

# Night Owl

DESIGNED BY Julie Boyd

See in the dark with this night owl doorstop, which has eyes that light up in the dark. This fun children's night light is also a handy doorstop during the day. The specialist 'e-textiles' module is easy to attach and requires no soldering or specialist knowledge.



## Materials

- 1 fat quarter main fabric – 'Bear Hugs' cotton fabric by Laura Berringer
- 1 fat quarter contrast fabric – turquoise plain cotton
- Felt squares – 1 purple, 2 blue, 1 white and 1 yellow
- Filling e.g. rice (a combination of rice & stuffing can also be used)
- 2 1cm pink buttons with 2 holes (the holes must be wide enough apart for the legs of the LED's to be inserted)
- Matching sewing thread
- E-textiles kit (consisting of a light sensor cell holder, 2 white LED's, conductive thread & a battery)
- Round nosed pliers for twisting the legs on the LED's into loops

**To Cut** – See pattern sheet for pattern pieces

### Main fabric:

- Cut 4 19cm x 19cm squares
- Cut 1 9cm x 8cm rectangle for the hanging tag

### Contrast fabric:

- Cut 2 19cm x 19cm squares

### Purple felt:

- Cut 2 face shapes

### White felt:

- Cut 1 face shape
- Cut 4 inner eye circles
- Cut 2 tummy shapes



**Blue felt:**

- Cut 4 outer eye circles
- Cut 2 body shapes

**Yellow felt:**

- Cut 2 beak shapes

**To Sew**

**1** Stitch the body, tummy patch and beak into position onto two of the squares that have been cut out. These should be the squares that will be on either side of the doorstep. A straight stitch has been used on the product in the image but a zigzag appliqué stitch could be used. Bondaweb can be used under the appliqué shapes to hold them in position while stitching.



**2** On one of the squares stitch the eyes and head piece into position.



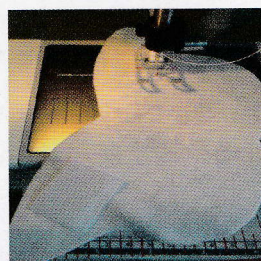
**3** Use embroidery thread to stitch buttons into place in the centre of the eyes.



**4** Stitch the remaining set of eyes onto the other face section.



**5** Attach the Velcro pieces to the back of the loose face section.

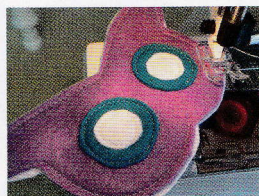
**Good To Know**

- Use 1cm seam allowance throughout.
- Finished doorstep size 17cm x 17cm.
- The e-textiles module uses a specially designed component called a cell holder that has a light sensor built onto the surface. It is attached to an LED that lights up using a specialist conductive thread and this creates an e-textiles circuit. A cell (battery) is placed into the cell holder to make the circuit light up.
- When creating the e-textiles circuit it is important to remember a few basic rules e.g. the negative side of the cell holder must be attached to the negative side of the LED

(the side with the short leg), the different rows of the circuit must never go near each other or cross over, don't leave any loose tails of thread, oversewing stitches must be clustered tightly together rather than spread out and a new piece of thread is used for each section of the circuit.

- All of these e-textiles components have been designed for use in textiles projects. No specialist skills or soldering are required to attach the module and LED. The components can't overheat or give an electric shock. More information on what e-textiles is along with how to use this kit and similar ones can be found on the e-textiles pages at [www.julieboyd.co.uk](http://www.julieboyd.co.uk)

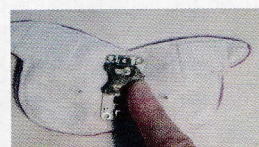
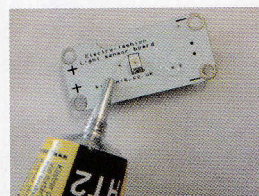
**6** Stitch the back and front of the face panels together with the wrong sides facing each other.



**7** Cut a small square in the centre of the loose face panel. This needs to be big enough for the light sensor to poke through.

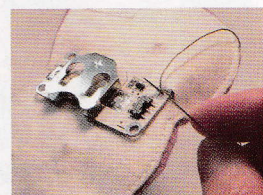


**8** Spread glue across the back of the cell holder and position it in the middle of the back of the face panel so that the light sensor pokes through the



hole you have made (the light sensor is the small raised square section on the side of the cell holder that does not have the black slider on and off switch).

