



One day, a palace footman arrived with an invitation. The King was throwing a ball that night in honor of his son, the Prince. "By royal command, every eligible maiden is to attend," the Stepmother read aloud.

"Why, that means I can go, too!" Cinderella exclaimed. The Stepmother halfheartedly agreed—but only *if* Cinderella finished her chores in time.

At first, Cinderella was sure she could get everything done. But her stepmother and stepsisters gave Cinderella many extra tasks. They kept her so busy that she didn't have time to prepare her outfit for the ball. Cinderella was very disappointed.



What Cinderella didn't know was that her animal friends—Jaq, Gus, and the others—had spent the entire day turning a simple dress into a pretty ball gown for their friend. For the final touches, they added a sash and a necklace that Cinderella's stepsisters had tossed aside.

"Surprise! Surprise! Surprise!" they sang, as they presented the gown to Cinderella.

"Oh, thank you *so* much!" she cried. Then she put on the gown and ran downstairs.



Cinderella's Mouse Pals

Cinderella loves her friends—Jaq, Gus, and the other house mice and birds. Here's a simple, fun way to make your very own mouse pals.



To make one mouse, with a grown-up's help:



1. Cut the bottom 6 inches (15 cm) off one leg of the nylon stocking. Stuff the cotton balls into the toe of the stocking.



2. Tie a double knot in the end of the pink yarn. Poke the knot far down into the cotton balls.



3. Wrap the small rubber band around the stocking just above the knot in the yarn, tying the rubber band several times for a tight seal.

What You Need

- Scissors
- Clean, no-longer-needed nylon stockings
- Eight extra-large cotton balls
- 6-inch (15-cm)-long piece of pink yarn
- Small rubber band
- White glue
- Two brown pom-poms
- Two wiggly eyes
- Bristles from a no-longer-needed paintbrush



4. Turn the loose part of the stocking inside-out around the stuffed part. Pull it tight. You now have a stuffed ball with a pink tail on one side and some loose nylon on the other side.



5. Tie a very tight double knot in the loose nylon next to the stuffed ball. Cut off any loose leftover material. Your mouse now has a nose.



6. Glue pom-pom ears, wiggly eyes, and bristle whiskers onto your new friend.

Royal Idea

Make lots of different mice out of tan, black, and white stockings or tights. Then share them with your friends!

