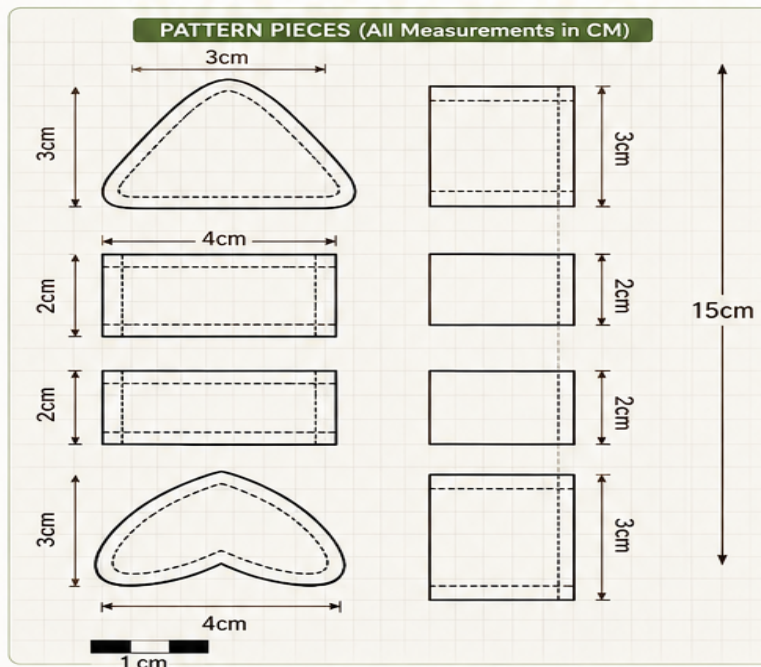


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Fabric Fish Keychain Sewing Tutorial

FABRIC FISH KEYCHAIN SEWING TUTORIAL

Step-by-Step Guide with Pattern (All Measurements in CM)



MATERIALS

- Cotton fabric (green solid, green gingham, green with polka dots)
- Cotton fabric for backing
- Polyester fiberfill stuffing
- 1 Button (approx. 1.5 cm)
- Keychain clasp
- Strong thread (matching fabric)
- Needle / Sewing machine
- Fabric marker or chalk
- Scissors / Pins

SEWING LEGEND (US TERMS)

- Sewing Line (Straight Stitch)
- Topstitching (Optional)
- Fold Line
- Turn Opening
-  Clip Seam Allowance
-  Press
-  Pin
-  Right Side of Fabric
-  Wrong Side of Fabric

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

1. CUT FABRIC PIECES



- Cut 2 pieces for each shape (main fabric + backing fabric).
- Add 0.7 cm seam allowance around each piece.

2. SEW TRIANGLE (HEAD)



- Place right sides together.
- Sew around the edge, leaving a small opening on the bottom.
- Clip curves, turn right side out and press.

3. STUFF & FINISH HEAD



- Gently stuff with fiberfill.
- Hand stitch the opening closed.
- Sew the button eye on one side.

4. SEW RECTANGLE PIECES



- For each rectangle (4x2 cm and 2x2 cm), place right sides together.
- Sew around edge, leaving a small opening.

5. STUFF RECTANGLES



- Turn right side out.
- Stuff lightly and evenly.
- Hand stitch openings closed.

6. SEW TAIL (HEART SHAPE)



- Place right sides together.
- Sew around edge, leaving a small opening at top.
- Clip curves, turn right side out and press.

7. STUFF & FINISH TAIL



- Stuff with fiberfill.
- Hand stitch opening closed.

8. PREPARE THE "SPINE"



- Cut a fabric strip or cord approx. 15 cm long.
- Fold in half and sew along the edge.
- This will be the spine that holds the pieces.

9. ASSEMBLE THE FISH



- Arrange all pieces on the spine as shown.
- Leave small space between each piece.
- Secure each piece by hand stitching through the spine.

10. ATTACH KEYCHAIN CLASP



- Fold top of spine over the ring of the clasp.
- Stitch securely with several stitches.
- Make sure it is strong and secure.

FINISHED KEYCHAIN



- Your Fabric Fish Keychain is ready!
- Total length (including clasp): approx. 15 cm



QUILT / SEWING TIPS (US)



Use batting between layers for a puffy look. Great for mini projects!

