

# butterflies

## sewing tutorial



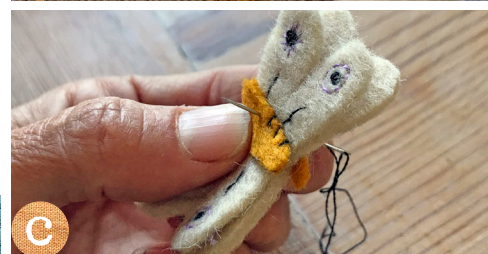
The colorful variations of these butterflies simply say to me that “summer is on its way.” Decorate for the season and open your eyes to see springtime unfolding outside. There are four butterfly body and wing templates that are just slightly different from one another. I like to make multiples of the same thing with slight variations. You can also reduce and enlarge the templates to make different sizes. I made mine with one side decorated and one side plain. You could leave both sides plain or decorate both sides...either way, they can hang away from a wall, on a mobile, or in a window.

### MATERIALS & TOOLS:

- sharp scissors
- various colors of wool felt
- straight pins
- cotton embroidery floss
- sewing pin

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Refer to ‘Notes and Stitches’ on page 2.
2. Print templates on page 2 and cut out the paper pieces. You can play with the size by reducing or enlarging the templates when you print them. Gather your materials and tools. **(photo a)**
3. Pin the templates to your felt and cut out the butterfly wing pattern pieces (the center piece is too small to pin). Cut TWO butterfly wing and body pieces in each size. I use the template to cut one side and then I use the cut piece of felt for the second side, that way they are perfectly matched and they are stacked on top of each other as they should be attached. **(photo b)**
4. Remove the top set of wings from the stack and decorate. I used a single ply of black embroidery floss and a single ply of a contrasting color to decorate. You could decorate both sides, or leave both sides plain.
5. Put the top set of wings back in the stack. With a single ply of black embroidery floss, whip stitch the center body pieces together. Start on one side of the body, where you will be catching all four layers, and continue around the perimeter of the body. **(photo c)** When you reach your starting point, pull your thread between the two wings. Secure with a knot and trim the thread.
6. Consider how long of a string you want your butterfly to hang from. Cut a single ply of black of thread and tie a few knots at one end. Pull the thread through the center of the body piece starting at the bottom of the butterfly and coming out the center of the top. **(photo d)** I like the thread pieces for hanging to be a variety of lengths so the butterflies all hang at different levels.



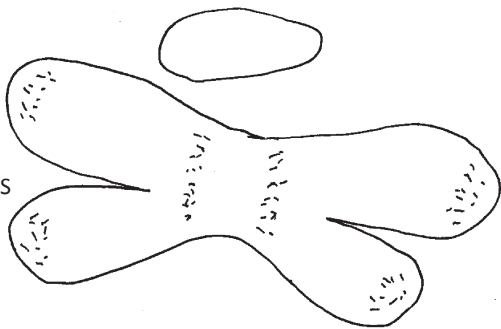
## NOTES:

- 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.

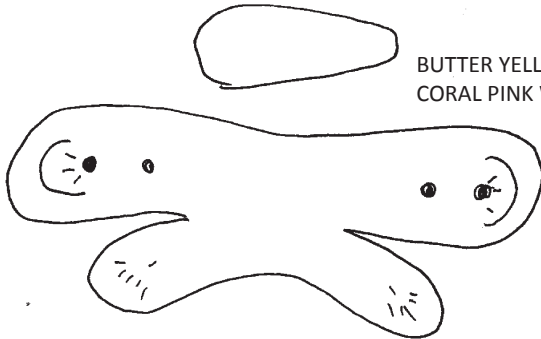
## TEMPLATES:

Cut out TWO sets for each butterfly. You can reduce or enlarge the size when printing to have butterflies of various sizes.

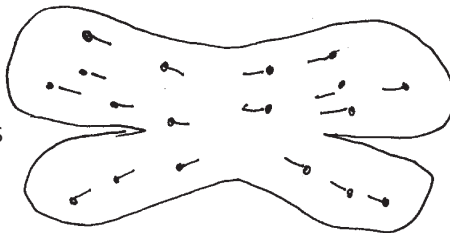
CINNAMON BODY  
LIGHT BLUE WINGS



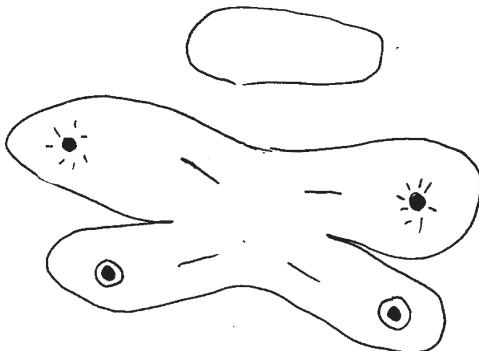
BUTTER YELLOW BODY  
CORAL PINK WINGS



CRANBERRY BODY  
SOFT YELLOW WINGS



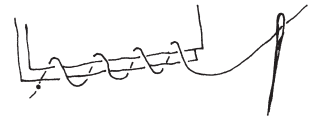
OCHRE BODY  
OFF WHITE WINGS



## BASIC STITCHES:

### WHIP STITCH:

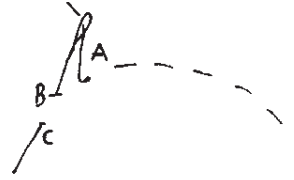
In this project, the whip stitch is being used to attach the body pieces, with the loops coming around the outside of the body through the wings to connect the edges.



- Thread your needle and tie a knot at the tail.
- Starting at the back side, poke your needle up through the single layer of felt, just above the piece you are attaching.
- Come down directly below your first stitch, straight through both layers of felt
- Continue your next stitch up through the single back layer, and then straight down through both layers again with evenly spaced stitches.
- Make sure you are not pulling the stitches so tight that you cause the felt to bunch.

### RUNNING & DOUBLE RUNNING STITCH

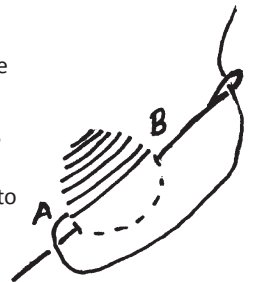
- Start with the threaded needle on the back side of your felt and bring it up through the felt (A) and back down into the front side (B).
- Pull it the whole way through, then bring the threaded needle back up through the felt from the back side (C).
- Try to keep the size of the stitches and the space 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.



### 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.



### 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).

