

**TOP TIP**  
It's easy to personalise your felt egg cosy. Cut out letters, numbers or your child's favourite cartoon character – the only limit is your imagination.

# Creature comforts

Make your Easter special with these gorgeous hand-made felt egg cosies and finger puppets – perfect for keeping children busy during school holidays. **KELLY DOUST** shows you how.

These cute egg cosies look lovely popped on top of an eggcup, but are also useful for keeping freshly boiled eggs from going cold before the troops have a chance to eat them. Or pair your cosy with a chocolate egg and cup to make a wonderful (and mostly hand-made) gift for someone special this Easter. Use pure wool felt, available from many sites online or specialist suppliers around Australia.

**YOU WILL NEED:**

- Pure wool felt in red, blue, yellow and white
- No. 8 embroidery thread in a range of colours – black, red, blue, pink, grey and white are used here
- 3 x 5cm lengths of gingham ribbon, 1.5cm wide, in a variety of shades
- Dressmaker's pencil
- Scissors
- Embroidery needle
- Pins



## HEART, BOW AND SPECKLED HEN EGG COSIES

Use a basic half-oval shape as the format for your egg cosy and enjoy decorating it either on your own or with a small helper in tow.

**STEP 1**

Draw the basic egg cosy shape (half an oval) by hand directly onto your red felt with the dressmaker's pencil; the actual size is 10.4cm wide x 8.5cm high. This should fit a standard eggcup with a seam allowance of 0.4cm around the outside, but you might want to check this against your own eggcup and adjust the measurements accordingly. Cut out your half-oval shape and then use it as a pattern to create another from the red felt. Each cosy requires two half-oval shapes, so repeat the above step with the blue and yellow felt.

**STEP 1**



**STEP 2**

Take your white felt and draw a rough heart shape, measuring 4.5cm x 4.5cm, and the shape of the bow, measuring 7cm x 7cm. Use the image shown (right) to also draw the shape of the speckled hen on the red felt, which is 7.5cm wide x 7cm high, and the hen's wing shape from the yellow felt measuring 3.8cm wide x 2cm high. Cut out the three shapes with your scissors and pin to one side of each egg cosy (white heart to red, white bow to blue and red hen with yellow wing layered on top to yellow).

**STEP 3**

For the heart egg cosy, take your needle and blue thread and use a running stitch to fix it in place. Do the same also with the bow and pink thread (adding the extra detail of the bow's inside loops) and red thread for the red hen. As you can see from the image opposite, the hen is detailed, with more stitching in yellow, white and black. >>>

Make these cute egg cosies with the kids, or give them to a friend as an Easter gift.

EGG CUPS AND SAUCER FROM THE BAY TREE.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DEAN WILMOT STYLING BY MARIE-HELENE CLAUZON

Youngsters will love playing with these fun bunny and chicken finger puppets.



Simply study the image to see where you should place your own stitching.

**STEP 3**



**STEP 4**

For the heart egg cosy, take one red felt half-oval and your grey thread. Start stitching a running stitch across the bottom edge. When you reach the end of the edge, take your second red half-oval, then stitch both pieces together so one sits directly behind the other. Sew around the bottom edge of the second piece, taking care not to stitch the two pieces together (this will be the opening of the egg cosy).

**STEP 5**

When you reach the end of the bottom edge, start

stitching both pieces together around the outside. Take your piece of gingham ribbon, fold over in a loop and pin in place in the centre top of the cosy. Stitch into place as you go. Keep going until you reach the end – your red egg cosy is finished. Repeat Steps 4 and 5 for the remaining two cosies, using grey thread on the bow version and blue thread on the speckled hen cosy.

**STEP 5**



**CHICKEN AND EASTER BUNNY FINGER PUPPETS**

Finger puppets are another fun item to make which will keep the little ones amused over the school holidays.

**YOU WILL NEED:**

- Pure wool felt in pink, yellow and white, and very small pieces of felt or fabric in blue, red, yellow and dark pink for the eggs and basket
- No. 8 embroidery thread in a range of colours – black, red, blue, pink, yellow and white are used here
- Dressmaker's pencil
- Scissors
- Embroidery needle

**CHICKEN**  
**STEP 1**

Use your dressmaker's pencil to draw the shape shown (below) on yellow felt and scissors to cut it out. Then use the shape as a pattern on an additional piece of yellow felt, cutting around the outside to give you two pieces – the front and back. Cut a wing from the white felt.

**STEP 1**



**STEP 2**

Take one piece of the yellow felt you have just cut out and stitch the white wing in place with the white thread. Pick out the shape of the chicken, including its comb and feet, with a running stitch in a darker thread, such as red. Use black thread to create its eye and pink for the beak.

**STEP 3**

Use the yellow thread to stitch together the two pieces of

**STEP 2**



**STEP 3**



yellow felt around the outside, leaving a space at the bottom for a finger to go in.

**EASTER BUNNY**

**STEP 1**

Draw the bunny shapes (use picture opposite as a guide) on the white felt, then cut them out. Place in the correct positions on a small amount of pink felt and stitch into place with the white thread.

**STEP 2**

Pick out the bunny's features with blue and pink thread on the face (as shown), and pink thread in a running stitch to show the insides of its ears. Take your small pieces of blue, dark pink, yellow and red felt and cut out the shapes of the basket and eggs. Stitch into place with matching thread, and use a blue thread to embroider the basket's handle.

**STEP 3**

Place your stitched bunny against another small piece of pink felt and stitch together around the outside to create the above bunny shape, making sure to leave a space at the bottom for the finger. When you're done, cut around the outside for your finished bunny.

**BRIGHTEN UP YOUR CHILDREN'S PLAYROOM OR CRAFT CORNER WITH THESE CUTE AND COLOURFUL FINGER PUPPETS.**

