

# Best of the best from Pinterest

Here are our favourite **animal pincushion artworks** on Pinterest this month.



## Best penguin

Freeze-frame a penguin's progress by pinning him down – in a nice way!  
Designer: Jerry. Contact: [www.etsy.com/shop/lifepieces](http://www.etsy.com/shop/lifepieces),  
[lifepieces@gmail.com](mailto:lifepieces@gmail.com).



## Best whale

Who says the blue whale is the largest creature on Earth?  
Ours is pint/pin size – and perfect.  
Designer: Jodie Carleton. Contact: [www.vintagecricrac.blogspot.com.au](http://www.vintagecricrac.blogspot.com.au).



## Best cat

When it comes to pincushioning, may the Feline Force be with you!  
Designer: Kathleen, of Fat Cat Crafts. Contact: [www.etsy.com/shop/fatcatcrafts](http://www.etsy.com/shop/fatcatcrafts),  
[fatcatcrafts@gmail.com](mailto:fatcatcrafts@gmail.com).



## Bobbin' along

It's the sort of product that makes you go "OMG I Want One!" as soon as you see it. We can't imagine this not having enormous appeal for *Homespun* readers. It's got it all – whimsy, great aesthetics and intelligent design. Consider this: the Swedish Bobbin furniture's creator, Martin Björnson, tailor made them (sorry, silly pun) for small spaces, incorporating lightweight stackability, for when they're not in use, and hollow trunks with removable tops, to provide extra storage. Specifics = Beechwood lid and base, centre section of heavy-duty cardboard upholstered in corduroy, height of 44cm and diameter of 36cm. Orders outside Sweden should be directed to Morphos, at [order@morphos.se](mailto:order@morphos.se), or you can contact Martin Björnson direct at his website, [martinbjornson.com](http://martinbjornson.com). Morphos' website is [morphos.se](http://morphos.se), but there's no English-translation button.

# PIN INTEREST

Bright ideas, fabulous products, clever tips & quick reads



**Christmas on the hop** Leutenegger has come out with 'little Aussie bouncer' Christmas fabrics, featuring kangaroos and candy canes. The fabrics also feature gift-bearing koalas and Santa-capped cockatoos in amongst baubles and bottlebrush. The *Australian Bush Xmas* range includes bunting designs and project panels with coordinating prints. All are in pure cotton with metallic silver detailing. Go to [www.leutenegger.com.au](http://www.leutenegger.com.au) for further details.



## Hanging around for Santa

Sara Joyner, from Sew Sara, decided it was time her family had coordinating Christmas stockings, but she wanted something a bit different. This is what she came up with – terrific felt-based designs with the name of each family member following the curves of foot-heel-calf and spelled out in spots, stripes and chevrons. Sara shares her tutorial on [sewsara.blogspot.com/2012/12/six-socks.html](http://sewsara.blogspot.com/2012/12/six-socks.html).

## A reel merry Christmas

As Chrissie concepts go, this is a little trimmer. Staci Wendland, from Crafty Staci, turned her back on tinsel this year and went straight to her haberdashery cupboard, instead. And she cottoned on immediately to the possibilities for spools and coordinating buttons. Look at the effect she's achieved by threading them onto a length of twine then looping it over her tree branches. Effective, cheap and very blooming crafty! You can find Staci at [www.craftystaci.com](http://www.craftystaci.com).



## BOM 2014 – STAY TUNED!

We're launching our fabulous new Block of the Month in February *Homespun*, and we know you're going to absolutely love it. It's designed by one of the country's best – Monica Poole, of MoonShine Designs – and it's a joyous celebration of colour and nature's abundance. Keep an eye out for it. It's going to be wonderful.



## Licks with polish

And now for something completely different from Patons – really cool Toy Icy Poles, from the *Modern Crochet* pattern book. These are supposed to be playthings for children, but we have a sneaking suspicion there'll be plenty of hip (or is that tragic?) adults who won't be able to resist taking out their crochet hook and Regal 4 ply Cotton to create these as whimsical accessories for their summer interiors. Drop into your nearest yarn store to buy this pattern book, or you can contact Patons direct by phoning 1800 337 032 or visiting [www.patonsyarns.com.au](http://www.patonsyarns.com.au).

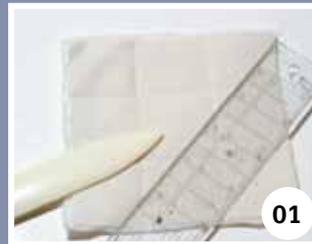


## GAME PLAN

Jenny Doh, from Crescendoh, had a two-pronged attack in mind when designing this soft-edged Tic Tac Toe game. To start with, it makes a great personal gift, but it's also something you'll want to make for your own family, since it travels well for holidays – and will occupy bored children in the back seat of cars. Jenny's been good enough to share her idea and instructions with *Homespun* readers:

- 1 Create muslin and batting layers to make a square 'sandwich' (muslin, batting, muslin, approximately 3 x 3in). Use a straight edge and bone folder to mark two lines horizontally along with two lines running vertically.

- 2 Use the lines as guides to machine stitch your chequerboard. (Or you can simply hand stitch the lines.)
- 3 Use an inkpad and Best Life Alphabet Stamps (available from Crescendoh) to create Xs and Os several times along strips of muslin.
- 4 Layer the muslin strips with batting and more muslin, then machine stitch squares around the Xs with pink thread and circles around the Os with red thread. Cut out.
- 5 Use spray adhesive to attach an X and O to the front of a muslin container pouch. See more of what's creative from Crescendoh at [www.crescendoh.com](http://www.crescendoh.com).



