



The Mastery of  
*Bear Making*  
Kit Checklist

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# *Build your perfect Bear Making Kit!*

Hi there, I'm Helen Gleeson, Bear Artist at Bare Cub Designs.

I have been creating bears for many years. I have tried and tested many tools over the years and believe that by using the right tools and techniques you can really enhance your bear making experience.

Here are a few of the tools and supplies I choose to use. While some help to create better bears, some just enhance the whole experience. After all Bear Making is a past-time that you want to enjoy, right?

I only use the best quality tools I can find and I like to ensure they are aesthetically pleasing too. Using beautiful tools and products, you will be inspired to make beautiful bears.

Here are a few of the items I now use. I just know, by using some of these items, your bear making will become more enjoyable.

*Happy Stitching!*

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### Fine, Curved Forceps - 5 inches

Now I'm not talking about any old forceps here. I'm talking about a the 5 inch, small, fine surgical pairs, and they must have the curved tip. Don't be fooled into thinking that the straight ones have more uses. The curve allows you to slide the curve inside the bears cheeks when filling them out. They are much better for turning though the limbs as the curve mimics an extension of you, while the straight ones "poke" the fur and more likely to make a hole in your bear.

Available from: \$5 try eBay, Good bear making suppliers.



### Velvet Jewellery Tray

Ever wanted to grab your current piece, to work on, only to find it all over the house. Maybe you need to pack up in a hurry or too tired after a long bear making session, to sort out your work. Ever lost your needle down the side of the couch? This has all happened to me, but not anymore.

Just place your current creation on the velvet tray and place on your lap while working. Not only will you be able to simply pick it up to put away, (or grab another coffee) but you can have your tools at easy reach.

Available from: \$15 - try eBay or Etsy







## Jewellery Box

Store all your bear making supplies in a beautiful display box rather than a fishing box or toolbox stolen from the family shed. These jewellery boxes come with draws suitable for your scissors, awl, cotter pin turner, doll needles etc. Look for one with the little compartments too as these are perfect for storing your eyes, joints, t-pins and your other small supplies. Place each in a little craft tin. I like to use ones with clear lids so no need for messy labels and you can see what you have at a glance.

Available from: \$50 try a Giftshop, large department or Jewellery store.



## Ring pin cushion

A great idea for keeping your needles safe while you adjust your work. Break the habit of putting your needles in the arm of a couch, or your clothes. These ring pin cushions are close to your work so perfect even with short thread attached to your work.

Available from: \$20 (Clover brand) eBay, good craft or patchwork stores.

You can even make your own for less than \$5 in the colour of your choice.

I'll be sharing the instructions with you in this Mastery Course







## Beautiful Stuffing Bag

Make sure you take your stuffing out of the plastic bag that it comes in when you purchase it. There is nothing beautiful about a plastic shopping bag. There are so many other options. Use a dust bag from one of your handbag purchases, or make your own library style bag.

This is a quick and simple option, and you can create it from your favorite fabric too. I created this Bambi bag for my stuffing. I'll be sharing the instructions with you in this Mastery Course



Did you find some new things to add to your Bear making kit?

Visit [www.barecubdesigns.com](http://www.barecubdesigns.com) to see the **Online Courses** to further enhance your bear making.

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Here's a list of some of the **basic supplies** you will need to kick off your bear making.

- **Sharp fine scissors** - Fine the very best you can afford. Many good scissors can be re-sharpened
- **Tapered Awl** - Clover make a very nice awl
- **Curved forceps** - 5 - 15 inches to suit your bear making, but make sure they are fine
- **Cotter Pin Turner** - again look for quality and ensure a fine shank
- **Pilers** - Fine need nosed pilers with a cutting edge
- **Fine doll needles** in a range of sizes
- **Fine sewing needles** - I like the leather needles as they are super sharp
- **Narrow Looped eyes** - I find these do not break as often as the looped type
- **Sinew** - Stranded type that you can split into 3 or 4
- **Upholstery thread** - Bonded nylon thread
- **Cotton** - No 8 and No 12 for mouth and noses
- **Suede** in a range of colours to suit your style
- **White suede** - in a ultra fine for eye accents
- **Clay** -Black and Brown clay for noses, can be blended together to create a dark bark colour
- **Copic Markers** - Clean blender pen and colours to suit your style.



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DIY  
Pin Cushion Ring

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# Pin cushion ring



**1** Gather your supplies. You will need A blank ring, flannel fabric in your favourite colour. A scrap will do. Glue and scissors. Needle and thread. Curved forceps optional

**2** Trace and cut a 40mm circle from the flannel.

**3** Taking a thin needle thread it with cotton and knot off the end. Work your way around the circle a few mm in from the edge. Gather the fabric onto the needle.

**4** Gently work your way around the circle edge pulling at the thread as you go. you will start to see the edges curl inwards.

**5** Continue to gently gather the circle up leaving just enough room to insert the stuffing.

**6** Insert stuffing into the fabric opening, using curved forceps.

**7** Gather the threads up tight and off creating a little round pillow. Zig Zag across the opening to ensure the opening will not spread.

**8** Add some strong craft glue into the ring blank and insert the "pillow" push down into the centre and tuck in the edges into the sides of the ring blank.

