

# bird hair clip

## sewing tutorial



I am noticing that the sun is rising a little earlier and I am beginning to hear the songs of the birds. A bird hairclip...a nice little reminder that spring is on the way.

### MATERIALS : (photo a)

- (2) 2.5 x 2" pieces of wool felt (I used deep yellow for the back and light peach for the front)
- cotton embroidery floss (I used black)
- snap clip (mine measures 2 x .25")
- hot melt glue

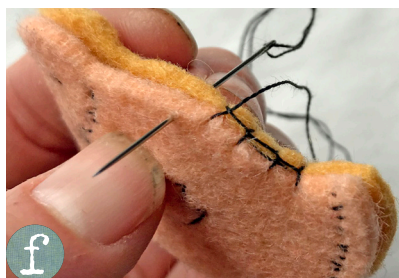
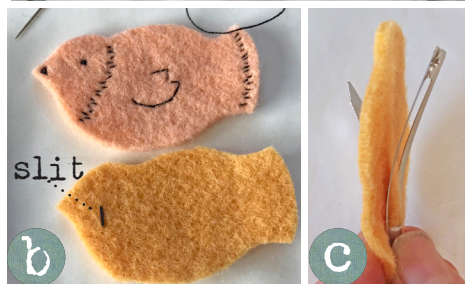
### SUPPLIES :

- sharp scissors
- sewing needle
- hot melt glue gun

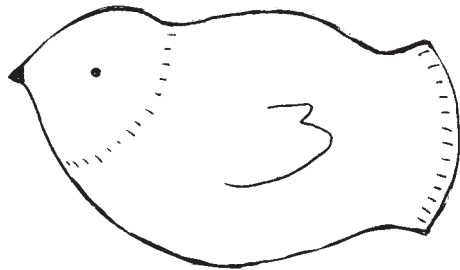
1. Print and cut out the template on page 2. Refer to page 2 for notes and a guide to basic stitches.
2. Pin the paper template to your felt and cut out the one bird piece. Then use the first cut out bird as the template to cut out the other side of your bird. This ensures that the front and back match up.
3. Using a single ply of embroidery floss, stitch the details on the top bird piece, referring to the template for placement. \* **(photo b)** Use the running stitch for the neck and tail details, the satin stitch for the eye and beak, and the double running stitch for the wing.

*\*note that the direction I have oriented my clip results in a finished clip that faces the right direction when on the LEFT side of your head. If you prefer a clip on the right side, you can switch the direction of your bird (by stitching the details on the other side, with the beak facing to the right) OR put the slit (step 4) on the tail side.*

4. Make sure the front and back side of the bird are facing the same direction and cut a small slit in the back piece of the felt with the tip of your scissors. Refer to the picture for the placement of the slit. **(photo b)** Your slit might need to be placed in a slightly different place if your clip is a different size than mine (or see the note above if you want your clip to face the other way). For a snug fit, it is important to make the slit TOO SMALL as it will stretch when you insert the clip.
5. Insert your clip through the slit. **(photo c)** Using a hot melt glue gun, draw a thin line of glue on the TOP of the hair clip, not the side that goes against your hair, **(photo d)** and quickly (before the glue hardens) place the stitched bird centered on top of the clip, aligned with the back side. **(photo e)**
6. Using a single ply of embroidery floss, blanket stitch the perimeter of your bird clip. **(photo f)** Secure with a knot once you have completed the perimeter. To hide your knot, pull the needle between the two layers of felt. Trim the strand as close to the felt as you can, it will sink between the layers and disappear.
7. Your clip is complete! **(photos g & h)**



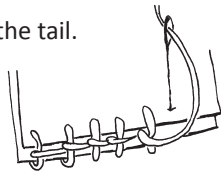
## TEMPLATE:



### BLANKET STITCH

Note: these instructions are much easier to follow with your actual needle and thread in hand. The stitch is simple; the instructions sound complicated.

- Thread your needle and tie a knot at the tail.
- Starting between the sandwiched pieces, poke the needle through your top layer of felt about 1/8" from the edge. The knot will be between the two layers of felt where it will not be seen.
- Bring the thread around the edge of the two stacked pieces of the felt and poke it through the same spot as the first stitch.
- Pull your needle through the stitch you just made at the top edge. This anchors your thread but is not a true stitch.
- TO CONNECT TWO PIECES ALONG THE OUTER EDGES: Start a new stitch through the back side, 1/8" from your first stitch, and 1/8" in from the edge of the felt. Before you pull the stitch all the way, catch the loop through the top with your needle and pull tight. The thread should create a straight line that lies along the edges of your two pieces of felt. Continue your evenly spaced stitching (1/8" over, 1/8" in), pulling each stitch through from the back side and catching the loop as you go.
- TO CONNECT TWO LAYERS ALONG A SINGLE EDGE: push your needle from the top down through both layers. Dip through the back side making a small stitch and bring your needle up through the single layer, just outside where your first stitch went in. Before you pull the stitch all the way, catch the loop through the top with your needle and pull tight. The thread should create a straight line that lies along the edge of your top piece of felt. Continue your evenly spaced stitching (1/8" over, 1/8" in), pulling each stitch through from the back side and catching the loop as you go.
- To finish, connect your last stitch to your first stitch by sliding your needle underneath your first stitch and knotting it at the back. Push your needle between the layers and out through the front about 1 inch from the edge. The thread will be pulled inside, hiding the knot from view. Then cut off the excess thread very close to the top layer of the felt.



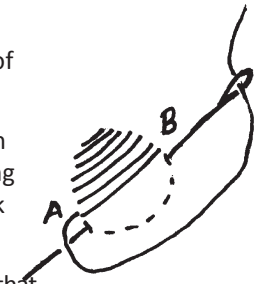
## NOTES:

- 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.

### SATIN STITCH

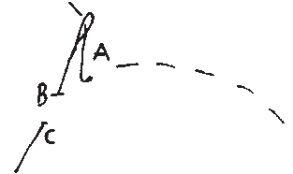
This stitch is used to fill in a space.

- Begin by stitching the perimeter of the space you plan to fill.
- Start with the threaded needle on the back side of your felt and bring it up through the felt (A) and back down into the front side (B).
- Place the stitches close together so that they create a solid shape.



### RUNNING & DOUBLE RUNNING STITCH

- Start with the threaded needle on the back side of your felt and bring it up through the felt (A) and back down into the front side (B).
- Pull it the whole way through, then bring the threaded needle back up through the felt from the back side (C).
- Try to keep the size of the stitches and the space between them consistent.
- A double running stitch is used to make a solid 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.



#### ABOUT KATA GOLDA:

Alison Kaplan is the creative force behind Kata Golda, a craft studio in the mossy seaside town of Port Townsend, WA.

Kata Golda is a flourishing business that explores crafts such as needlework, letterpress printing, bookbinding, block printing, hand-thrown pottery, hand-dyed textiles, and jewelry making. Alison finds inspiration in the woods, farmlands, and beaches of her Pacific Northwest wonderland.

See her work at [www.katagolda.com](http://www.katagolda.com).

