



FLOSSIE TEACAKES

from in between the stitches... - -



- Home
- About Me
- My Patterns
- My Tutorials
- FAQs
- Advertise
- Quilt Gallery
- Dressmaking Gallery

My Sewing Patterns...

Three Bears' Sleeping Bag Pattern



An eBook: A Practical Guide to Machine Applique



Ring-A-Roses English Paper Piecing Pattern



The Bloomsbury Bag Pattern



Sesame Doorstop Pattern



Wednesday, 20 July 2011

Unwieldy antlers and other sizing issues



Following my last post introducing my new [Three Bears' Sleeping Bag pattern](#), this post has been written with the hope that it will help if you feel you want further advice as to the right size sleeping bag to make for your bear, doll or other creature. The Three Bears' Sleeping Bag pattern comes in three sizes: Baby Bear, Mummy Bear and Daddy Bear. Each of those sizes comes with a maximum height suggestion, but because bears and other toys are all such very different shapes it's more difficult to advise when it comes to establishing a maximum circumference, so these visuals may help.

So lets start with the basics, laying out once again the height recommendations for each size of sleeping bag:

- Baby Bear - maximum height of bear 8"
- Mummy Bear - max height of bear 10 1/2"
- Daddy Bear - max height of bear 13 1/2"



The picture above shows how a bear may look on the pattern piece when the sizing is just right. You can see that each creature has a nice amount of space around it at the top and the bottom, and they don't look like they will strain the side seams either. These bears are all healthy, active bears who haven't indulged in honey...so it may help to show the suggested sizing for a more rotund bear.

When it comes to making a bed for any size or shape of creature, the main thing to keep in mind is that the squishier and softer the bear, the more able he will be to fit into any bag, as long as the height recommendation is followed. Harder-bodied bears and animals should receive a bigger sleeping bag if you are unsure whether the size that suits their height will actually accommodate their width.

To demonstrate this I've taken our largest bear, who has an

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impressive girth.



You'll see that in every way he's bursting over the sides of the Daddy Bear sleeping bag size. However, because he is incredibly soft and squashy, he can actually fit in the finished bag, even though really he should have had a larger one made for him (at his height, he certainly should have done, but I'm just trying to demonstrate circumference issues here). A harder-bodied bear that is less malleable should always receive a sleeping bag that is a little bigger.



Please ignore the obvious height breach here: this is to demonstrate circumference.

While the bear below isn't overly tall, because of his full tummy and legs that don't lie flat, it's best to go up a size. He fits in the Daddy bear sleeping bag and it's a very comfortable fit with plenty of growth room.



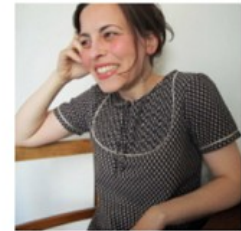
As you can see here:



I thought it may also be helpful to cover four-legged animals too, because lots of children I know favour these over bears.



This is me



Hello, my name is Florence. I'm 36, a mummy of two, obsessive stitcher and occasional pattern designer. I wake in the night with a mind whirring over sewing construction techniques and daydream away hours pondering fabrics choices. This blog is a record of all these things. I hope you enjoy reading.

Find my patterns & tutorials in the left-hand side bar.

[View my complete profile](#)

Contact me, Florence, at:

flossieteacakes (at) gmail (dot) com

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My favourite places in our house



Yes, this tiny desk is where me & my sewing machine usually live



My tutorials...

Make-Up Bag Tutorial (with covered zip ends!)



A beginner's guide to English paper piecing



How to fussy-cut EPP pieces



Pleated Make-Up Bag



Lavender Sachets tutorial with tricks for perfect corners & invisible closure



Drinks Coasters with Bound Edges Tutorial



Patchwork Quilt Tutorial



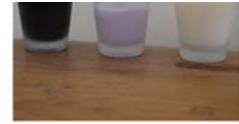
Four legged creatures generally have a bigger circumference than a bear might, so in every case it's worth sizing up, even if the length of the creature fits neatly into a smaller size (again, if the animal is squashy, you're fairly safe).



Now let's make things a little more challenging. First we have this rather stout guinea pig - he's not enormous, but he's bulky. Again, choose the largest size:



But what if your animal is long, hard-bodied and four-legged, like this sausage dog? As you can see below, he's not the ideal candidate for such a bed, but that won't stop a child from enjoying tucking him up, so make the largest size for him.



I love the colours of these little Penhalligon candles when they're lined up in a row...but that makes me not want to burn them!



Nearly every treasure I own is clustered around this mirror



Sugar flowers from our wedding cake. These make me happy.

A favourite place



This is a baby carved out of stone at St Martin in the Fields...the thing that I love to go and look at most in London.

A coveted item



I think these tiles by Flavia Del Pra are amazing, particularly when all grouped together like this.

A favourite perfume



I love Laura Mercier's Creme Brulee perfume...it reminds me of baking, warm vanillary things and my lovely sister, Laura, who has used the creme brulee range for years.



Fabric bookmarks



Pinwheel cake toppers



Shirring Tutorial



Matryoshka Needlecase Tutorial



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Made by you: from my Patterns



The most peculiarly-shaped animal that we own is this reindeer that came home from Sweden with us. You'll see that he is very statuesque, has a hard, unyielding body and antlers that are a little wild. But with the largest bed size, even he can be accommodated.



It's worth remembering that while the pattern comes in three sizes, if your intended bear or creature has outgrown these, the pattern is very easily increased on a copy machine at the local library or print shop. If you're interested in buying the pattern, you can find it for sale for instant download [here](#).

