Spider Stool Cushion

Add some fun for the fall holidays with this adorable spider stool cushion. The top of the cushion features a cute face created using heat transfer vinyl. Then, free-motion quilting is used to create dimensional texture to the spider body top. The bottom side of the spider body is made using non-slip fabric so that it has grip. The materials are cut using your crafting machine, and the project is assembled using your sewing machine, plus a little bit of hand sewing. The finished width of the main spider body area is 10" (25cm) to fit a stool top that is 10" (25cm), so adjust the size as needed for your stool.

What you need

- Round Stool – 10" wide x 11" high (approximately 25cm x 28cm)
- Black Fabric (medium weight woven) – for main spider body top side and legs
- Non-Slip Fabric - for main spider body bottom side
- Low-Loft Quilt Batting 15" x 15" (38cm x 38cm) - cut a square of this manually
- Fusible Batting 15" x 24" (38cm x 61cm)
- Heat Transfer Vinyl (black, white) - for spider face
- Fabric Grip Mat 24" x 24"

- Light Grip Mat 12" x 12"
- Rotary Blade
- Basic Blade
- Brayer
- Weeding Tool
- Heat Press
- Sewing Machine
- Quarter-Inch Foot
- Darning / Embroidery Foot
- Thread
- Hand Sewing Needle
- Chopstick
- Parchment Paper

Directions

1. Open the project in Canvas. Follow the steps to cut all the various elements. When finished, you should have the following, as listed below:

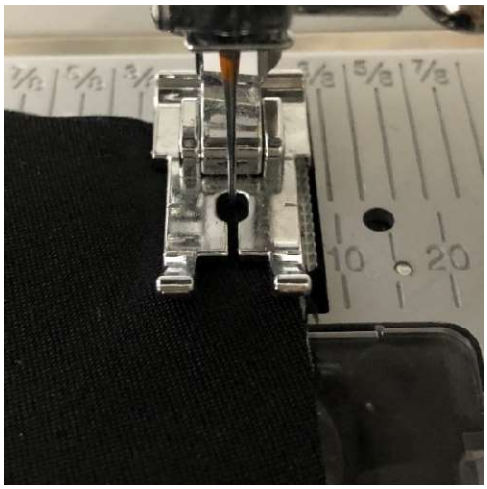
   1 Spider Body Top (main fabric)
   2 Spider Body Bottom (non-slip fabric)
   8 Spider Leg Top Pieces
   8 Spider Leg Bottom (lining) Pieces
   8 Fusible Batting for Spider Legs
   1 Fusible Batting for Spider Body Top
   Heat Transfer Vinyl – White, for mouth and eyes
   Heat Transfer Vinyl – Black, for center of eyes
   The low-loft quilt batting can be cut manually and should be approximately 15" x 15" (38cm x 38cm).

   Note: When using more than one material, check all settings and customize inputs for your mat size, material type, material size, and arrangement of pieces before selecting next to begin cutting each layer

2. Apply the round fusible batting piece to the wrong side of the round, main spider body top fabric, following the fusible batting manufacturer's recommendations for application. Apply the small "leg" batting pieces to the wrong side of the spider legs (there will be four batting pieces for the legs on one side of the spider, and four batting pieces for the legs on the opposite side of the spider).

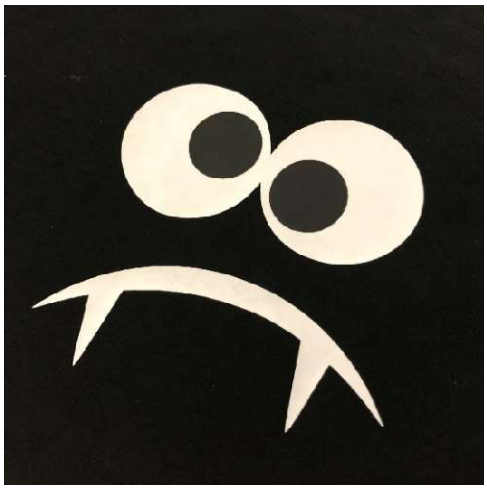
3. Thread the top of the machine and bobbin. Set the machine for straight stitch, with a stitch length setting of 2.5mm. Attach the Quarter-Inch Foot.