**9** Allow to dry. This would make a great gift idea for that crafty friend who has everything!



# *How to make a beautiful pin cushion ring*





# The Mastery of *Bear Making*

## DIY Stuffing Bag

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# Stuffing Bag

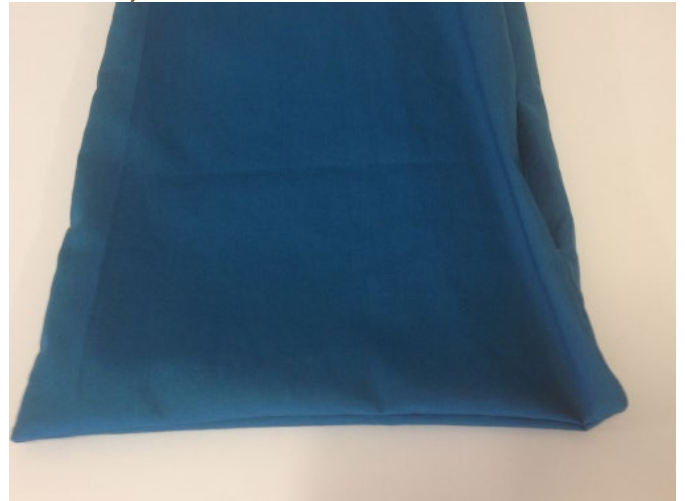


# *Create-your-own* Stuffing Bag

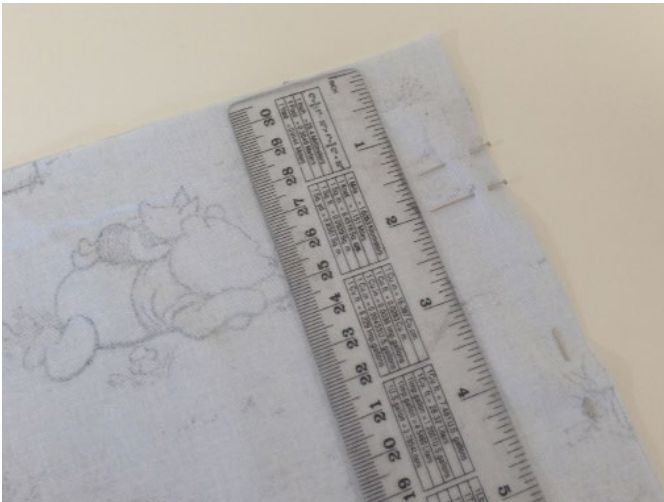
A beautiful fully lined stuffing bag, no more plastic bags!



**1** You will need two fabrics. Try a pattern and contrasting colour, ribbon or cord. Sewing machine, thread and scissors.



**3** Sew the lining right sides together, along both sides and the bottom, leaving a 3 inch opening on one side. (to turn through later)



**2** Cut two pieces from each fabric 45cm x 40cm. Place outer fabric right sides together. Mark down from the top 7cm and 10cm. This is to be left open for the cord channel. Sew both sides and the bottom.



**4** Place the lining inside the other bag, right sides facing together.

# *Create-your-own* Stuffing Bag



**5** Sew the top of the bag closed.



**7** You should have the two right sides out joined together.



**6** Using the opening left on the lining, take the bag right sides out.



**8** Sew the opening in the lining closed





**9** Tuck the lining back into the bag.



**11** Using a safety pin thread the cord through the channel.



**10** Sew the channel 6cm down from the top and then again 9cm from the top.



**12** Use your new bag to hold your stuffing.

*A beautiful fully lined stuffing bag!*

Try making a few of these from your favorite fabrics in your stash. You don't need much fabric to make a little bag. Just think of all the work-in-progress projects you could tidy up in their own beautiful bags ready to grab and go. Make a bag for your patterns, tools, just about anything.



# The Mastery of *Bear Making*

DIY  
MoodBoard

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# Mood Boards

## Capture ideas on Mood boards

Creative people tend to have many ideas that need to be tracked, why put them away to be forgotten or on post-it notes to be lost. Keep these on dry erase boards or chalkboards where you can see them.

If you like to collect fabric swatches and coloured ribbons for your next project, you want a board strung with rope and little pegs or corkboard covered in your favorite

fabric and beautiful push pins to match.

If you have little space making a frame into a shelf is also wonderful, or maybe make magnetic to stick on some tins to hold all those extra bits and pieces like joints, eyes, threads, and clay.

Think about what you have just lying around your space that needs to be sorted. Think about the best way to display it frame it and put it out on show!

Magnetic:



Dry Erase:



Cork, Fabric, Shelf:







### Magnetic: (Pictured 1-4)

Purchase a picture frame, take out the backing board and glass. Purchase a cheap magnetic white board, take apart keeping just the sheet of magnetic tin. Using double sided tape, attach the tin to the backing board. Cover the backing board with fabric and secure with framers tape.

### Dry Erase:

Create a dry erase board by covering the backing board in paper or fabric of your choice. It's best to keep the design simple as you will be writing on this board. Put the glass back in place and purchase a dry erase marker and wipes.

### Fabric:

Rope can be stretched across the fabric covered board to attached swatches via cute little pegs. Adding cork allows you to use push pins. Or create a boxed out shelf- See issue 2 on how to create this yourself.

