

Equinox Retreat

Crafting guide for companion blobs

Hello, and thank you for considering creating some companion blobs for your own runs of Equinox Retreat!

Below, you will find a very loose and general set of guidelines on how to create these companions. There are no real hard guidelines, and you can go for a look and feel that feels right to you. Also remember that these blobs don't need to be crafted perfectly - The ones I originally crafted are far from it. They do feel very full of character, warm and cozy, and that's what I prefer over perfection anyway.

So go and create, and have fun!

Materials & tools

- ❖ **Buttons:** 15 per blob
Make sure they are all similar in size so that all tokens can fit all buttons with one buttonhole
- ❖ **Different fabrics** for each blob: about 40-50cm for fabrics with a width of 1m20-1m40
I went for fabrics in different colors, but also, with different patterns and slight differences to the touch, to take into account colorblindness and sensory issues
- ❖ **1-2 bags of cushion stuffing**
- ❖ **Felt:** about half of the amount of the fabric you are using
These will serve as a firm base for the tokens, so it needs to be felt that's thick and sturdy enough
- ❖ **Double sided adhesive linen:** same amount as the felt
This will be used to iron the fabric for the tokens on to the felt
- ❖ **Plenty of thread** for machine as well as hand-stitching
I machine-stitched the companion blobs and the buttonholes in the tokens, and I sewed all the buttons on the companion blobs by hand
- ❖ **Needles** for machine and hand stitching
- ❖ **A sewing machine**
Unless you want to sew everything by hand

Working method

Summary

- ❖ Stitch most of your companion blob together
- ❖ Stuff the blob with cushion stuffing
- ❖ Close up the blob
- ❖ Sew the buttons on the blob
- ❖ Glue the fabric on to the felt
- ❖ Draw and cut the tokens from the felt
- ❖ Sew a buttonhole into each token

Working method explained

Stitch most of your companion blob together

Come up with different, fun shapes for your companion blobs, don't just settle for different sized balls and squares, if you feel it.

This can be a process of trial and error and randomly going for something that seems fun and see where it ends up - this is definitely how I created most of the original blobs. If you don't have a good insight in patterns or 3D shapes, it is obviously also fine to stick to basic easy shapes, or to experiment with fabric scraps or paper first.

Take care to make the shape of your companion blob large enough so that it can hold 15 buttons with tokens of about 5cm (at their widest/longest) each.

Stitch the companion blobs together by hand or with the help of a sewing machine, but take care to leave one side of the shape (or about 10cm somewhere) open, before turning the companion blob the right side out.

Stuff the blob with cushion stuffing

When the companion blob is no longer turned inside out, use the opening through which you turned it the right side out to stuff it with cushion stuffing.

Stuff it as firmly as you want - I enjoyed creating blobs with different densities and weights, as players can find meaning even in these differences.

Close up the blob

Once you have stuffed the companion blob, close up the opening you left by hand-sewing or machine stitching it together.

Sew the buttons on to the blob

This is one of the most time-consuming steps of the process.

Hand-sew 15 buttons on to each companion blob. Before starting to sew them on, I laid each blob on my hand to feel what the underside of the blob would be. Don't sew buttons on the underside of the companion blobs, so they can sit comfortably on the players' hands.

Glue the fabric on to the felt

Cut a piece of fabric to fit a piece of felt out of which you can create 15 tokens. Equally cut a piece of double-sided adhesive linen of this size.

Place the linen on to the felt, and the fabric on to the linen, and use a hot iron to glue everything together. When in doubt, test a small corner first to check whether you have the temperature of the iron right, depending on the fabric you are using.

Draw and cut the tokens from the felt

Come up with some shapes that fit for the tokens, and draw them on some thick paper or thin cardboard to serve as a pattern to draw the tokens onto the felt. You will be creating 15 tokens for each companion blob, so this means drawing and cutting 15 tokens from a piece of felt with the same fabric glued onto it as the fabric that was used for creating the blob.

The 6 shapes I came up with were: a cloud, a star, a heart, an eye, a lightning bolt, a speech bubble. Each had a maximum width/length of 5cm. and had space for a buttonhole of about 2cm (the buttons I used were all under or just about 2cm in diameter and height combined). Make sure your token shapes equally all have enough space for a buttonhole that is a size that fits all of the buttons you are using.

Use the patterns to draw the token shapes on the fabric side of the felt (I used chalk to do this, but you can also use leftover soap bars for this). Also draw a marking on the tokens for where you will sew the buttonhole.

Once all tokens are drawn onto the piece of felt, cut them all out.

Sew a buttonhole into each token

If you have a sewing machine that has the option to sew buttonholes, I recommend using this option as this is a lot less time consuming.

Once all buttonholes have been sewn, you're done with your blob, and you can attach the 15 tokens to the 15 buttons on your companion blob.

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Some pictures



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