4. Sew the spider legs. Take the first fused leg piece and pin it to a non-fused leg piece, with right sided facing. Stitch around the leg, leaving the short end of the leg open. Repeat this for all leg pieces until you have a total of eight legs.

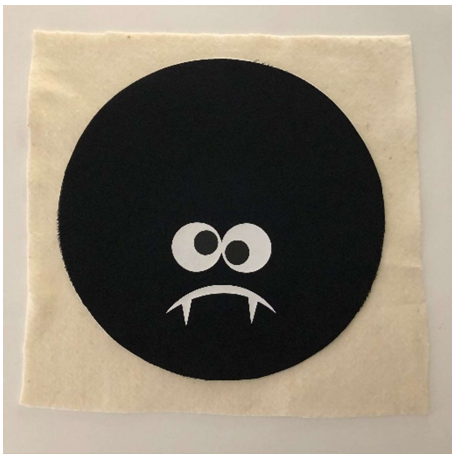


5. Clip the curves around the "toe" area of the spider leg units, which will help reduce bulk when they are turned right side out. Use a chopstick to help turn the eight leg units right side out. Press. Set them aside for now.

6. Use the Weeding Tool to weed the black and the white vinyl pieces. Position the white "eyes and mouth" heat transfer vinyl into position as desired on the spider body fabric. Use a Heat Press and parchment paper to adhere them to the spider body top fabric. Next, place the black heat transfer vinyl part of the eyes over the white part of the eyes. Place parchment paper over the whole area and use the heat press to adhere the vinyl.



7. Place the 15" x 15" (38cm x 38cm) low-loft batting onto the wrong side of the fused spider body top piece. If desired, use a hand sewing needle to lightly baste the layers together, to prepare for free-motion stitching of the layers. This helps prevent the fabrics from shifting during the quilting process. (Basting stitches shown here in contrast color for clarity in photo).



8. Attach the Darning/Embroidery Foot. Disengage the machine's feed teeth.

   Note: Some sewing machines have a Drop Feed lever which is used to lower feed teeth, and others use a Darning Plate to cover feed teeth for free-motion sewing. Consult your machine instruction manual for information about how to disengage the feed teeth for your machine model.

9. Begin free-motion stitching on the spider body front, stitching in a meandering fashion around the spider body to quilt the layers together. When free-motion stitch is finished, remove any basting stitches.

   Note: The non-slip fabric used for the spider body bottom will be added later – the quilting will be done to join the top fabric and low-loft batting only. Before you sew free-motion stitching, you might want to practice first on some of your scrap fabrics.

10. Trim away the excess batting from the back side of the spider body top. Press the spider body top gently.

11. Arrange the legs to see how you want to have them spaced. Pin the legs onto the spider body top, spacing them as desired. For our spider, the legs were spaced approximately 1" (25mm) apart. Use a hand sewing needle to baste the legs in place.

12. Prepare the bottom part (the "belly") of the spider next. Pin the two half-circles of the non-slip fabric together, with right sides facing. Stitch the seam, leaving an opening about 5" wide for turning the spider right side out. Finger press the seam – don't use an iron because it will damage the non-slip fabric.

13. Pin the spider body bottom and body top together, right sides facing one another. Attach the regular presser foot and be sure to re-engage the feed teeth. Stitch around the body using a ½" seam allowance.

    Note: If your machine has a Drop Feed lever for disengaging the feed teeth for free-motion stitching, you will need to move the lever back to regular position AND turn the handwheel one full revolution to reengage the feed teeth. If your machine uses a Darning Plate to cover the feed teeth for free-motion sewing, just remove the Darning Plate for regular sewing once again.

14. Grade the seam allowances and clip the curves to reduce bulk. Turn the spider right side out through the opening in the non-slip bottom. *Carefully* press and be sure to avoid touching the non-slip fabric with the iron. Use a hand sewing needle to sew the opening on the spider body bottom closed.