Ralph Reindeer Ornament Pattern

a gift from Two Brown Birds

You will need:

- 12x20cm (5x8in) piece of wool felt in warm brown
- 5x10cm (2x4in) piece of wool felt in beige
- Stranded embroidery floss to match both felt colours
- One 1cm (1/2 inch) shiny red shank button
- Two 3mm (1/8in) black round beads
- A tiny amount of stuffing – just enough for the body
- 25cm (10in) piece of 12mm (1/2in) wide gold ribbon
- 20cm (8in) square of freezer paper
- General supplies – scissors for cutting fabric, threads, and paper, pins, hand sewing needle, sharp 4B pencil or fabric marking pen.

Print out the pattern page, and trace the shapes onto the paper side of the freezer paper. You will need two bodies, four arms, four legs, four ears (two, and two reversed), and four antlers (two, and two reversed).

Cut out the shapes a few millimetres from the traced line – don’t cut on the line yet. Iron each piece onto the appropriate felt colour. Now carefully cut out on the traced line, and peel the paper off each fabric piece.
Match up the arms, legs, ears and antlers, and pin together in pairs.

Take one pair of legs that you have pinned together. Thread a needle with two strands of stranded embroidery thread in a colour to match the felt, and work small blanket stitches around the edges of the leg. Don’t worry about stuffing – these pieces are too small to stuff, and don’t need it anyway.

Repeat the blanket stitching for the remaining leg, both arms, ears and antlers.
Take one body piece, and transfer the markings for the eye and nose placement onto the front of it. Transferring markings to thick fabrics such as felt can be tricky. I did it like this -- on a plain piece of paper, I traced around the outside of the body shape, and traced the markings for the eyes and nose (I just traced a dot, for the position where I wanted the needle to come up). I cut around the body outline, then placed the paper on the felt, matching up the edges of the body piece with the body outline that I traced. Using a very sharp 4B pencil, I pierced the tracing paper, over the dots for the eyes and nose, which left a tiny pencil dot on the fabric.

Once you have marked the point for the eyes and nose, stitch the black beads in place for the eyes, and the red button in place for the nose.

Take the body piece that does not have the face, and place your arms, legs, ears and antlers in their right positions, referring to the pattern for placement. Baste the pieces in place. Place the remaining body piece on top, and pin the two body pieces together. Blanket stitch around the body, securing the arms, legs, ears and antlers as you go. When you have 1 inch left before you finish the blanket stitching, place a small amount of stuffing inside the body -- just enough to give it some shape, but not too much so that it’s not too full. Finish blanket stitching the body, and tie off the thread. Remove the basting stitches.
Fold the gold ribbon in half, and knot it at the raw ends to form a loop. Stitch the knotted end at the back of the reindeer's head.

Now he's ready to hang on the Christmas tree!

I hope you've enjoyed this pattern. You can find more of my patterns at my online store at http://twobrownbirds.bigcartel.com/, or at your local quilt store.

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