

Paint box, jug and brushes

Cloth — soft sculpture 2

Soft toy making has enormous, yet unexplored creative possibilities. Because of its technology, this craft lends itself to a kind of sculpture with

tactile as well as visual appeal. Different effects can be obtained according to the design adopted; for example a slight distortion of the shape,

exaggeration of some dimensions as in caricatures, or changes of scale can result in very strange and amusing effects.

A great deal can be done with color and texture, by choosing materials such as velvet, velour, pile jersey or terry cloth and working on them with embroidery, appliqué, or quilting.

There are two basic methods for making soft objects. The first one is by making the outer skin or case out of a firm fabric and then stuffing it with synthetic filling, rice or foam crumble, sometimes reinforcing with wires. With this method the final shape is determined mainly by the fabric and patterns so they have to be made very accurately. The second is by modeling a solid piece of foam using a craft knife and general-purpose adhesives, or by stitching it in different ways, then covering this foam with stretch fabrics, preferably with a pile. The covering is secured mainly by hand stitching, and the pile will hide the stitches. Shape is determined mainly by the foam foundation. The painting set is made by the second method.

The painting set

Size of box with lid closed about 33cm x 23cm (13" x 9"), 9cm (3½") high without brush. Jug 16cm (6½") high without brush.

You will need:

Jersey terry cloth:
75cm x 60cm (30" x 24") in black.
62cm x 22.5cm (25" x 9") in dark blue.
15cm x 15cm (6" x 6") in light blue.
30cm x 15cm (12" x 6") in beige.
30cm x 15cm (12" x 6") in red.
Scraps at least 5cm (2") square in ten other colors.
30cm x 20cm (12" x 8"), non-woven interlining.

Polyurethane foam:

1 piece 30cm x 20cm (12" x 8") x 2.5cm (1") thick.
1 piece 40cm x 46.5cm (16" x 18½") x 1.5cm (½") thick.
1 piece 20cm x 30cm (8" x 12") x 6.5cm (2½") thick.

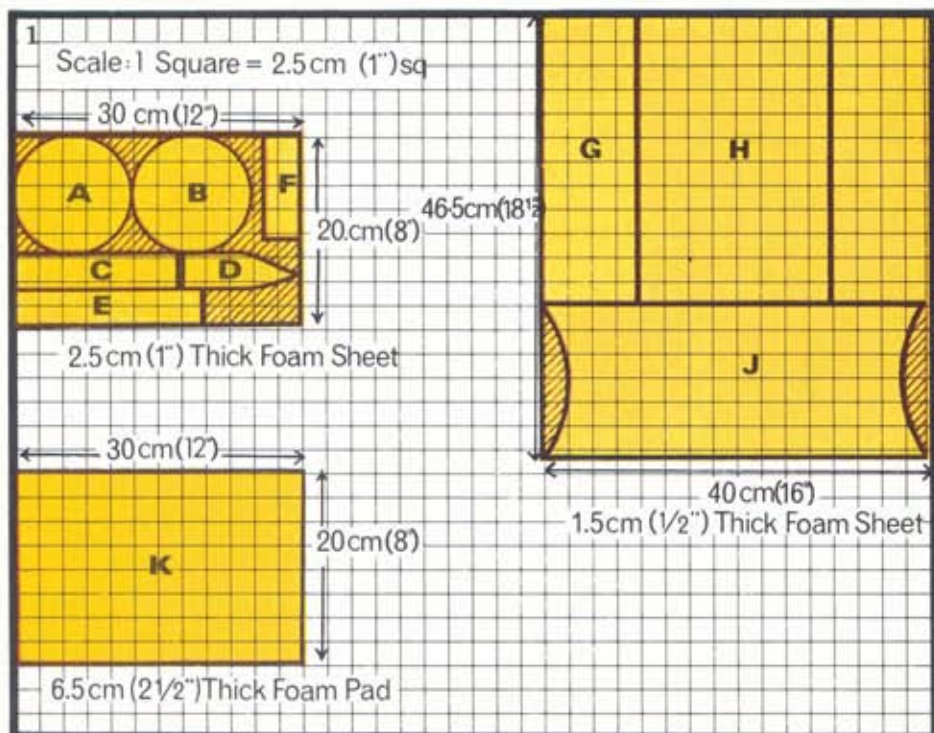
Matching thread, and pins.
Craft knife.
General-purpose adhesive.
Pencil or chalk.

