

BEST PET AWARD

sewing tutorial



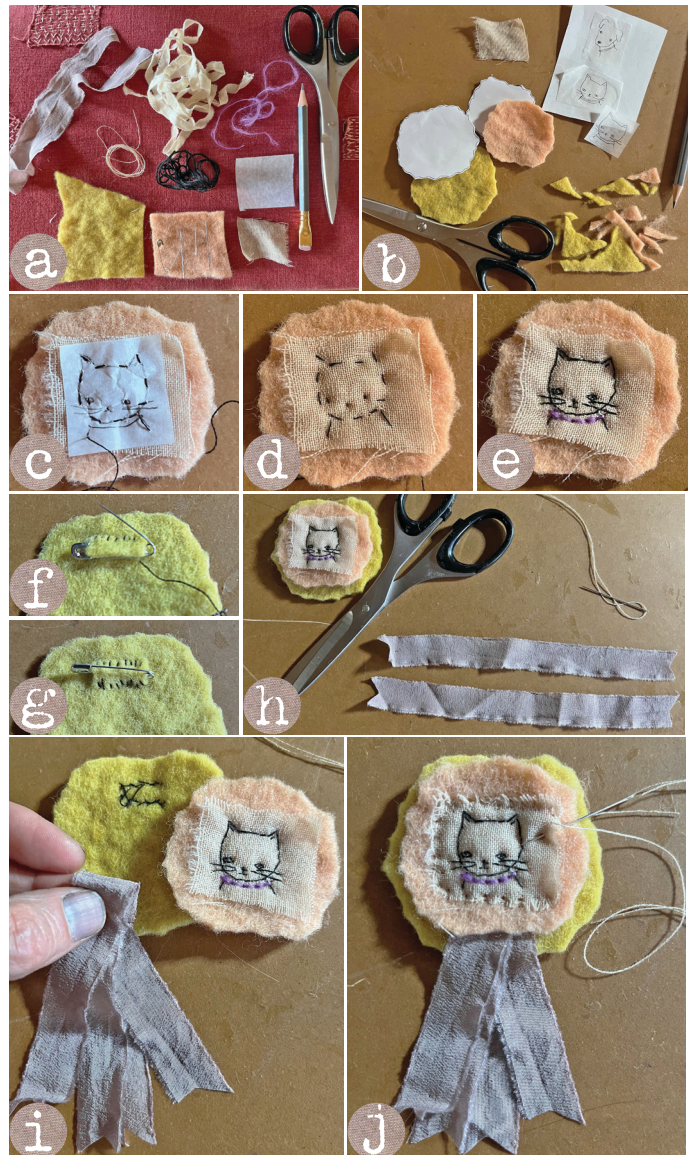
kata golda handmade

Our pets are loyal companions and trusted sidekicks. April 11 is National Pet Day, so I made these Best Pet Awards in honor of my best pets, Myra and Hunker. You can make an award for your bird, lizard, hamster, rabbit, fish...

MATERIALS & TOOLS:

- 1.5 x 1.5" thin fabric in a neutral color
- 2 x 2" piece of wool felt for the award front
- 2.5 x 2.5" piece of wool felt for the award back
- black embroidery floss
- light neutral color thread
- colorful thin yarn or cotton embroidery floss
- 12 x 1/2" ribbon
- small (1") safety pin or collarless pin
- scissors
- hand sewing needle(s) and 1 straight pin
- tracing paper & pencil

