

# stop right now

Designer **Emma Griffiths** shows us how to sew and fill a doorstop from start to finish

Choose material that **complements** your home, or to be less matchy-matchy go for a **vibrant pop** of colour. Either way, you can be sure that your handiwork will be **admired** by any visitors crossing the threshold.

## Design detail

For an outside door, choose a heavier weight fabric, or a wipe-clean oilcloth material

## CRAFT TRICK

Use a fabric that matches the décor of the room that will house the doorstop. Either think ahead and find a complementary colour, or opt for a neutral shade that will look right in any room, allowing for more versatility

## Get kitted out

**Fabric:** Upholstery or quilting weight fabric: main body, 20cm x 51cm; top and bottom, 15cm square x 2; handle, 11cm x 21cm, Medium-weight fusible interfacing

**Matching thread**

**Heavy-weight filling:** 1.5–2kg toy stuffing

**Tailor's chalk** or disappearing ink pen

**Scissors,** large, small

**Sewing machine**

1 Cut and apply fusible interfacing to wrong side of each fabric piece, following the manufacturer's instructions. To make the handle, fold along the length of the handle fabric piece, right-sides together and machine stitch along the longest edge using a 1.5cm seam allowance.

2 Turn the handle right side out with the seam lying along the middle and press. Topstitch carefully

along each of the long edges. To attach, take the top and bottom fabric pieces, mark on a 1.5cm seam allowance (using tailor's chalk or disappearing ink pen) along each edge. Where the lines intersect at the corners, cut out the 1.5cm square that is created.

3 Taking the top fabric piece, position the handle in place across the centre (with the seam of the handle pointing down), aligning the ends of the handle with the edge of the fabric and pin in place. Stitch each end in place with a 3cm square of stitches, starting 2cm from the raw edge, then sew diagonally inside the square to create a cross through the centre to fully secure the handle.

4 Next, place the main body fabric wrong side up, with the long edges at top and bottom. Draw a line 1.5cm from each of the four edges. Starting from the left-hand 1.5cm line, draw three vertical lines, 12cm apart, across the width of the fabric, creating four sections to the main body fabric, with a 1.5cm border. As with the top and bottom pieces, cut away each corner that has been created by drawing on the lines.

5 Where the vertical lines intersect the border lines at the top and bottom, make a tiny cut using small scissors, stopping just before the border line is reached (so less than 1.5cm cut). Next, fold the fabric in half, right sides together and sew along the 1.5cm border line.

6 To attach the top and bottom, take the top piece (with the handle attached), and with right-sides facing, place inside the main body piece and align the edges. Using the small snips as a guide, match the four sides of the top piece to the four sides of the main body. Pin in place.

7 Stitch around the four sides, using the marked lines as a guide to the seam allowance. Before each corner, sew diagonally across the corner of the cut-out squares before continuing with the next side. Repeat this process with the bottom piece, ensuring right sides are facing inwards, but in the middle of one of the sides, leave an 8cm hole not sewn, for turning the doorstop right side out and filling.

8 Turn doorstop right-side out through the 8cm hole. Using toy stuffing, feed into the doorstop until half full. Using a funnel or spoon, fill with heavy filling, such as play sand until the doorstop weighs at least 1.5kg. Close the doorstop by hand stitching tightly to prevent any leakage.