TOPSTITCHING



Topstitch close to the edge for a clean finish and extra strength.

USE CLIPS OR PINS



Hold pieces together securely before sewing for accuracy.

PRESS AS YOU GO



Press seams after each step for a professional finish.

SEWING NOTES (US)

- Seam Allowance: 0.7 cm
- Stitch Type: Straight stitch for sewing, backstitch at start and end
- Hand Stitch: Use slip stitch or ladder stitch to close openings
- Fabric: 100% cotton recommended
- Stuffing: Polyester fiberfill (do not overstuff)



CARE INSTRUCTIONS



Hand wash cold



Do not bleach



Air dry



Do not iron over metal parts

YOU DID IT!

Enjoy your handmade Fabric Fish Keychain!



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This beginner-friendly fabric fish keychain is a small, quilted-style sewing project made from cotton fabric, polyester fiberfill, a button, and a keychain clasp. The finished fish is approximately **15 cm (about 6 inches) long, including the keychain clasp**.

The tutorial below follows the measurements, construction, sewing order, and finishing details shown in the provided tutorial graphic, while explaining each step in enough detail for a beginner in the United States to complete the project from start to finish.

Materials You Will Need

Fabric

You will need several small pieces of cotton fabric:

- **Green solid cotton fabric** — for the fish head and tail
- **Green gingham/checkered cotton fabric** — for one rectangular body section
- **Green cotton fabric with white polka dots** — for the other rectangular body section
- **Cotton fabric for backing** — as indicated by the pattern pieces
- A small piece of fabric or cord for the center “**spine**”

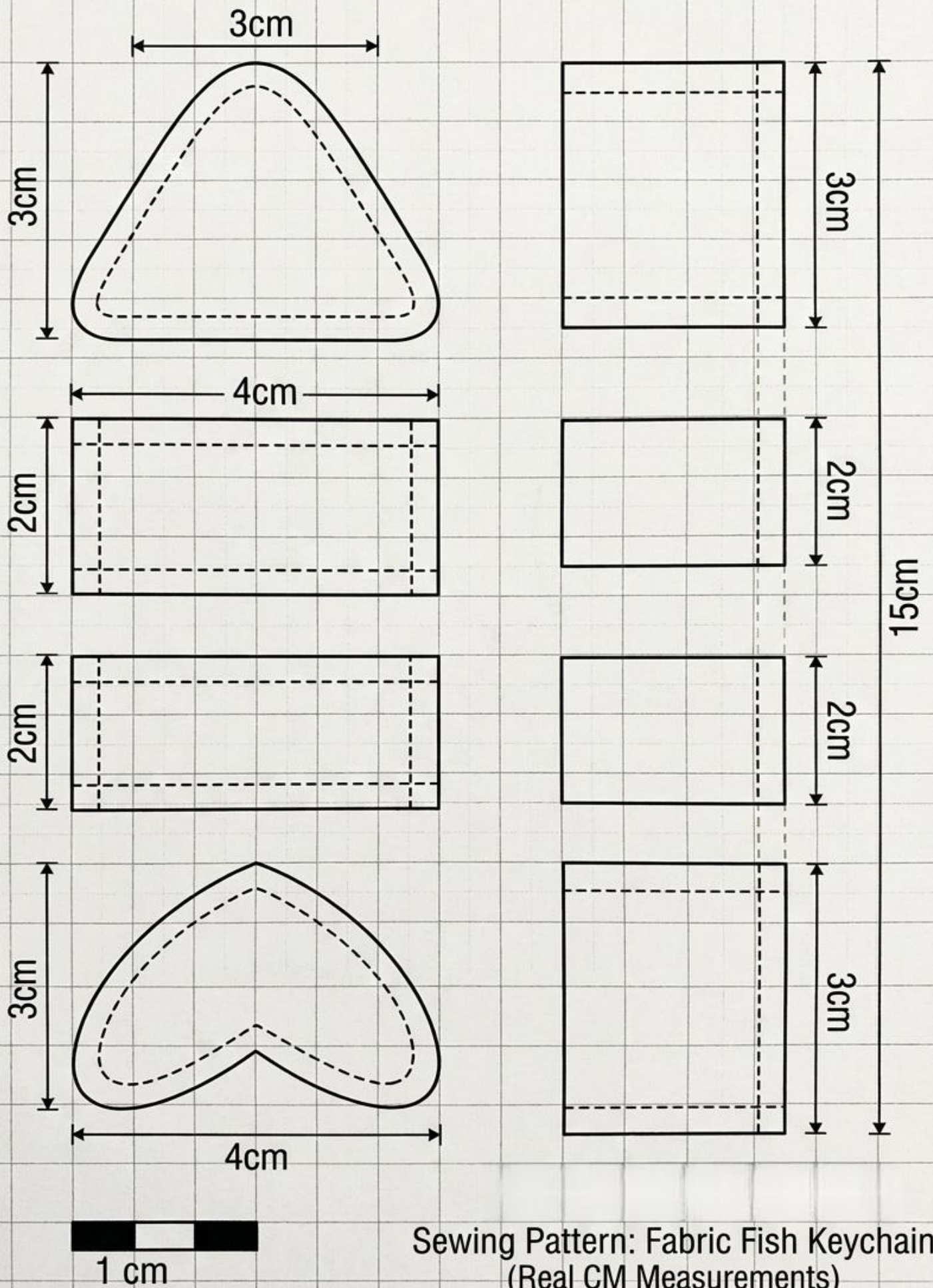
Cotton quilting fabric is recommended because it is easy to cut, sew, turn, and press.