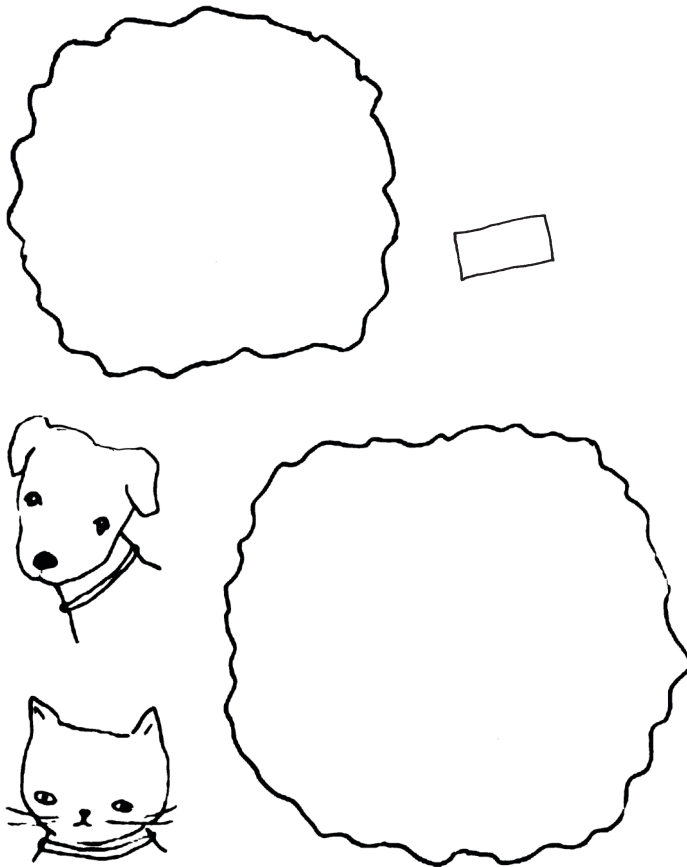
1. Gather materials (**photo a**) and refer to the "Notes & Guide to Basic Stitches" on page 2.
2. Trace the cat or dog face from page 2 on to tracing paper. (**photo b**) If you choose to draw your own pet, I recommend drawing it on paper and then tracing so you can refer back to the original in step 5.
3. Cut out the wobbly award circles and use the paper templates to cut out your 2 felt pieces. (**photo b**) Cut out the small rectangle in the same color as the larger wobbly circle.
4. Stack the smaller felt circle, the thin square of fabric and the traced animal. Using 1 ply black embroidery floss stitch some key anchor stitches of your animal through the 3 layers. (**photo c**) Once you have some indicator stitches in place (a few perimeter stitches plus the placement for eyes and nose in relation to the rest of the face) gently rip away the tracing paper. (**photo d**)
5. Using the original drawing as your guide, finish stitching your animal. Add a colorful collar with the yarn. (**photo e**)
6. On the bigger piece of felt, centered side to side and near the top, attach the safety pin. Using 1 ply of embroidery floss whip stitch one of the long edges of the small rectangle. Place the side of the pin with the clasp under the flap (**photo f**) and whip stitch the bottom long edge. (**photo g**)
7. Fold the 12" ribbon in half and cut a "v" shape at each side, creating 2 small ribbons that have a "v" shape cut out on each side. (**photo h**)
8. Fold the ribbons in half and splay out the 4 loose ends. (**photo i**) Tuck the folded side of the ribbons, centered side to side and near the bottom, behind the small piece of felt with the stitched animal facing out. Place the bigger felt piece centered behind with the safety pin facing out and near the top. Pin together with a straight pin to hold all the layers in place.
9. Using the thin neutral colored thread, whip stitch the perimeter of the neutral color of fabric through all of the layers (you will be catching the ribbon in your stitch). (**photo j**) Be mindful to avoid stitching the safety pin in your perimeter stitch. If needed, trim the felt as you work.
10. When you have stitched the entire perimeter, secure with a knot and pull your threaded needle through the layers of the felt and out again. Trim off the end, it will sink in between the layers and disappear. Your pet award is complete!



NOTES & BASIC STITCHES

- Embroidery floss has 6 plies (threads) and the plies are easily separated. Most embroidery patterns use 1 to 3 plies. Long strands can get easily tangled, cutting them to 18-inch strands helps prevent this. It also helps to very gently separate the pieces from the center of the strand instead of starting at one end.
- If your thread becomes too short while you are sewing, attach a new piece of thread to the end with a knot. Tie it close to the felt and hide the knot.
- Keep stitches even and hide knots.
- Felt is very flexible to work with; it can be pulled and stretched as needed, and because it doesn't fray you can trim as you work if your pieces are not lining up.