Cutting out

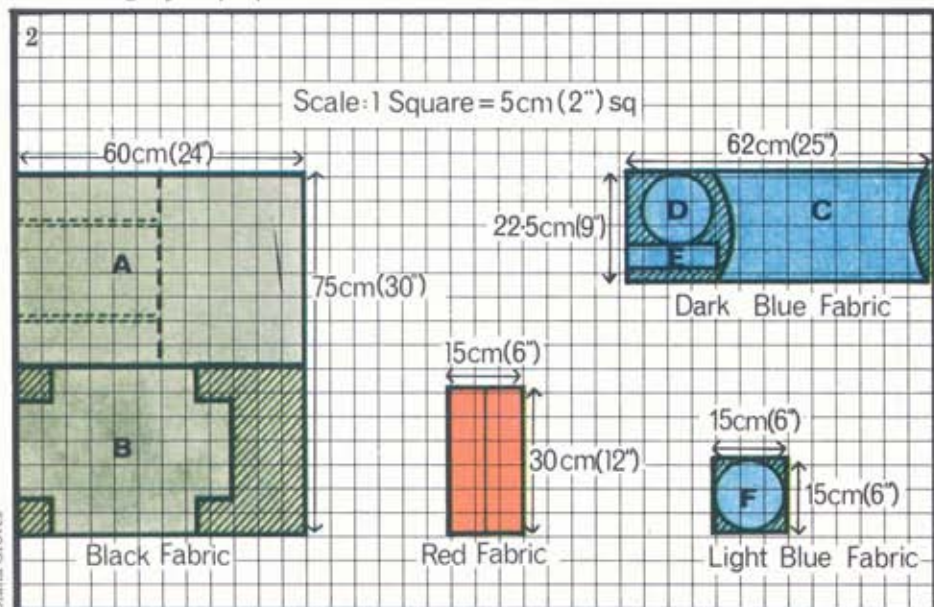
□ Following the cutting layout for the foam (fig.1), mark A, B, C, D, E and F on to the 2.5cm (1") foam with pencil or chalk and cut out using a craft knife. Mark G, H, I and J on to the 1.5cm (½") foam and cut out in the same way.

□ Following the cutting layout for fabric (fig.2) mark and cut out pieces a and b, from black, pieces c, d and e

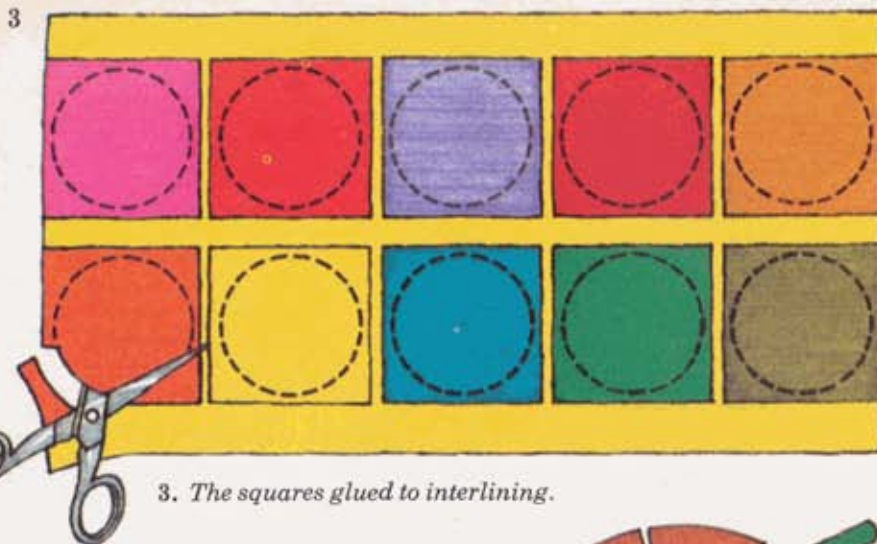
Soft sculpture in foam and terry cloth. Designed by Sylvia Libedinsky and inspired by a paint box and water jug.



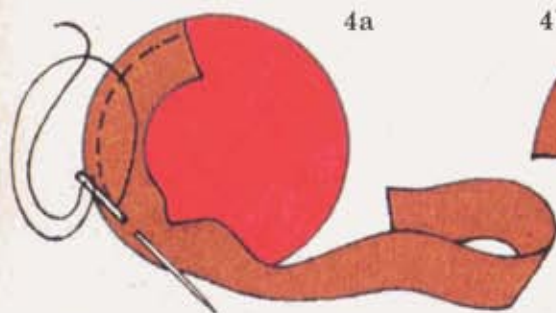
1. Cutting layout for foam.
2. Cutting layout for fabric.