Notions and Sewing Supplies

Gather the following:

- Polyester fiberfill stuffing
- **1 button**, approximately **1.5 cm** in diameter
- Keychain clasp
- Strong sewing thread, preferably matching your fabrics
- Hand-sewing needle
- Sewing machine, optional but recommended
- Fabric marker, chalk, or washable marking pen
- Fabric scissors
- Pins or sewing clips
- Iron and ironing surface
- Ruler
- Measuring tape
- Optional: turning tool or blunt chopstick for pushing out corners

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Measurements

All measurements in the pattern are given in **centimeters**.

For reference:

- **1 cm $\approx$ 0.39 inch**
- **3 cm $\approx$ 1.18 inches**
- **4 cm $\approx$ 1.57 inches**
- **5 cm $\approx$ 1.97 inches**
- **15 cm $\approx$ 5.91 inches**
- **0.7 cm $\approx$ 0.28 inch**

The tutorial uses a **0.7 cm seam allowance** throughout the sewn fabric pieces.

Understanding the Pattern Pieces

The pattern consists of the main fish shapes and their corresponding fabric/backing pieces.

The important dimensions shown in the graphic are:

- **Fish head:** approximately **3 cm $\times$ 3 cm**
- **Rectangular body sections:** approximately **4 cm $\times$ 2 cm**
- **Tail:** approximately **4 cm $\times$ 3 cm**
- **Spine/connector strip:** approximately **5 cm long**
- **Seam allowance:** **0.7 cm**

The pattern graphic also shows additional rectangular pieces measuring approximately **2 cm $\times$ 2 cm** and backing pieces. Keep these pieces organized according to the fabric arrangement shown in the tutorial.

Important: The measurements shown in the pattern are very small. When transferring the shapes to paper, measure carefully with a ruler. Add the **0.7 cm seam allowance around each sewn shape**, unless your transferred pattern already includes it.

Step 1 — Cut All the Fabric Pieces

Start by preparing all of your fabric before sewing anything.

The fish consists of four major components:

1. The triangular head
2. The rectangular middle sections
3. The heart-shaped tail
4. The narrow fabric spine connecting everything

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Cut the Fish Head

Cut **two triangular pieces** for the head.

The finished pattern shape is approximately:

- **3 cm wide**
- **3 cm tall**

One piece will become the front of the head and the other will form the back.

Use the solid green fabric for the head, following the appearance of the original tutorial.

Cut the Rectangular Body Pieces

Prepare the rectangular pieces shown in the pattern.

The main rectangular sections are approximately:

- **4 cm × 2 cm**

The tutorial uses contrasting fabrics so the sections of the fish have a patchwork appearance.

For example:

- One rectangle can be made from **green gingham fabric**
- One rectangle can be made from **green fabric with white polka dots**

Cut the corresponding backing pieces shown in the pattern.

