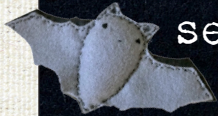


eerie little ghost sewing tutorial



with
kata golda
handmade



MATERIALS:

I like to use wool felt for this project because it has a bit of stretch and the edges do not fray.

- [1] 5 x 5" piece of white wool felt for the front*
- [1] 5.5 x 5.5" piece of off-white wool felt for the back*
- sharp scissors
- black & white cotton embroidery floss
- sewing needle
- straight pins
- stuffing

*These measurements are for the ghost pictured, but you can increase or decrease the percentage when photocopying the templates to have a family of ghosts of different sizes. I recommend that the front and back are slightly different colors.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Refer to the Notes and Guide to Basic Stitches on the page 2.
2. Print templates on page 3 and cut out the pieces. (photo a)
If you want to make ghosts of all different sizes, print the templates at different percentages.
3. Pin the templates to your felt and cut out the pattern pieces. I used white felt for the front piece (the smaller template) and off-white felt for the the back piece (the larger template).
4. Refer to the template for the placement of the facial features. On the front side of the top/white piece, stitch 2 ovals for the eyes and a larger oval for the mouth using 2-ply black embroidery floss. Fill in the ovals with the satin stitch.
5. Align the top and bottom pieces (photo b) and pin into place. The ghost is not symmetrical, but the top edge of the "head" and "arms" should line up exactly. Trim if they do not.
6. Using 2-ply white embroidery floss, use the blanket stitch to connect the front and back pieces. Start at one of the edges where the pieces line up and work toward the head, following the edge of the front piece. Leave a 1.5" opening.
7. Lightly stuff the ghost body and then continue the blanket stitch to close. Secure with a knot. To hide your knot, pull the needle through the stuffing. Trim the strand as close to the felt as you can, it will sink into the stuffing and disappear.



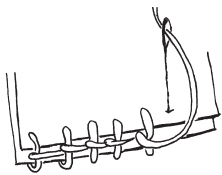
make a few spooky bats to fly with your ghosts!

GUIDE TO BASIC STITCHES:

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.

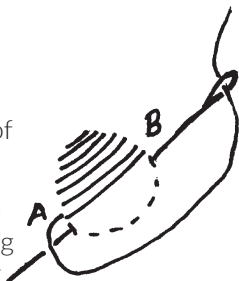
- Thread your needle and tie a knot at the tail.
- Starting between the sandwiched pieces, poke the needle through your top layer of felt about 1/8" from the edge. The knot will be between the two layers of felt where it will not be seen.
- Bring the thread around the edge of the two stacked pieces of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



SATIN STITCH

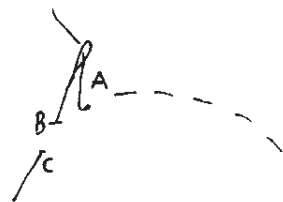
This stitch is used to fill in a space.

- 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, 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.



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 as close to the felt as possible and try to 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.

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.



TEMPLATES:

Print at 100% to make the ghost pictured in the tutorial. Print at smaller or larger percentages to make a ghost family of various sizes.

