

CRESCENT MOON & STARS

sewing tutorial



kata
golda
handmade

I am so often mesmerized by the moon. I adore her in all of her phases, but the crescent moon may be my favorite. I gave this crescent moon a little star companion, always spinning by her side. You can make a whole constellation of stars to surround your moon with the templates provided. The stars are intentionally imperfect to give them more character.

MATERIALS & TOOLS:

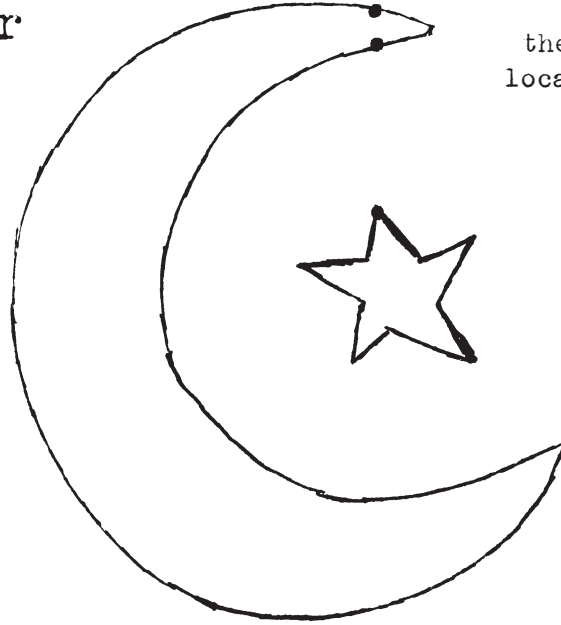
- wool felt: I used soft grey for the moon, ochre for the dangling star, and pale blue for the constellation. The piece of felt that is sandwiched inside can be any color, I used off-white.
- sewing thread: I used a strong thread in a neutral color, you aren't looking for contrast here. A single ply of cotton embroidery thread would work well.
- a string to hang your moon and star: thin yarn for a crocheted string, thick yarn, thin ribbon or cotton embroidery floss. I used thin mohair/silk yarn.
- hand sewing needle
- scissors
- tape measure
- crochet hook (optional)

1. Refer to the "Notes & Guide to Basic Stitches" on page 3.
2. Cut out the paper templates on page 2. Cut out one felt crescent moon and one tiny felt star using the paper templates as your guide. Use the first felt cut-outs as the templates to cut out TWO more moons and stars. The moon and star are each made out of three pieces of felt, the center felt piece is the "stuffing."
3. Stack the three layers of the star and three layers of the moon.
4. Prepare the string that you plan to use to hang the moon and star. I crocheted a 24" string with thin mohair/silk yarn. Alternatively, you could use a single strand of thicker yarn, braided yarn, embroidery floss, or a thin ribbon.
5. Determine which point of the star will be the top and sandwich one end of your string between the layers. Knot the end of your sewing thread. Starting between two of the star layers (to hide the tail), use the blanket stitch or the whip stitch to sew the three layers of felt together around the perimeter. Catch the string in your stitching and make a few extra stitches to secure the string at the top point. You may need to trim the center piece of felt as you work if it sticks out. When you have finished, secure the last stitch and pull thread through the center of the star and trim off the end. It will sink between the layers and disappear.
6. Determine the location of your dangling star before you stitch the crescent moon. Sandwich the string 1/2" in from the moon point, leaving about 1/2" of the star string dangling down in the center.
7. Knot the end of your sewing thread. Starting at the top between two of the moon layers (to hide the tail), use the blanket stitch or the whip stitch to sew the three layers of felt together. Catch the top string (reinforcing with a few extra stitches) as you work towards the moon "point," and then catch the lower string as you work your way around the perimeter. When you have finished, secure the last stitch and pull thread through the center of the moon and trim off the end. It will sink between the layers and disappear.
8. If you would like to surround your crescent moon and star with a little constellation, repeat step 2-5 using the star templates on page 2. These are imperfect on purpose, I think an irregular shape makes for a more interesting star.



TEMPLATES

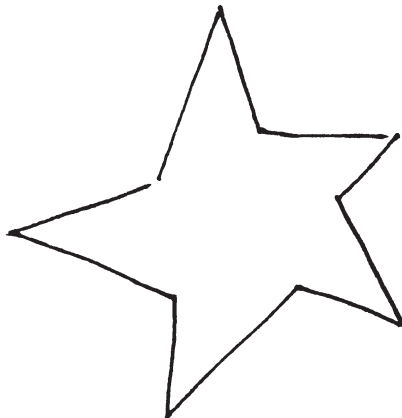
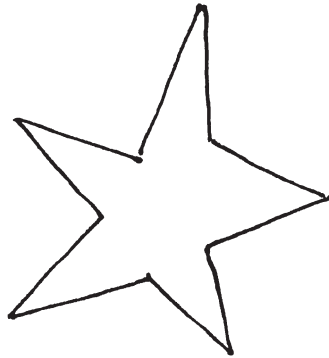
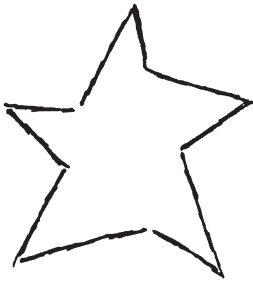
crescent moon & star



the dot is the
location for the
string

EXTRA STARS

for a whole
constellation



you can reduce
or enlarge these
stars on your
printer for more
variety in size.

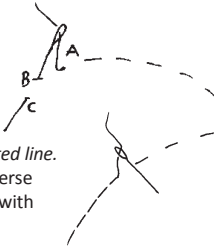
NOTES & BASIC STITCHES

- 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.

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.

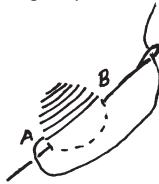
- Pull the thread up through your fabric (A) and back down (B). This is your first stitch.
- Pull your thread up through your fabric one stitch length away (C) and pull it back down through your second stitch (B), creating a stitch by taking the thread backward. Repeat.



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.



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



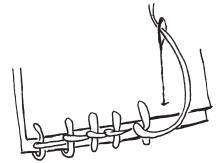
the blanket stitch

This stitch is used to connect two pieces of fabric along the outer edge or two layers along one edge. These instructions are much easier to follow with your needle and thread in hand. The stitch is simple; the instructions sound complicated. 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.

- Thread your needle and tie a knot at the tail.
- Starting between the sandwiched pieces, poke the needle through your top layer of fabric about 1/8" from the edge. The knot will be between the two layers of fabric where it will not be seen.
- Bring the thread around the edge of the two stacked pieces of the fabric 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.

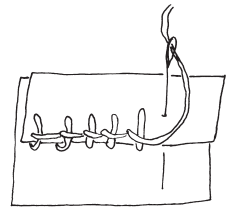
TO CONNECT TWO PIECES ALONG THE OUTER EDGES:

Start a new stitch through the back side, 1/8" from your first stitch, and 1/8" in from the edge of the fabric. 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 fabric. 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 fabric. 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.



*unless you are intentionally choosing to make unevenly spaced stitches.

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.

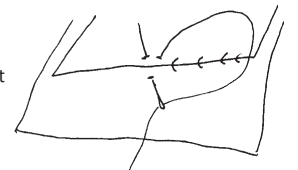
TO CONNECT TWO PIECES ALONG THE OUTER EDGE:

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.