Cut the Tail

Cut **two heart-shaped/wide bow-shaped tail pieces**.

The approximate finished pattern size is:

- **4 cm wide**
- **3 cm tall**

Use the solid green fabric for the tail.

The tail has a rounded shape with a small inward point/notch in the center, creating the characteristic fish-tail appearance.

Add the Seam Allowance

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Add approximately **0.7 cm of seam allowance** around each piece that will be sewn.

If you are drawing the pattern yourself, remember that the measurements shown in the graphic describe the pattern dimensions, while the fabric needs enough extra material around the outside for the seam.

Mark the seam line clearly if that helps you sew accurately.

Organize the Pieces

Before sewing, lay everything out in the order in which it will eventually be assembled:

Head → rectangular section → rectangular section → tail

The narrow fabric spine will connect these sections.

This simple arrangement makes the later assembly much easier.

Step 2 — Sew the Triangular Fish Head

Take the two triangular head pieces.

Place them **right sides together**.

The “right side” is the printed, patterned, or finished side of the fabric. The “wrong side” is the side that will eventually be hidden inside the project.

Pin or clip the pieces around the edges.

Sew Around the Triangle

Using a sewing machine and matching thread, sew around the triangle following the marked seam line.

Use a regular **straight stitch**.

Do not sew completely around the shape.

Leave a **small opening along the bottom edge**.

This opening is necessary because you will use it to:

- Turn the triangle right side out
- Add the stuffing
- Close the opening afterward

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Clip the Curves and Corners

Before turning the piece right side out, carefully clip or trim the seam allowance where necessary.

For the triangular head:

- Clip the corners carefully
- Make small snips into curved areas
- Do not cut through the stitching

This allows the fabric to spread properly when the piece is turned.

Turn the Head Right Side Out

Gently turn the triangle through the opening.

Use a blunt turning tool, the rounded end of a chopstick, or another suitable tool to carefully push the corners outward.

Do not use anything sharp enough to puncture the fabric.

Press the triangle with an iron.

A neatly pressed piece will make the stuffing and final stitching much easier.

Step 3 — Stuff and Finish the Fish Head

Now it is time to give the head its three-dimensional shape.

Add the Fiberfill

Take small pieces of **polyester fiberfill** and gently push them into the triangular head.

Do not put one large ball of stuffing inside.

Instead, add small amounts gradually.

This produces a smoother and more evenly filled shape.

The head should be:

- Soft
- Slightly puffy
- Firm enough to hold its shape
- Not so tightly stuffed that the seams become strained

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Close the Opening

Once the head has the desired amount of stuffing, close the opening by hand.

Use a strong matching thread and small stitches.

A ladder stitch or other discreet hand stitch works well.

Pull the stitches gently so the opening closes neatly without puckering.

Sew on the Button Eye

The tutorial uses a button approximately **1.5 cm** in diameter.

Position the button on one side of the triangular head.

Sew it securely in place with strong thread.

Make several passes through the button holes so the button cannot easily come loose.

Safety note: Because this project contains a button and a keychain clasp, it is not suitable as a toy for babies or very young children who could pull off and swallow small components.

Step 4 — Sew the Rectangular Body Pieces

The next components are the small rectangular sections that form the middle of the fish.

The tutorial shows contrasting fabrics, including:

- Green gingham/checkered fabric
- Green fabric with white polka dots

For each rectangular section, place the corresponding pieces **right sides together**.

Pin or Clip the Pieces

Align the edges carefully.

Because these pieces are small, sewing clips can be particularly convenient.

Make sure the corners and long edges are aligned before sewing.

Sew Around the Rectangle

Sew around the edges using a straight stitch.

Leave a **small opening** for turning and stuffing.

Keep the seam allowance consistent at approximately **0.7 cm**.

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Trim and Prepare the Corners

Before turning:

- Carefully trim excess seam allowance at the corners
- Avoid cutting the stitching
- Clip any areas that need additional flexibility

Turn the rectangle right side out through the opening.

Use a blunt tool to gently push the corners outward.

Press the piece flat.

Repeat the process for the other rectangular section.

Step 5 — Stuff the Rectangular Sections

Turn each rectangular piece completely right side out.

Add Fiberfill

Add polyester fiberfill gradually.

