of each eye to centre bottom of chin at snout stitching; pull gently to embed eye, and knot. With 6 strands of black floss, satin-stitch 3 claws on each paw. ●



➤ Are you inspired to make even more zany sock creatures? Check out *Stupid Sock Creatures* (Lark, 2005, softcover, \$18.95) by John Murphy.