I hope that helps,
Florence x



Posted by Florence (Flossie Teacakes)

Labels: tutorials

12 comments:



Kate at M is for make 20 July 2011 at 06:46

what an impressive menagerie of toys, they are gorgeous!

Reply



Florence (at Flossie Teacakes) 20 July 2011 at 07:04

Oddly though, I want them to love the crocheted dog the most...but they don't. They love the ones that have come from Build-a-bear! (although gratifyingly, the most loved are the ones that we chose for each of them before they were born...when BAB didn't exist).

Reply



Miss Holly 20 July 2011 at 11:02

what a wonderful post!! I have been smiling through the whole thing!

Reply



Mimi and Tilly 20 July 2011 at 11:43

A treasured book



Penguin's Poems for Life, a wonderful cloth-bound anthology edited by my big sister, Laura.

Blog Archive

- January 2016 (1)
- December 2015 (2)
- November 2015 (2)
- October 2015 (2)
- September 2015 (3)
- August 2015 (2)
- July 2015 (3)
- June 2015 (6)
- May 2015 (4)
- April 2015 (3)
- March 2015 (4)
- February 2015 (4)
- January 2015 (4)
- December 2014 (4)
- November 2014 (3)
- October 2014 (3)
- September 2014 (2)
- August 2014 (2)
- July 2014 (6)
- June 2014 (3)
- May 2014 (4)
- April 2014 (4)
- March 2014 (4)
- February 2014 (4)
- January 2014 (6)
- December 2013 (4)
- November 2013 (6)
- October 2013 (6)
- September 2013 (7)
- August 2013 (6)
- July 2013 (3)
- June 2013 (5)
- May 2013 (4)
- April 2013 (8)
- March 2013 (5)
- February 2013 (3)
- January 2013 (8)
- December 2012 (4)
- November 2012 (10)
- October 2012 (5)
- September 2012 (9)
- August 2012 (6)
- July 2012 (11)
- June 2012 (8)
- May 2012 (10)
- April 2012 (10)
- March 2012 (7)
- February 2012 (6)
- January 2012 (11)
- December 2011 (8)
- November 2011 (9)
- October 2011 (14)
- September 2011 (10)
- August 2011 (11)
- July 2011 (16)
- June 2011 (7)
- May 2011 (2)

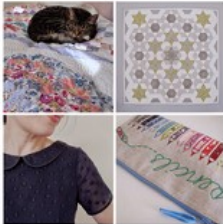
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I think I have loved this blog post more than any other. I loved the "not yet in the bag, now in the bag" photos. I couldn't for the life of me see how that big ole sausage dog was going to fit in but he did! Yay! Em xx

Reply



Caroline 20 July 2011 at 12:25

What an absolutely gorgeous and adorable thing to make! I'd love to make one for my son but that would mean trying to get him to put the bear down for five minutes... Never going to happen.

Reply



CityHouseStudio 20 July 2011 at 12:29

This is the cutest post ever!

Reply



Little Blue Mouse 20 July 2011 at 14:20

I've still got a smile on my face from reading this. It's the bestest post ever.

Reply



Mary Jane's TEAROOM 20 July 2011 at 17:58

Wonderful work and very happy toys!.... Susan x

Reply



millefeuilles 20 July 2011 at 21:49

Wonderful! Thank you for making me feel cosy (like your soft toys) and happy throughout the entire post despite the appalling weather we too in France are having. This smacks of toy dedication and for that you have my entire respect :-)

I hope all the teddy bears and friends sleep soundly tonight.

Reply

Sarah 21 July 2011 at 22:02

A reindeer in a sleeping bag? Now I have truly seen the cutest thing in the world.

Reply



Jacqui 8 September 2011 at 08:55

I'm intending to make some sleeping bags so the sizing ideas are great, but I would have thoroughly enjoyed this post on its own! My daughter doesn't love the toys she should as much as she loves the cheaper ones from unsavory places such as the supermarket. I love them now too, and I suppose I should be glad she's not swayed by a pricetag, but sometimes it's a bit hard!

Reply



Helmi 6 February 2012 at 09:44

Great idea!!! Love it.

Reply

April 2011 (9)

March 2011 (12)

February 2011 (11)

January 2011 (9)

December 2010 (8)

November 2010 (10)

October 2010 (9)

September 2010 (9)

August 2010 (15)

July 2010 (22)

June 2010 (16)

May 2010 (6)

April 2010 (4)

March 2010 (7)

February 2010 (6)

January 2010 (8)

December 2009 (6)

November 2009 (4)

October 2009 (2)

September 2009 (2)

August 2009 (3)

July 2009 (7)

June 2009 (6)

May 2009 (7)

April 2009 (5)

March 2009 (3)

February 2009 (8)

January 2009 (3)

December 2008 (2)

November 2008 (2)

October 2008 (6)

September 2008 (6)

August 2008 (9)

July 2008 (4)

June 2008 (7)

May 2008 (7)

April 2008 (11)

March 2008 (12)

February 2008 (15)

January 2008 (15)

December 2007 (12)

November 2007 (10)

October 2007 (12)

September 2007 (15)

August 2007 (17)

Categories

- Sewing, Sewing, Sewing!
- Dressmaking
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Winner of Company Magazine's Style Blogger Awards 2012 best blog for crafty girls!



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Because this site has soooooo many wonderful tips...



All Craft Sites

Some of my lovely readers

Statcounter

Thank you so much for taking the time to send a message - it's always really lovely to hear from people.

I now tend to reply within the comments section, so please do check back if you've asked a question or wish to chat.

Florence x

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Spring Top Week 2010

spring top week
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made-by-rae.com

My lovely day job: Squeebles educational apps