The rectangular sections should be stuffed **lightly and evenly**.

Do not overstuff them.

If they are too full, they can become difficult to sew together later and may lose the slim appearance shown in the tutorial.

Use your fingers to distribute the stuffing evenly from one end to the other.

Close the Openings

Once the rectangles have been stuffed, hand-stitch the openings closed.

Use matching thread and small, secure stitches.

Try to keep the closure as neat as possible because these sections will remain visible on the finished fish.

Step 6 — Sew the Tail

Now prepare the heart-shaped fish tail.

Take the two tail pieces and place them **right sides together**.

Align the outside edges carefully.

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Pin or clip around the perimeter.

Sew Around the Tail

Sew around the tail following the seam line.

Leave a **small opening** for turning and stuffing.

The tail has curves, so sew slowly around the rounded sections.

When approaching the center notch between the two rounded lobes, lower your sewing speed and make sure the stitching follows the shape accurately.

Clip the Curves

Carefully clip the seam allowance around the curved portions.

At the inward center point, make small, controlled clips toward—but not through—the stitching.

This helps the tail turn smoothly.

Turn and Press

Turn the tail right side out.

Gently push out the curves and center point.

Press the tail carefully with an iron.

You should now have a flat but three-dimensional tail shape ready for stuffing.

Step 7 — Stuff and Finish the Tail

Add polyester fiberfill through the opening.

Use small amounts at a time.

Work the stuffing into both rounded sides of the tail so the filling is evenly distributed.

The finished tail should be softly stuffed rather than extremely firm.

Close the Tail

Hand-stitch the opening closed.

Use small stitches and matching thread.

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Take your time here because a neat closure will make the finished fish look much more professional.

Step 8 — Prepare the “Spine”

The spine is the narrow connector running vertically through the middle of the assembled fish.

According to the tutorial, cut:

- **One fabric strip or cord**
- **Approximately 5 cm long**

A narrow strip of matching or coordinating fabric works particularly well.

Fold the Strip

Fold the fabric strip in half lengthwise.

The raw edges should be brought together.

Sew along the long edge to create a narrow tube or finished strip.

If you are using cord instead of fabric, simply prepare a strong piece approximately 5 cm long.

The spine will eventually connect the head, rectangles, and tail.

Step 9 — Assemble the Fish

This is the stage where all of your individual pieces become one fish.

Lay the components out in the order shown in the tutorial:

Triangular head

↓

Gingham rectangular section

↓

Polka-dot rectangular section

↓

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Heart-shaped tail

The narrow spine should run behind the pieces and connect them.

Position the Pieces

Place the pieces so that there is a **small amount of space between each section**, as shown in the original design.

The pieces should not be packed tightly against one another.

This spacing allows the fish to have its distinctive segmented, hanging appearance.

Attach Each Section

Use strong matching thread and hand-stitch each component to the spine.

The stitches should pass securely through the spine and the corresponding fabric piece.

Take care not to make large visible stitches on the front.

The goal is to create secure connections while keeping the decorative front of the fish clean.

Check the Alignment

Before making the final stitches, hold the fish upright and check that:

- The head is centered
- The rectangular sections are stacked vertically
- The tail is centered underneath the rectangles
- The spine is straight
- The pieces hang naturally
- There is a small space between the sections

Adjust the positioning before making the stitches permanent.

Step 10 — Attach the Keychain Clasp

The final structural step is attaching the keychain clasp.

The tutorial uses a metal keychain clasp with a small attachment ring.

Fold the Top of the Spine

Take the top end of the fabric spine.

Pass or fold it over the ring of the keychain clasp.

The folded portion should sit securely around the clasp's attachment ring.

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Sew It Securely

Use strong thread to stitch the folded section together.

Make **several strong stitches** through the folded fabric.

Because the finished project will hang from the keychain clasp, this connection needs to be stronger than an ordinary decorative stitch.

You can reinforce the attachment by sewing several passes over the same area.

Test the Connection

Before considering the project finished, gently pull on the fish and clasp.

The clasp should remain securely attached.

If the fabric shifts or the stitching feels loose, reinforce it with additional stitches.



Your Fabric Fish Keychain Is Finished!

