

**1** skill level

free

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Designed by Virginia M. Pillsbury

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suede & leather cat toy

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#### SUPPLIES & TOOLS:

- 1 large sheet Suede trim
- 1 pkg Leather lacing
- 1 pkg 5/8" Jingle bells
- Polyester thread
- Sharp needle
- Sharp scissors
- 2 pairs of pliers
- 2"x3½" piece of cardboard
- Awl & hammer
- Piece of wood, or several magazines
- Marker
- Polyester fiberfill
- Transparent tape

#### DIRECTIONS:

1. Cut out pattern templates. Trace 2 mice onto suede and 1 insert onto cardboard; cut out.
2. Tape ends of 3 brown leather laces together at one end and braid tightly for 21" leaving 9½" of lacing unbraided. Using another lace, tie a knot at the end of the 21" length leaving the unbraided lacing hanging. Using 2 pair of pliers, tightly pull the knotted leather lacing. Do not pull too tightly, as it may cause the lacing to break. Trim lacing when secure. Knot the taped end of the braided section pulling tightly to secure; remove tape.
3. Lay the 2 suede mouse pieces on top of each other so the pieces match. Place magazines or wood underneath and punch holes with the awl and hammer around the outside of the mouse, 1/4" from the edge and 1/4" apart. Punch holes for mouse nose and eyes in top piece only. Refer to pattern and photo.
4. Create a nose by tying a knot at one end of the black lacing. Insert other end of the lacing through mouse nose hole from the front, pull tightly and tie a knot on the back. Trim off excess leather lacing. Repeat to create 2 eyes for the mouse.
5. Knot 2 bells onto each unbraided lacing. If the lacing is too thick to go through the bell, cut in half lengthwise and tie 2 bells onto each lace. Refer to photo.
6. Place the two suede pieces on top of each other, lining up holes with the cardboard piece between. Trim the cardboard if needed. Using two strands of thread, sew the pieces together from the starting point working toward the head. Continue sewing around mouse to opposite the starting point. Insert a small amount of polyester fiberfill on top of the cardboard. Insert the braided section and 3 dangling leather laces with bells attached. Refer to photo. Continue sewing around the rest of the mouse, making sure all added pieces are tight and secure. Tie off the thread and trim.

Skill Level 1: No experience necessary

Approximate Crafting Time: 3 hours

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