TEMPLATES



ABOUT KATA GOLDA:

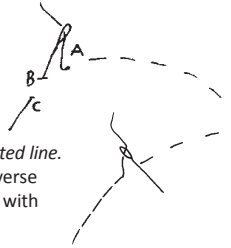
My studio, the home of Kata Golda, is nestled snugly in the small, mossy seaside town of Port Townsend, WA. I work with organic, sustainable, and plant-dyed fabrics. Much of the inspiration for my designs comes from the subtle details in the woods, farmlands, and beaches near my home, where nothing is straight and nothing is perfect. I create slowly and with intention, with a commitment to reusing supplies as much as possible and using up every little scrap of fabric. Find more at www.katagolda.com



the running & double running stitch

Note that keeping stitches even is an aesthetic decision. Stitch size, distance between stitches, and uniformity of stitches is something to pay attention to, but it is a choice.

- Start with the threaded needle on the back side of your fabric and bring it up through the fabric (A) and back down into the front side (B). Pull it all the way through, then bring the threaded needle back up through the fabric from the back side (C).



A DOUBLE RUNNING STITCH is used to make a solid, connected line.

- Start with a running stitch. When you reach the end, reverse your direction and fill in the space between the stitches with another running stitch so you have a solid line.

the back stitch

The back stitch is often preferred to a running stitch when sewing through multiple layers or thick fabric. You can use this technique to create a running stitch or a continuous line, like the double running stitch. It is perfect for outlining or filling in space. Note that keeping stitches even is an aesthetic decision. Stitch size, distance between stitches, and uniformity of stitches is something to pay attention to, but it is a choice.

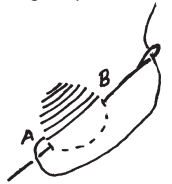
- Pull the thread up through your fabric (A) and back down (B). This is your first stitch.
- Pull your thread up through your fabric one stitch length away (C) and pull it back down through your second stitch (B), creating a stitch by taking the thread backward. Repeat.



the satin stitch

This stitch is used to fill in a space. If you like, you can begin by stitching the perimeter of the space you plan to fill.

- Start with the threaded needle on the back side of your fabric and bring it up through the fabric (A) and back down into the front side (B).
- Place the stitches close together so that they create a solid shape.

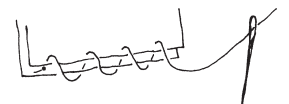


the whip stitch

This stitch is used to connect two pieces of fabric along the outer edge, or to connect two overlapping pieces. Note that keeping stitches even is an aesthetic decision. Stitch size, distance between stitches, and uniformity of stitches is something to pay attention to, but it is a choice.

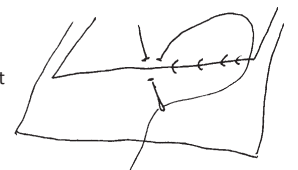
TO CONNECT TWO PIECES ALONG THE OUTER EDGE:

Thread your needle and tie a knot at the tail. Start your first stitch between the two layers of fabric to hide the knot. Wrap your thread around the two lined up edges and push your needle up through the two layers of fabric. Repeat.



CONNECTING TWO OVERLAPPING PIECES:

Thread your needle and tie a knot at the tail. Starting at the back side, poke your needle up through both layers of fabric, 1/8" in from the edge and then push your needle through the single layer of fabric, directly across from your first stitch and close to the overlapping edge. Continue your next stitch up through both layers, and then straight down through the single layer again. Make sure you are not pulling the stitches so tight that you cause the fabric to bunch.



the french knot

- Work with 2 or 3 plies of thread that you have doubled and tied at the base (4 or 6 plies total).
- Bring your needle up through the fabric where you want to place the knot.
- Wrap the thread around the needle very close to the fabric. Wrap once for a small knot, twice for a larger knot.
- Push the needle back through your fabric, close to the place where the needle came out, keeping the wrap snug. Slowly pull the needle and working thread down through the wraps to complete the French knot. Hold the working thread taut as you pull the needle and thread through; this tension helps create nice, even French knots.

