

Jiggly Jellyfish Cat Toy

This jiggly jellyfish (of the non-stinging variety) will give your kitty lots of good exercise jumping and pouncing.

What you'll need

- Printouts of jellyfish templates
- 4-by-8-in. scrap of heavy fabric, such as canvas or twill
- Pins
- Scissors
- Felt scraps for eyes
- Hand-sewing needle
- Embroidery floss for mouth and to attach felt eyes
- 4 yd. leather cording (set aside 1 yd. for handle)
- Stuffing
- Catnip and scrap of muslin (optional)
- 1½ yd. each of leather cording and twine, for tentacles
- Rubber band
- 1 yd. elastic
- Sewing machine fitted with heavy-duty or denim needle
- Thread to match fabric
- About 15 felt balls in shades of blue, for the water bubbles
- Large-eyed tapestry needle
- Dowel, at least ¼-in. dia.
- Tacky glue



How to make it

1. Pin jellyfish templates provided to the fabric and cut out a front and back. Use the eye templates to cut out 2 eyes from scraps of felt. Use embroidery floss and hand-sewing needle to attach eyes and sew on a mouth, following the template provided for placement. Make a French knot in the center of each eye for a pupil (optional).
2. Cut about 10, 8-inch lengths from leather and twine for the tentacles. Knot both ends of each piece.
3. Pin and baste the tentacles to the front of the jellyfish as indicated by Diagram 1. Then gather the other ends together in a small bundle at the center of the jellyfish using a rubber band. This will keep them from getting caught in your sewing stitches later.

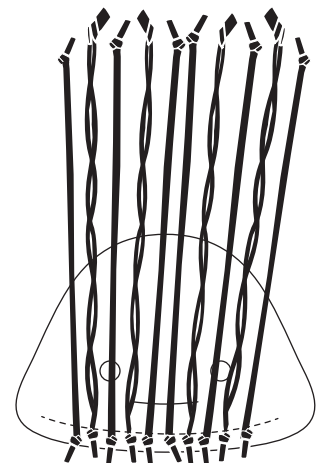


Diagram 1

Pin and baste tentacles to the jellyfish front along its bottom edge.





4. Layer the front and back fabric pieces together, right sides facing. Cut a piece of elastic about 1 yard long and knot 1 end. Gather the elastic into a small ball and place it between the fabric pieces, with the knot sticking out the top. (This will keep it from pulling out.) See Diagram 2.

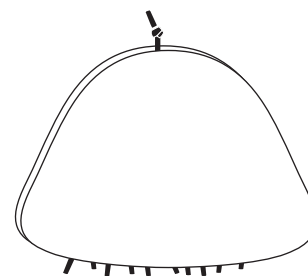


Diagram 2

5. Pin the 2 pieces of fabric together, making sure the gathered tentacles and ball of elastic don't get in the way. Sew the pieces together—leaving a 1½-inch opening along the side for turning. When sewing, use small stitches and a scant ¼-inch seam allowance.

6. Turn jellyfish inside out. Remove the rubber band from the tentacles and straighten out the elastic. Stuff jellyfish lightly with stuffing.

7. Optional: sprinkle some catnip into the muslin scrap of fabric and gather the scrap up into a baggie. Use a bit of embroidery floss to tie the baggie up tightly. Then stuff the baggie of catnip into the jellyfish, along with the stuffing.

8. Hand stitch or machine stitch the side opening closed. Set aside.

9. To create the strands of water droplets, use the large-eyed tapestry needle to thread a 1-yard length of leather cording through 5 felt balls, knotting the cording underneath each ball where you want it to stay. Repeat this step twice more with 2 more yards of cording and the remaining felt balls. Set aside.

10. Coat 1 end of the dowel with a little tacky glue. Use the last yard of leather cording to wrap around the glue-covered end of the dowel. Continue gluing and wrapping until you've covered about 5 inches of the dowel. Cut off the remaining leather cord. Let glue dry.

11. Gather the 4 strands of elastic and cording and tie them together into a knot about 4 inches from their ends. Wrap the ends around the bare end of the dowel and make another tight knot. Add a little glue to the knot to keep it from untying. Let dry. Trim ends.

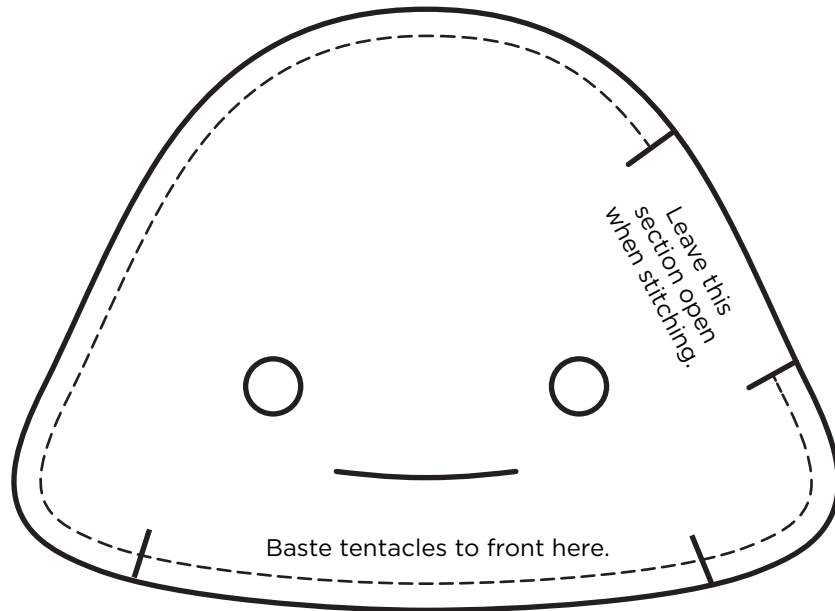
12. Introduce Jiggly Jellyfish to your feline friends and let the pouncing begin.

Jellyfish template

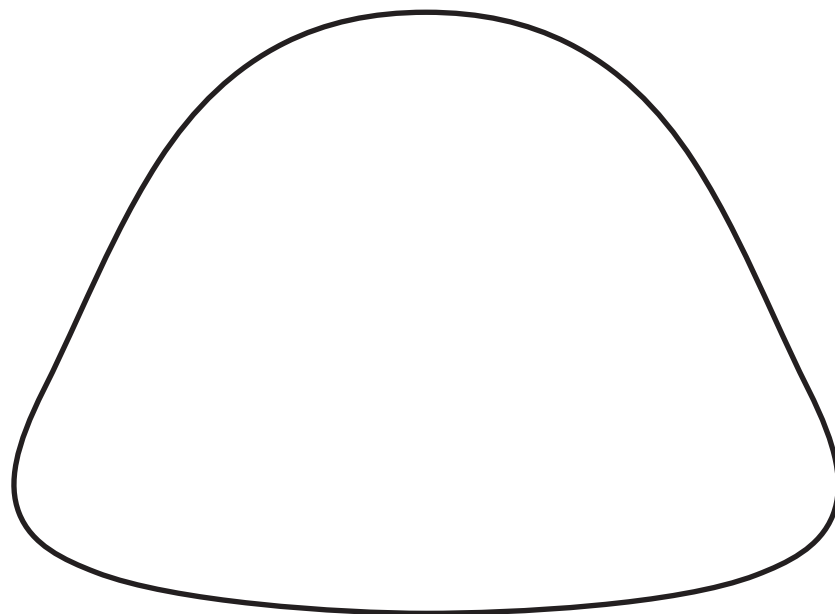
Cut out along solid lines. Sew along dashed lines.



Eyes
Cut 2



Front



Back