Your finished fish should now have:

- A **green triangular head**
- A **button eye**
- A **gingham rectangular section**
- A **green polka-dot rectangular section**
- A **stuffed green tail**
- A narrow central **spine**
- A metal **keychain clasp**

The tutorial's finished keychain is approximately **15 cm long including the clasp**.

The result is a small patchwork-style fabric fish that can be attached to a backpack, purse, tote bag, keys, zipper, or other suitable item.



Sewing Tips for a Cleaner Result

Keep the Seam Allowance Consistent

The tutorial specifies a **0.7 cm seam allowance**.

Because the pieces are very small, even a few millimeters can make a noticeable difference.

Try to keep your stitching line consistent rather than constantly changing the seam width.

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Use Clips or Pins

Small sewing clips or pins can hold the layers together while you sew.

For tiny pieces, clips may be easier to handle than pins because they reduce the chance of accidentally shifting the fabric.

Press as You Sew

Pressing is especially important for small patchwork projects.

Press the pieces:

- After turning them right side out
- After closing openings
- After completing the individual sections
- Before final assembly

A small iron or pressing tool is useful for these tiny pieces.

Stuff Gradually

Avoid stuffing everything at once.

Small amounts of fiberfill give you much more control.

If you see lumps, use your fingers to redistribute the stuffing before closing the opening.

Sew Slowly Around Curves

The triangle and especially the tail contain curves.

When sewing curves:

1. Slow your machine down.
2. Keep the needle close to the intended seam line.
3. Stop when necessary.
4. Lift the presser foot while the needle is down if you need to reposition the fabric.
5. Continue slowly.

This produces smoother curves.

Optional Topstitching

The tutorial's sewing legend includes **topstitching as optional**.

Topstitching is a visible line of stitching close to an edge.

If you want to add it:

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- Use matching or contrasting thread.
- Stitch close to the finished edge.
- Keep the distance consistent.
- Use a straight stitch.
- Sew slowly around curves.

Topstitching can add a handmade quilted appearance and can also help stabilize the edges.

Optional Quilted Look

The tutorial also suggests quilting the project as you go.

For a puffier quilted appearance, you can place a thin layer of batting between fabric layers before sewing.

The batting should be relatively thin because these pieces are extremely small.

A small amount of batting creates a soft, quilted appearance without making the fish excessively bulky.

Care Instructions

The tutorial recommends the following care:

Hand Wash

Gently hand wash the finished fabric fish when necessary.

Avoid aggressive scrubbing or twisting.

Do Not Bleach

Do not use bleach on the fabric fish.

Bleach may discolor the green fabrics and weaken the fibers or thread.

Air Dry

Allow the keychain to air dry naturally.

Avoid unnecessarily high heat.

Do Not Iron Over the Metal Parts

If you need to press the fabric, keep the iron away from:

- The metal keychain clasp
- Other metal hardware

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- The button if it becomes excessively hot

Place a pressing cloth between the iron and delicate areas when appropriate.



Quick Measurement Reference

Part	Approximate Size
Fish head	3 × 3 cm
Main rectangular sections	4 × 2 cm
Additional small rectangular pieces	2 × 2 cm
Fish tail	4 × 3 cm
Spine	Approximately 5 cm long
Seam allowance	0.7 cm
Button	Approximately 1.5 cm
Finished length, including clasp	Approximately 15 cm



Recommended Sewing Order

For an easy-to-follow workflow, complete the project in this exact order:

1. Cut the fabric pieces
2. Sew the triangular head
3. Turn, stuff, close, and add the button
4. Sew the rectangular sections
5. Turn, stuff, and close the rectangles
6. Sew the tail
7. Turn, stuff, and close the tail
8. Prepare the 5 cm spine
9. Hand-stitch all sections onto the spine
10. Attach and reinforce the keychain clasp

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Final Check Before Using Your Keychain

Before attaching the finished fish to a bag or set of keys, inspect every connection.

Make sure:

- The button is firmly attached.
- The head seam is completely closed.
- The rectangular sections have no open stuffing holes.
- The tail is completely closed.
- The spine is securely sewn.
- The clasp is firmly attached.
- There are no loose threads that could easily unravel.
- The stuffing is not exposed.
- The metal clasp opens and closes correctly.

Once everything is secure, your handmade **Fabric Fish Keychain** is ready to use! 