

Make Stuff Together

24 simple projects to create as a family



bernadette noll & kathie sever



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Pin the Tail on the Donkey

There is a vague memory—okay, it's actually rather vivid—of a 10th birthday party where the game of "pin the nose on the smiley face" was played. It was the 70s, after all, and the smiley face in its big yellow splendor was all the rage. Somehow I was embarrassed about the game, even though now it seems kind of cool. I had wanted pin the tail on the donkey. What I got instead was a game made up by my mom with the poster from my bedroom wall and a sock for a blindfold. It probably wouldn't have mattered what she did actually; I was 10, and in my mind it was the dawning of the age of embarrassment.

This version of Pin the Tail on the Donkey will definitely be a repeat customer at your children's birthday parties and will not cause one smidgen of embarrassment. And if your friends don't make their own game, they will definitely want to borrow yours. Because of its cool look, it might even hold a permanent place on a bedroom wall—that is if you take down that smiley face poster.

Pin the Tail on the Donkey is such a classic game it can be considered retro. This project might even inspire you to hold a completely retro-themed party. You could play Pin the Tail on the Donkey and musical chairs, eat cupcakes, and call it a day. You might even find yourself mixing fruit juice and ginger ale in a glass bowl. Just don't forget to put on a pretty apron before you do.

Because of the tactile aspect of this particular version of this game, it's important that you have some rules, which means blindfold those kiddos and spin 'em around a little and let 'em loose in the direction of the board. Make sure you only let them use one hand, though. Otherwise that second hand is feeling all around and sensing the edge and the shape of the donkey and, well, before you know it, there's a pile of tails in exactly the right spot. And that just kind of takes the fun out of it. When you use only one hand wherever it first touches is the spot for the tail. So make sure one hand has the tail and the other one is held behind the back.

Now get out there, team, and WIN!! We mean, um, have fun. And happy birthday!

• **Finished Measurements:** 20" × 23" •



Supplies

- 1 yard (or a piece that is at least 24" × 21") of medium- to heavy-weight fabric for the backing
- ½ yard (or a piece that is at least 14 ½" × 21") of light- to medium-weight fabric for the main front fabric
- ¾ yard (or a piece that is at least 10" × 21") of light- to medium-weight fabric for the top and bottom borders
- 2 42" lengths of rickrack in different colors and widths (optional)
- ½ yard (or a piece that is at least 14" × 18") of light- to medium-weight fabric for the donkey and the tail strips (a fun print is good here)
- ½ yard iron-on adhesive (also known as fusible webbing)
- 6 pieces of felt in different colors that coordinate with your fabrics
- A dowel rod or other stick for hanging the donkey on the wall
- String or twine for hanging
- 6 small safety pins



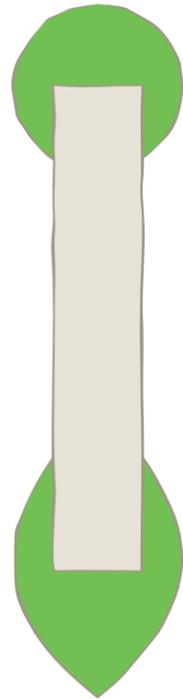
Pin the Tail on the Donkey

Part One

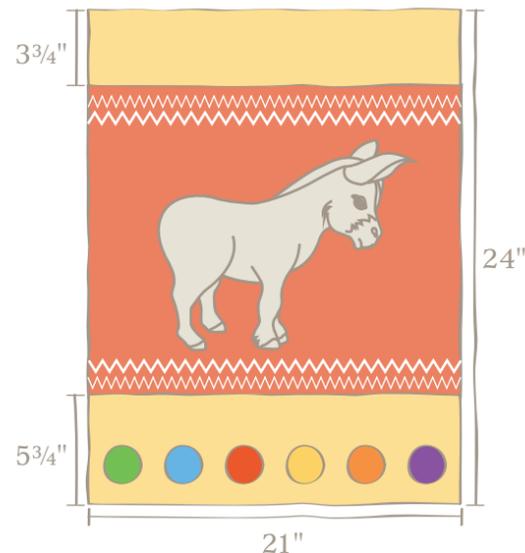
This project has lots of little pieces to cut and some fun zigzag work. We start with the tails, which might be putting the cart before the horse (or donkey, as the case may be), but it wouldn't be the first time we've done that.

