

CUP COZY

sewing tutorial



kata
golda
handmade

This time of year, I am ready for warmer temperatures. Even though the days are getting longer, there is still a significant chill in the air at every moment of the day and night. Cozying up with a cup of something warm is still a part of everyday... but my thoughts are ready for hummingbirds and flowers, hence the spring inspired stitches.

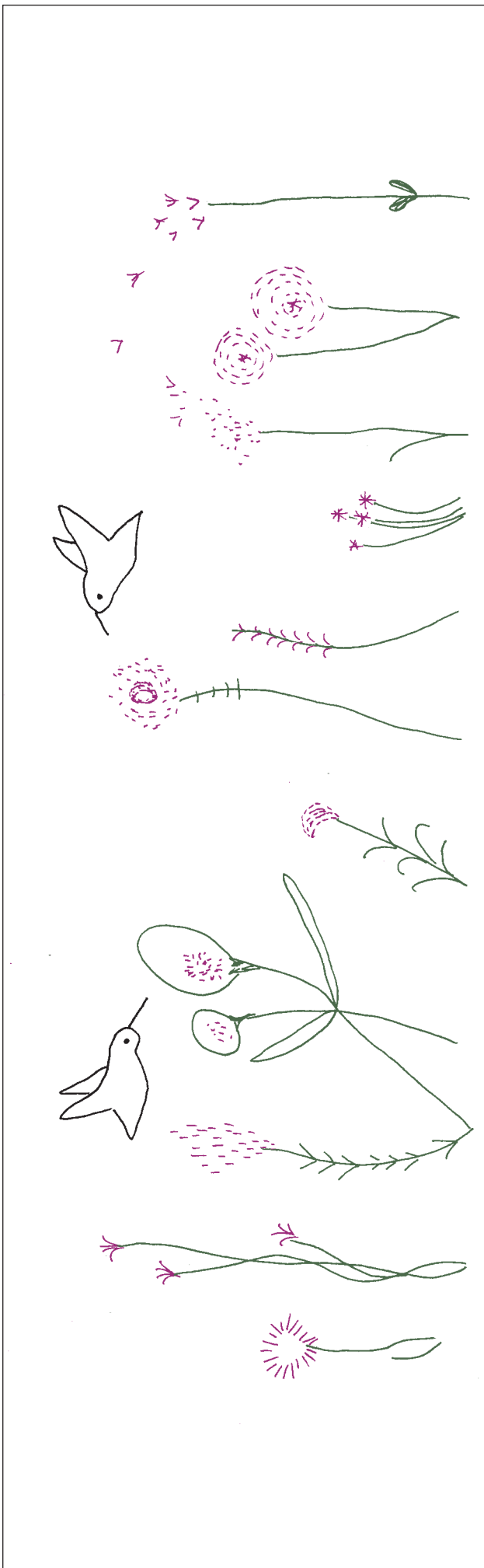
This cozy fits a widemouth pint sized mason jar. You can use one large piece of felt or pull out your scrap bin and piece together a patchwork cozy.

MATERIALS & TOOLS:

- Wool felt
- Embroidery floss
- Sewing needle
- Straight pins
- Scissors

1. Refer to "Notes & Stitches" on page 3.
2. Cut one 10 ½ x 3 ¼" rectangle out of wool felt, or piece together different shapes to make a patchwork rectangle. Cut out the circle template on page 3 (or measure your own circle with a 3.25" diameter). Use your template to cut out one circle, and then use the felt circle to cut a second felt circle. **(photo a)** You will stack them together for the base of your cozy, the two layers act as a coaster to make the base sturdier and more absorbent.
3. Decorate the rectangular strip. **(photo b)** Note that the short edges of the strip will overlap about ½" when they wrap the cup, so be mindful of the hidden space with your design. I used a mix of 1 and 2 ply of thread to decorate. For three of my examples, I used a single piece of felt with a more detailed embroidered design. For two of the examples, I pieced scraps of felt together and kept my stitching simple and in a bright contrasting color. **See more images of the decorated strips on page 2.**
4. Stack the 2 circle pieces. Starting at one of the bottom corners of the strip (making sure it is the "bottom" of your design) with the right side facing out, connect the perimeter of the circular base to the long edge with the blanket stitch, using 2 ply of embroidery floss. **(photo c)** You will be stitching through three layers of felt. Travel all the way around the stacked circle pieces and then continue to blanket stitch the overlap along the bottom of the circle. Check as you work to make sure that the jar is going to fit in the cozy snugly. Wool felt can be stretched a bit if the cozy seems a little too tight.
5. Put the jar inside the cozy and pin the overlapping edge. Use the blanket stitch and 2 ply of embroidery floss to secure the overlapping edge. **(photo d)** Check as you go to make sure the jar will fit snugly in your cozy.
6. Once you are sure the cup will fit, stitch the top perimeter of the cozy with the blanket stitch and 2 ply of embroidery floss. This gives your cozy a finished look and helps it to keep its shape. **(photo e)**
7. Your cozy is complete! **(photos f & g - additional photos on page 3)** You can hand wash your cozy if it gets dirty. Air dry it on the jar so it will retain its shape.





For the trio of floral stitchings in this project, I started with a strip of felt and my basket of thread scraps and made random marks in a variety of colors (top photo, **magenta** in the template to the left). I liked the space and simplicity but also thought these marks could be flowers, so I used a single ply of sage green embroidery floss to make leaves and stems and flowers (middle photo, **green** on template). Lastly the top of the cozy had room for some nectar seeking hummingbirds. Using a single ply black embroidery floss I stitched them in (bottom photo, **black** on template). I think each strip works as a finished piece but I also enjoyed the prompt that each one provided to make the next one. Leaving space unplanned for inspiration is one of my greatest joys. You can use this template to stitch a spring scene or take inspiration from my wanderings for your own unplanned stitching.



For the patchwork cozy, I overlapped random shapes from my scrap bin into the general rectangle shape and used the running stitch (you could use the whip stitch or the blanket stitch here as well) to connect the pieces. I was mindful not to stitch too close to the edges since I still needed to trim the stitched piece down to the proper dimensions. I stitched the patchwork together first and trimmed the rectangle second since the shape changes once the pieces are stitched. I chose a bright contrasting color for the stitchwork.

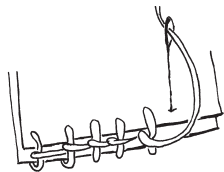
NOTES & BASIC STITCHES

- 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.

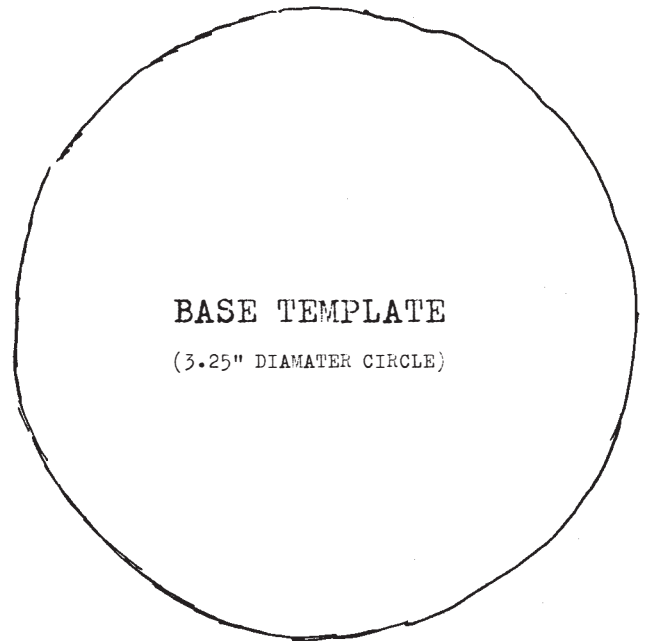
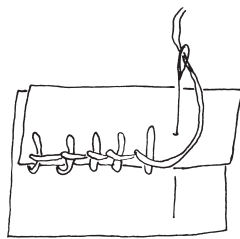
BLANKET STITCH

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.



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

