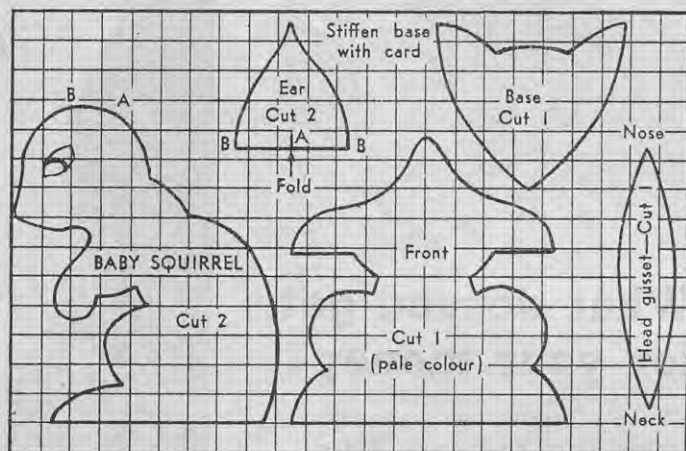
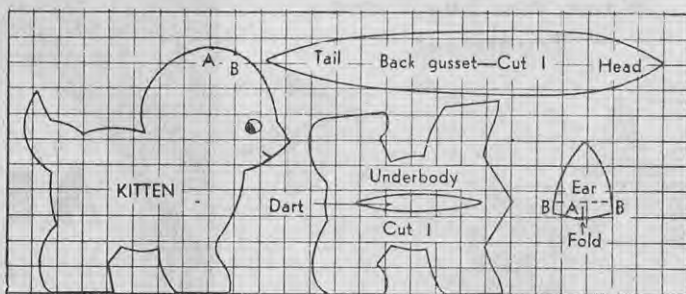
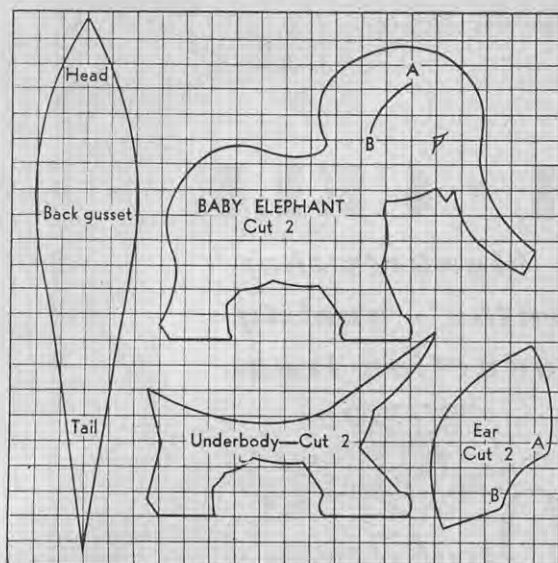


PATTERNS FOR FELT TOYS



In all the patterns on this and the opposite pages each square represents $\frac{1}{4}$ in. Therefore, if each square of a pattern is copied on to paper ruled with $\frac{1}{4}$ in. squares, it will be restored to its original size. For a bigger horse or elephant, for example, the paper may be ruled in $\frac{3}{8}$ in. squares.

For fanciful animals such as a pink elephant or a purple horse the fancifulness may be increased with embroidery which is not in the least realistic, but such embroidery should not be used on animals of a realistic colour and shape. Use stitches that will wear well, put them on after the animal has been finished in other respects, do not put on too much, and make the embroidery follow the lines of the animal. Much amusement can be had from the skilful application of such decoration, but it must not be overdone.

Variation in Detail

Finally, variation may be introduced when making up standard patterns by such additions as clothes, harness, hats held on with elastic, pockets and handkerchiefs, and school bags. The elephant in the photograph is green with a scrap of red cotton print sewn on as a saddle. The horse has felt harness and wool reins. The kangaroo has a pouch with a baby kangaroo attached by a long string to the inside of it. The donkey has felt paniers, and these are popular for carrying marbles or even the two kittens also shown in the photograph. A dog should have a collar and perhaps a lead. A kitten or a lamb may have a ribbon and a bell. A rabbit could have a small orange-coloured felt carrot sewn to his paws or his mouth. A giraffe may have a piece of greenery in his mouth, or a monkey may be holding a half-peeled banana. If the toymaker takes time to add these

finishing details, she adds greatly to the enjoyment obtainable from the toys by the children, and she can vary a standard pattern endlessly.

Still another way of varying patterns is to make up the animals in families. Big horse and baby horse, big squirrel and baby squirrel are shown in the photograph. Mother duck and her ducklings are popular. Mother, father, and baby giraffe would make a fine family, and mother, father, and baby bear with a Goldilocks would please all lovers of the fairy story immensely.

Toymaking is an art that gives great joy both to the maker and to the ultimate owner of the toys. It is cheap and fascinating and well worth studying so that it may be done successfully.

References

"Toy-making," by Mabel Early, "How to Do It" Series No. 34, Studio Publications, London and New York.
 "Make Your own Soft Toys," by Ruby Evans, Lutterworth Press, London and Redhill.
 "Dressed Soft Toys," by Edith Moody;
 "Felt Toys," by E. Machrie and I. P. Roseman; "Rag-bag Toys," and "The Making of Soft Toys," Dryad Press, Leicester.

A Quick and Easy Method of Cleaning Table Silverware

WHEN forks and spoons become tarnished and the housewife has no soda handy for the electrolytic cleaning method (described in the "Journal" for November, 1948), another simple and cheaper method is to put the silver in a large aluminium saucepan with a small piece of ordinary soap, cover it with hot water, and bring it to the boil; continue boiling until the silver is quite clean, then pour off the soapy water and rinse the silver in clean hot water before drying it. If this is done, immediately after a meal, the hot soapy water may be used for the washing up.

This method causes very little blackening of the aluminium, and the saucepan can be brightened again by

stewing fruit in it, which does not harm the fruit or the pot. The longer the soapy water is boiled in the saucepan, the greater the blackening of the aluminium, but it is not necessary to boil the silver for long to clean it.

If too much water is put in the saucepan, and especially if too large a piece of soap is added as well, when it boils the soapy water is very likely to boil over. To avoid this a large saucepan should be used so that the silver will lie fairly flat in it and the saucepan does not have to be nearly filled to cover the silver. The saucepan must be aluminium.

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