

By Cyd Turner

CANDY COVERS

Kids (and kids-at-heart)

love to visit confectionary stores and swirl suckers are a must-have treat. Dress them up with seasonal embroidered covers and add to the sweet temptation!



Supplies (for each cover)

Note: Covers fit 3 1/2"-diameter suckers, 1/2" thick.

- ◆ Two 9" x 12" felt squares (one or two colors)
- ◆ Mesh cut-away and clear tear-away water-soluble (topper) stabilizer
- ◆ 12" narrow cord or ribbon for tie
- ◆ Cord tie-ons, such as small jingle bells, buttons, beads, etc.
- ◆ Temporary spray adhesive
- ◆ Embroidery, bobbin and sewing thread
- ◆ Pattern tracing supplies
- ◆ Swirl suckers
- ◆ Embroidery designs of your choice, no larger than 4" square
- ◆ Optional: Pinking shears, and narrow trim, such as baby rickrack



ups

Make cute lollipop covers for a fun presentation at any holiday. Make them in multiples for your child's classmates or for grandkids or nieces and nephews.

Getting started

To create a cover pattern, use the pattern tracing supplies to draw roughly around the sucker. If the actual sugary shape isn't round, smooth out the lines to make it so. Keep in mind the thickness of the sucker and add at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " to the drawn lines; remember, a looser fit is desirable. About half way around the sucker shape, extend the lines straight down 2" past the lower edge (A).

Embroidery

◆ Hoop the mesh cut-away stabilizer and spray with temporary adhesive. Position the felt on the stabilizer so that the design center is at the approximate center of the felt rectangle. Cover the design area with water-soluble tear-away stabilizer to hold the embroidery stitches on the felt surface. *Note:* Don't hoop felt as it can stretch out of shape and show permanent damage from hoop burn.

◆ Embroider the motif, following the manufacturer's directions for appliqué fabric placement, if applicable.



◆ Trim the stabilizer around the design on the felt wrong side and trim all jump stitches. Remove the topper by gently pulling around the embroidered shapes—do not wet it to remove it unless using washable felt. Use a pin to remove any extraneous topper from small areas.

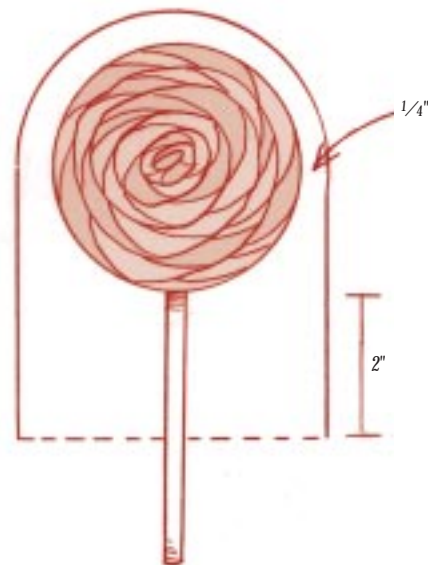
Cutting

Using the pattern created earlier, draw the shape on the embroidered felt, centering the design in the sucker area unless there are extensions. Some motif sections can extend beyond the round shape if the design warrants it—for example, let reindeer antlers extend beyond the basic pattern shape. For extended areas, draw outside the embroidery to create a pleasing shape.

Construction

◆ Wrong sides together, pin the front and back lollipop felt pieces together and stitch around the edges on the lines or $\frac{1}{8}$ " outside extending shapes; leave the lower edge unstitched. If desired, incorporate narrow trim, such as baby rickrack, into the stitching line, such as on the featured bunny.

A Trace roughly around sucker adding $\frac{1}{4}$ " for seamlines. Extend lines straight down from sides.



Once the surgery treat is long gone, the felt animals can be used as hand puppets for creative youngsters.

- ◆ Trim the excess felt with pinking shears, if desired.
- ◆ To make a decorative tie, knot small trinkets, bells, beads, etc. on each end of the cord/ribbon. *Note:* If the suckers will be given to small children, do not use small findings on them, instead just knot the ribbon or cord ends.
- ◆ Cover the sucker and tie the cord in place above the lower edge. For a permanent attachment, hand-tack the tie at the center back at the wrapping position. 🍷

Cyd Turner writes on a variety of sewing and embroidery topics from her home in the Northwest.

Bunny: Embroidery Central, design VC23

Reindeer: Smart Needle, Happy Holidays Collection, Reindeer

Bat: Lynzie's Embroidery, design Bat2A

Special Offer

As a *Creative Machine Embroidery* reader, you can receive an exclusive 25% discount on the designs from Lynzie's Embroidery (Bat2A) and Embroidery Central (VC23). Go to www.embroidery.com, sign up (if not already a member) on the secure Web site and type in Sew Prize #AFM993635 at checkout.

The designs are available in many formats and can be downloaded to a disk or your computer hard drive.