Steps

1. Cut a 28" × 2" strip from the "donkey" fabric.
2. Fold in half lengthwise, right sides facing in, then stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the aligned long edges.
3. Turn the tube right side out
4. Arrange the tube so that the seam is on one edge and press.
5. Cut the tube into six 4½" pieces and set them aside.
6. Using the patterns on page 148, cut one of each of the following from the six different colors of felt: 2" diameter circle, 1½" diameter circle, and 2" leaf shape.
7. On each of the 4½" sewn strips, position a 1½" felt circle at the top and a matching teardrop at the bottom as shown in the illustration. Pin the felt pieces into place.



8. Starting at the bottom of the leaf shape, run a small tight zigzag stitch right down the middle of the strip to the center of the circle. Backstitch several times at this position for added stability and then continue stitching up to the top of the circle.
9. Cut the border fabric into a 6" × 21" strip and a 4" × 21" strip for the bottom and top borders. On the 6" × 21" strip, measure 1½" from the bottom of the fabric and, starting 1½" from one side, position and pin one of your 2" felt circles. Repeat on the other side. Position and pin the other four circles in a line between the first two, leaving about 1" between each circle. Using a tight zigzag, stitch all the way around the perimeter of each circle.



Part Two

In this part we make the donkey, which is pretty fun to do. When was the last time you traced and drew out a barnyard animal? Never? Well, now's your chance.

Steps

1. The donkey pattern is provided on page 148. Isn't he so dang cute? Kathie drew him. Free hand. That's just how she rolls. Trace the donkey onto the paper side of the iron-on adhesive. You can just trace the silhouette, or can include the interior detail lines as well. Fuse the adhesive to the

wrong side of the donkey fabric according to the manufacturer's instructions. If you are planning to stitch the details, hold the donkey up to a window and use a washable marker to mark the lines on the right side of the fabric. You could also use a permanent marker and simply draw the lines on the fabric.

2. Cut a 14½" × 21" rectangle from the main front fabric. Peel away the paper backing and position your donkey in the middle of the rectangle. Fuse into place.
3. Using a tight, small zigzag stitch, sew all the way around the perimeter of the donkey adding detailed stitching as shown if desired. This is totally optional, and the donkey looks cute with or without it. You make the call.
4. Measure ½" from the bottom edge of the main fabric and attach one piece of rickrack across the bottom edge. Repeat on the top edge.
5. Measure 1" from the bottom edge of the main fabric and attach another piece of rickrack. Repeat on the top edge.

6. Place the strip with the sewn circles face down on top of the main fabric. Align the top edge (long edge furthest from the circles) of the strip with the bottom edge (long edge below the donkey's hooves) of the main fabric. Stitch together $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the aligned edges.

7. Flip down the strip and press.

8. With the right sides facing, align one long edge of the 4" × 21" strip with the top edge of the main fabric.

9. Stitch together and press as described for the bottom strip.

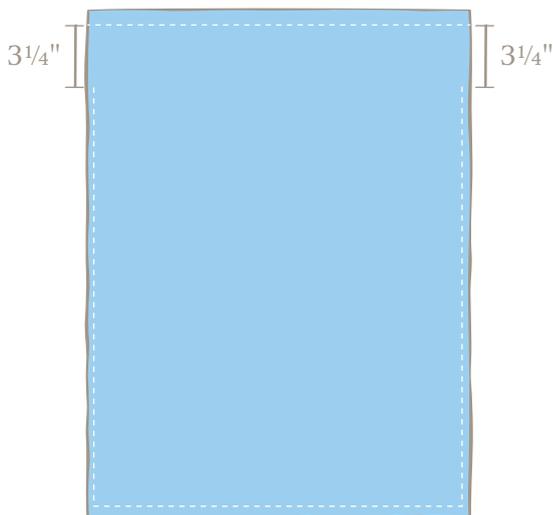
Part Three

In the case of this project, being in the home stretch means it's almost time for the party. If you're like us then you just might be doing this the night before your child's actual birthday. No worries. There's only a little bit left to do. Then you can ice those cupcakes and call it a night.