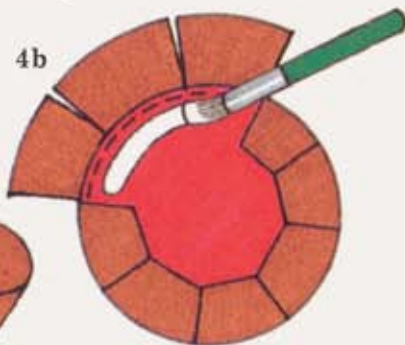




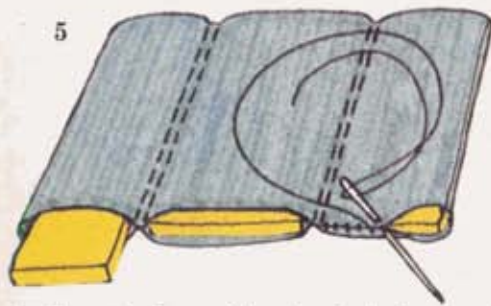
3. The squares glued to interlining.



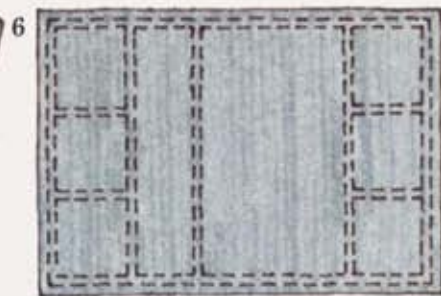
4a. Stitching binding to the circle.



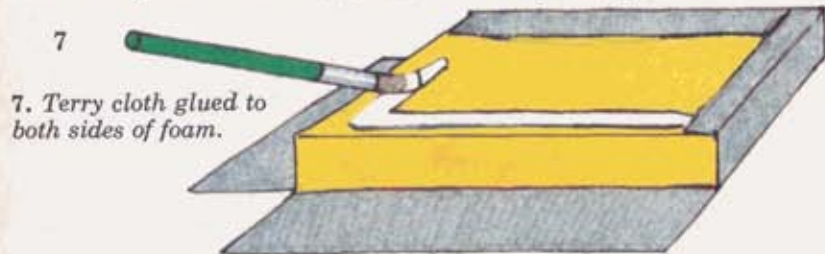
4b. Binding glued to wrong side.



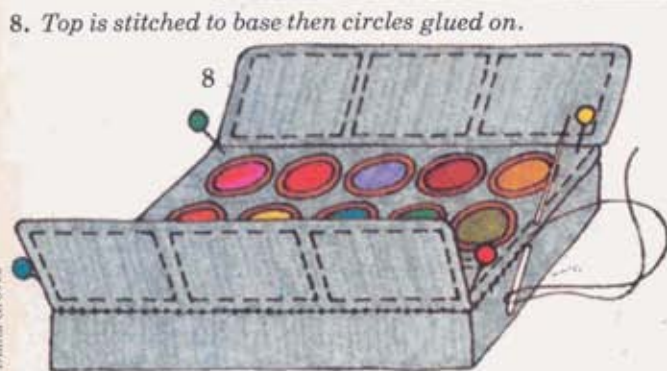
5. Foam in place with ends stitched.



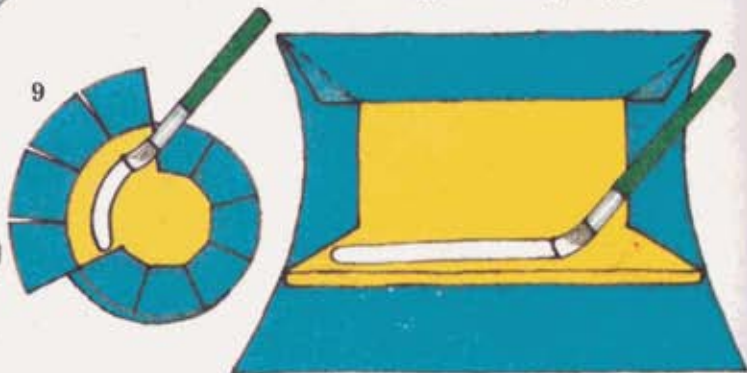
6. Quilting pattern machine stitched.



7. Terry cloth glued to both sides of foam.



8. Top is stitched to base then circles glued on.



9. Covering the sides of the jug and base.

from dark blue, piece f from light blue.

Making up

□ Cut ten pieces each 5cm (2") square from the colored terry cloth.

□ Spread a thin coat of adhesive on the interlining and stick the squares of terry cloth onto it, leaving until completely dry (fig.3).

□ Taking the beige fabric cut ten bias strips 1.5cm ($\frac{1}{2}$ ") wide and 12.5cm (5") long.

□ From squares mounted on interlining cut ten circles each 4.5cm (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ") in diameter and bind with beige strips (fig.4a). Taking 3mm ($\frac{1}{8}$ ") stitch right sides together then turn the bias to the back of the circle, trim and clip the excess fabric and stick with adhesive to the back of the circle, pressing flat with your fingers (fig.4b).