**9** Use the conductive thread to oversew one of the negative rings on the cell holder into place onto the face panel fabric. Stitches must be close together and tight.



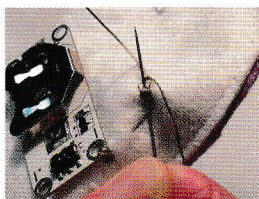
**10** Push a knitting needle, or similar sharp item through the eye sections on the face panel to create holes for the LEDs to push through. If you use scissors to create this hole make sure you don't cut the holes too big.



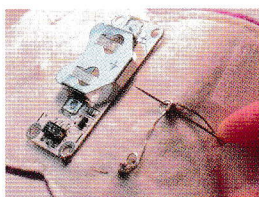
**11** Poke the legs of the LED through the holes in the button and push the legs through one of the holes made in the face panel fabric.



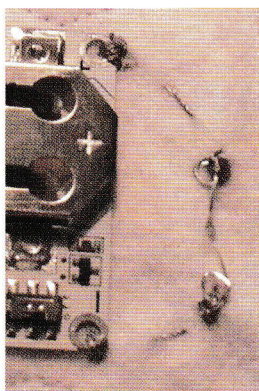
**12** Use round nosed pliers to twist the shorter leg of the LED (this is the negative leg) into a small loop and push this flat against the surface of the face panel. Stitch several running stitches to take the conductive thread to the loop on the LED and then oversew the loop onto the fabric with tight overlocking stitches that are clustered together. Finish the thread off and cut it close to the fabric.



**13** Use the round nose pliers to twist the second leg on the LED into a small loop (this is the positive leg and is the longest). Push the loop flat onto the fabric and with a new piece of conductive thread oversew the loop into position.



**14** Stitch several running stitches to get to the positive side of the cell holder and oversew this into position. Finish off the thread and cut it close to the fabric surface.



**15** Sew the other LED into position repeating steps 11 – 14. Make sure you use a new piece of thread each time you stitch a new section of the circuit. Push a cell (battery) into the cell holder and switch it on to test your circuit works. The on/off switch is the tiny black switch on the surface of the cell holder which slides backwards and forwards.

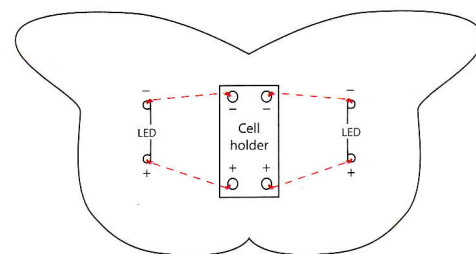
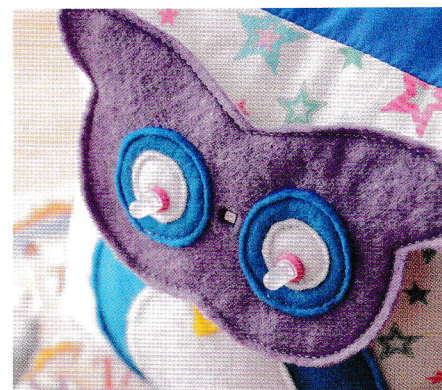
Note: it will need to be dark in order for the light sensor to work.

**16** Stitch the Velcro into position above the owl's body on the backing fabric. Use the face panel to work out where to position the Velcro so that it matches up.



**17** Make up the hanging tag by folding it in half and stitching along the long edge then turning it to the right side. Stitch all squares together as shown in the image inserting the tag into one of the sides as you sew.

**18** Join all the remaining seams leaving a small hole in one edge to insert the filling. Turn the doorstep to the right side and insert the filling and hand sew the hole closed using an invisible hand stitch. The face with the LED's can now be attached with the Velcro.



indicates the over sewing and running stitches that join the cell holder and LEDs

## Stockist Details

Fabrics, threads & buttons – Coles Sewing Centre, [www.colessewingcentre.co.uk](http://www.colessewingcentre.co.uk), tel: 0115 9881550

E-textiles kit – Julie Boyd, [www.julieboyd.co.uk](http://www.julieboyd.co.uk), tel: 0115 9607061



Name... Julie Boyd

*All About Me...* I am a secondary school teacher now working as an education consultant running training for teachers and textiles workshops for adults and children. I am the author of several school textbooks and have also written articles for magazines. I am passionate about all areas of textiles and about triggering that interest in others. I am particularly keen to update the image of textiles and show people the amazing high tech fabrics and components that are now available. [www.julieboyd.co.uk](http://www.julieboyd.co.uk)