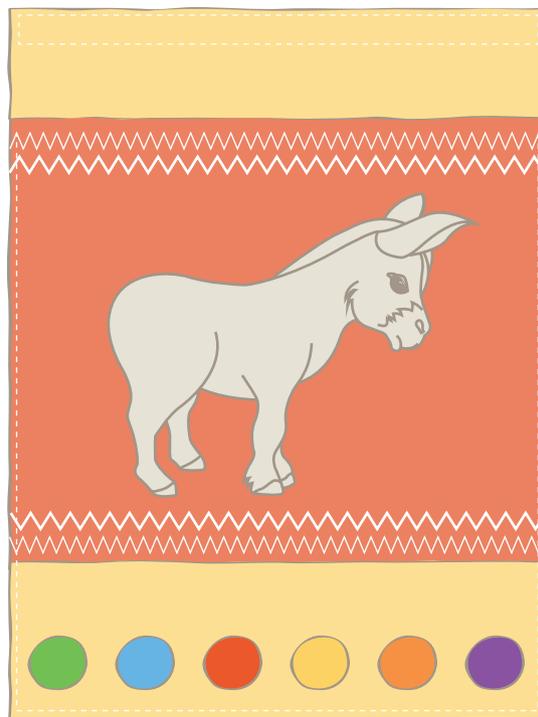


Steps

1. Place the pieced front and back rectangles together with the right sides facing. If needed, you can trim one piece or the other so they align perfectly.
2. Stitch the layers together $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the top edge, being sure to backstitch at the beginning and end of the stitching. Starting at the position of the top seam (where the top border meets the main fabric), start stitching down and around $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the edges. Stop stitching when you reach the top seam on the other side (see the illustration).



3. Trim the seam allowances around the bottom corners and then turn the piece right side out through one of the openings.
4. Tuck under and arrange the flaps at the opening so that they are in line with the side edges. Press.
5. Starting at one corner, stitch $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the top edge. When you reach the other corner, pivot and stitch down 1". Pivot again, and stitch across the banner to the other edge. Stitch back up 1" to the stitching start point. Also topstitch the edges from the bottom of one opening to the bottom of the other, $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the edge (see the illustration).

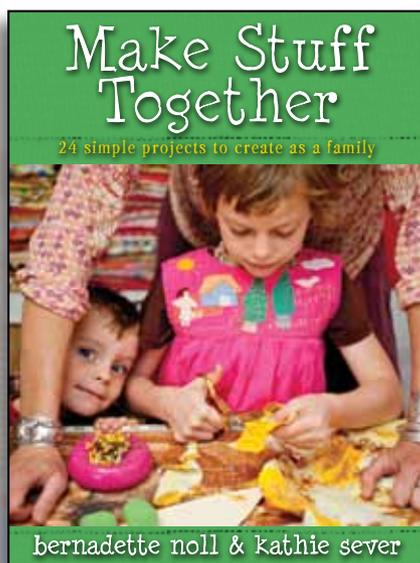


6. Pin your tails into place using small safety pins.
7. Insert the dowel in the top opening and tie the string to both ends.



Now fix your hair, put on your lipstick, and go answer the door. I think your guests are here!

24 simple projects that encourage families to slow down, reconnect, and get back to basics



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During these uncertain times, families around the country are slowing down, reconnecting, and getting back to basics. One of the best ways for families to share experiences and meaningful time together is through the art of crafting, sewing, and recycling. Here, authors Bernadette Knoll and Kathie Sever invite you to look around your house and your neighborhood to discover materials that are just beckoning to find a new life. These 24 unique projects help you build family connections while being creative and crafty:

button bookmarks • game board and caddy • beanbag toss
reversible birthday crown • family flags • personalized napkin
rings and cloth napkins • library tote bag • lunch tote
• and much more

Whether you're a parent looking for innovative projects for your kids, or a seasoned sewer and advocate of the slow family movement, *Make Stuff Together* gives you 24 projects for getting back to basics.

BERNADETTE NOLL is the cofounder of Slow Family Living. Her writing has appeared in the *Chicago Tribune*, *Mothering* magazine, and others.

KATHIE SEVER is an accomplished seamstress whose work has been featured in numerous publications, including *Parents* magazine and the *Christian Science Monitor*.

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