□ Fold piece a in black fabric in half with the right sides together and machine stitch the two short ends taking 5mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ ") seams.

□ Turn through and stitch two double seams 0.5cm ($\frac{1}{4}$ ") apart and 10cm (4") from each end.

□ Fit the three pieces of 1.5cm ($\frac{1}{2}$ ") foam marked G, H and I in fig.1 inside this envelope and sew up the openings by hand with very small stitches (fig.5).

□ Baste the quilting pattern and machine stitch, working two rows of stitching 0.5cm ($\frac{1}{4}$ ") apart (fig.6).

□ Take piece K of foam and spread adhesive thinly over the bottom, leave it a few minutes to dry then place it on to wrong side of black fabric piece b (fig.7), stretching the four sides up tightly with the help of pins and folding the flaps over the top and sticking them with adhesive. Hold with pins until it is dry.

Sew the four corners by hand with small stitches.

□ Place the quilted top into position on the base, pin and sew all around by hand, stretching tightly.

□ Stick the colored circles to the box securing them with pins until completely dry (fig.8).

Water jug

□ Take piece J in 1.5cm ($\frac{1}{2}$ ") foam (this forms the wall of the jug) and

pieces A, B and E in 2.5cm (1") foam.

□ Cover the outside of the jug and one circle with dark blue fabric, and the other circle in pale blue fabric for the water (fig.9). Stretch and glue the edges of the fabric, trim the corners and clip around the circles. Keep the foam flat and allow to dry.

□ For the handle, cover foam piece E with blue fabric, turn in the edge and stitch the fabric tightly around the foam to round the edges. The stitching should be tight; this will make the strip more rigid (fig.10).

□ When all the pieces are dry stitch the sides of the jug together, then stitch the bottom into place (fig.11). Make a small dart on the inside to shape lip of jug.

□ Fill the jug with foam crumble, (made by cutting up the left-over pieces of foam) to within 4cm (1½") of top, modeling it with your hands as you do so.

□ Tie a strip of scrap fabric around the waist of the jug to help mold it (fig.12).

□ Place the light blue circle on top of the foam crumble making sure it is horizontal and sew all around, pinching into the foam so that the jug returns to its original shape after it is squeezed.

□ Remove the strip of fabric tied around the jug.

□ Attach the handle to the jug. Any further molding to correct the shape can be made with stitches which tighten the foam where desired.

Brushes

□ Make in the same way as the jug handle using foam pieces C, F and D. C and F are covered in red and D in a scrap of beige, shaping into a point with stitches for the 'bristles'.

□ For the brush in the water use piece F and shape one end to a point when stitching, stitch the other end to one side of the water on top of the jug.

□ For the loose brush use pieces C and D. Having covered both pieces, stitch them firmly together and hide the join with a scrap of terry cloth, pulling it in tightly.

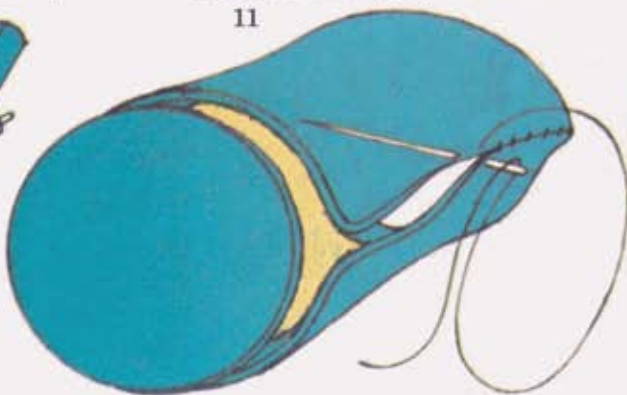
10. Jug handle covered in terry cloth.

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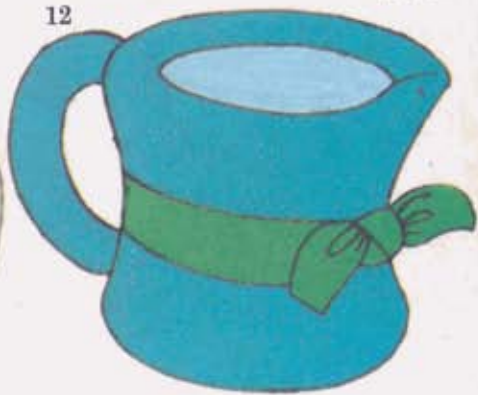
11. Stitch sides of jug then base.

11



12. Fabric tied around waist of jug.

12



The jug is filled with chips of foam and molded by hand and with stitches.