## HOOKED ON THIS

This yarn is called Hooped Zpagetti and it's made from offcuts of fabric. Since the width of each strand is between 0.8cm and 1.2cm, large crochet hooks and knitting needles are a must, but the company offers bamboo designs that are comfortable to work with. Hooped Zpagetti is great for fashion accessories, like scarves and bags, and soft home furnishings, such as bowls and cushions. You can find free patterns on the website, [www.zpagetti.com.au](http://www.zpagetti.com.au). Or email [info@zpagetti.com.au](mailto:info@zpagetti.com.au).



## PILLOW TALK

Just had to share these appliqué designs with you because they're so inspiring. They're the work of Jo Westfoot, from The Crafty Nomad, and they made everyone in the *Homespun* office start oooing and ahhhhhing. Beautiful, clever ideas. Sample Jo's other wares at [www.thecraftynomad.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.thecraftynomad.blogspot.co.uk).

Quote

I'm in therapy,  
and sewing is cheaper  
than a psychiatrist.  
— Anonymous

PLASTIC  
FANTASTIC

Environmentally friendly creative concepts seem to come easily to Jerry Bleem. But then so, too, do credentials for his CV - "Artist, teacher, writer, Franciscan friar and Catholic priest". We're just concentrating on the artist side of things here, because we're so impressed with his blanket crocheted from recycled plastic bags. It's called *Remind Me Again Why We're Depleting the Earth's Resources and Burying Them in Landfills* and measures 157.5 x 212cm. You can find out more about Jerry's work at [www.jerrybleem.com](http://www.jerrybleem.com) or go to [packergallery.com/bleem4](http://packergallery.com/bleem4) to see other crocheted and woven designs.



BRAIDY BUNCH

Mindy McKnight called her site *Cute Girls Hairstyles*, and that pretty much puts paid to anything we could write here. It's about styling hair. It's for girls. It's cute. And it's full of imaginative ideas for taming teenage tresses. Here's our pick, because it's directly related to *Homespun* - a long plait that neatly incorporates knitting yarns into its weave. For all Mindy makeovers, go to [www.cutegirlshairstyles.com](http://www.cutegirlshairstyles.com).



Treasure trove

Never have granny squares been put to a more playful use. Sarah Zimmerman, from Repeat (Cr)after Me, has captured in crochet all that is Jolly Roger, Jack Tar and Blackbeard, and come up with crafting booty. Her four designs are Parrot, Pirate Boy, Pirate Ship and Skull and Crossbones, and it's hard to pick a favourite. Sarah shares her making tutorial on [www.repeatcrafterme.com](http://www.repeatcrafterme.com), or you can email her on [RepeatCrafterMe@gmail.com](mailto:RepeatCrafterMe@gmail.com). So, get crocheting, Me Hearties!

Plastic Fantastic photograph: Tom Van Eynde



## Pinned to the wrist

Here's a handy little gadget from Clover – the specialists in handy little gadgets for crafters. It's a magnetic pin holder that straps to the wrist. We think this is quite ingenious and should save stitchers time and exasperation. Go to Clover's website at [www.clover-mfg.com](http://www.clover-mfg.com) for more. You can buy these at selected haberdashery stores around the country.



## Sweet hearts

Marken, from The Hat & I, has developed a couple of lovely crocheted heart designs. One is a scarf (which is shown here) and the other a hat. We thought you'd love the look as much as we did. For further details, visit [www.thehatandi.etsy.com](http://www.thehatandi.etsy.com).



**LOVE THIS BUG** Getting the quilting bug has been taken literally by Janice Jones, Maureen Orr Eldred and Linda Tamlyn. For a Northwest Quilters' Show, in the USA, they secretly decided to cover an entire 2004 VW Beetle in patchwork. Without specifying their purpose, they put out a call to 300 kindred spirits for 12in blocks of bright colours and received more than 200 in response. So they set about covering the whole vehicle with two separate pieces Velcroed together in the centre. Footnote: Janice Jones says the fabric bug can be driven in parades, but doesn't recommend accelerating beyond parade speed! To find out more about this wonder bug, go to [www.northwestquilters.org](http://www.northwestquilters.org).



## Snippet

### Let it sing to you!

Unsure which is lengthwise and crosswise grains on your fabric? The answer is in the acoustics:

- Hold one edge of the fabric in each hand, allowing a little slack.
  - Pull the fabric taut.
  - It will make a sound.
- Listen to the pitch of that sound.
- Now repeat in the other direction.
- You'll notice a difference in the pitch.
- The HIGHER pitch is the lengthwise grain.
- The LOWER pitch is the crosswise grain.

From [www.quiltvisionusa.com](http://www.quiltvisionusa.com).  
(If you still can't tell the difference, the crosswise grain usually has a bit of stretch, while the lengthwise grain doesn't.)

## CLUTTER AVENGERS

Telisa Van Leeuwen, from SugarTot Designs, came up with a fun-packed solution to kids' room chaos. Not just storage bins, but storage bins that children can't resist using. We call that a breakthrough. She has decorated each storage cube with the logo of a different superhero. (Ikea has similar bins, called Skubb, which sell for \$29.99 for a set of three. They come in four colours.) Visit [sugartotdesigns.blogspot.com](http://sugartotdesigns.blogspot.com) for lots more inspiration and full step-by-step instructions.

