

## Old Socks = New Toys!



Like most homes throughout the country we suffer from the lost left sock phenomenon. You put two matching socks into the dryer and only one sad and lonely sock comes back out. (I always just assume that the survivor is the right sock.) This project will gather all of the lost and lonely socks in your home and give them a second chance at life by pairing them with man's best friend.

**Skill Level:** Basic

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**Materials:**

- Old socks
- All purpose thread
- Squeaker (I bought mine at the pet store in a pack of 6 for about \$2)

### Selecting your fabric

I started by gathering all of the like colored socks I had in my collection of survivor socks. I picked pink and black as base colors. I then narrowed those socks down to my top two. I liked the pattern on the Hello Kitty sock and the variety of textures on the black men's sport sock so those were the two that won.



### Cutting your fabric

Deciding to use the Hello Kitty sock for accents, I began cutting the black sock first at the base of the ankle separating the rib from the rest of the fabric. The

ribbed section was then cut from shin to ankle into four equal long strips. These would be the legs of my toy.

To make the body I cut the toe from the foot of the sock just in front of the heel. This piece was turned inside out to expose the terry cloth interior.

Two back ear pieces were cut from the remaining heel piece.

For the accents I cut out one tummy piece and two ear pieces using the black body and ears as guides.

The last pieces to cut out were the eyes. I lucked out in that I was able to cut out and use Hello Kitty's eyes, but round circles could be cut from any fabric and be embroidered with pupils later.



### **Constructing the Dog Toy**

For the construction of my sock toy I stuck primarily to a small loose zigzag stitch to accommodate for the stretch in the fabric and the knowledge that the finished toy would be stretched and tugged a lot. In addition, all appendage seams were sewn over multiple times for reinforcement.

1. Take two of the leg strips and trim them down about 2 in. These will be the arms.
2. On all four limb strips, with right sides together, fold lengthwise and sew along the top finished edge and then down the length of your cut forming a long pocket. Turn right side out.
3. Pair each black earpiece with a pink ear piece and with right sides together Sew along the rounded edge. (It is not necessary to close the bottom as it will be closed when attached to the body.)
4. Pin the eyes in place on the front of the body and straight stitch along the outer edge. Zigzag over the top of your straight stitch to secure.
5. Fold the edges of the tummy piece in 1/4 inch, pin and press. Place on the front of the body, leaving 1/2 in of open space at the bottom of the body for closing, pin and then straight stitch along the outer edge. To secure, create another row of stitching just inside this first seam.
6. Lay body flat and make a 1 1/2 in. slit across the top of the head for the ears. Turn body inside out and place ears, insides to face, inside the slit at the top of the head. Pin in place and sew 1/4 in. seam to secure the ears inside the slit. Reinforce this seam by sewing over it at least 3 times.
7. With body still inside out, make two tiny slits in either side just above the tummy patch. Insert the arms into the slits leaving only the open edge exposed. Pin in place and secure, swooping in 1/4 in. to contour the body.

8. Tuck legs into body 1/2 in. from outer edge and pin in place. Sew both legs into place reinforcing seams and leaving a 1 1/2 in gap in between for a turning hole.
9. Carefully turn body right side out. It sometimes helps to pull one leg through at a time.
10. Line the inside of the body with poly fill and insert the squeaker in the middle. Pin turning hole closed and sew 1/8 seam from leg to leg.

Sock toy complete! Now find a lucky puppy to enjoy the fruits of your labor!



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