

finger puppet sewing tutorial



with
kata golda
handmade

MATERIALS:

Be creative here! Don't have the felt I am recommending? Try cutting up that old sweater that you accidentally felted in the dryer. Out of embroidery floss? Use regular thread. You can also reach out to me to purchase a kit for this project or buy craft supplies from many sellers on Etsy.

- wool felt [off-white, terracotta, tan, brown, red]
- cotton embroidery floss [off-white, brown, tan]
- sharp scissors
- sewing needle

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Print template on page 3 and cut out the pieces. Place the pieces on the felt and cut out the felt shapes. (A)
2. Using the running stitch, double running stitch, and satin stitch sew all of the details (face, paws, ears) with a single strand of the brown embroidery floss. Refer to template and photos for placement and details. (B)
3. Attach the red collar strip with 5 little x's under the dog face (refer to template for placement).
4. Using the blanket stitch and 2 ply tan embroidery floss (with stitched details facing out), match up the back side of the dog finger puppet and stitch the edges together. (C) The back side will not match up in the tail area. Catch the back side felt with the blanket stitch in the location that does match up, that will leave the tail area extending beyond the edge of the front side on the right side. (D) Do not stitch across the bottom, this is where you will insert your finger.
5. Secure the last stitch by making 2 stitches in the same location. Tie a knot and pull your thread into the body of the finger puppet and trim.
6. Repeat steps 4 & 5 for the cat.

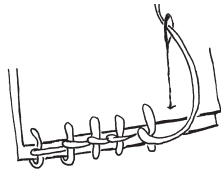


NOTES & GUIDE TO BASIC STITCHES:

- Embroidery floss (thread) is 6-ply and the plies are easily separated. Most patterns use 1-3 plies. Long strands can get easily tangled; cutting them to 18" helps prevent this. It helps to separate the pieces from the center of the strand (instead of at the end) and pull apart very gently.
- 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.

BLANKET STITCH

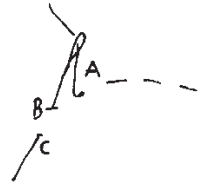
Note: these instructions are much easier to follow with your actual needle and thread in hand. The stitch is simple, the instructions sound complicated.



- 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.
- 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 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.

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.

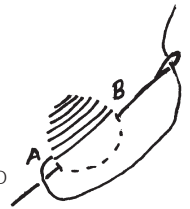


DOUBLE RUNNING STITCH:

- 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.
- 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.



TEMPLATES:

Cut out one of each piece. The colors are only for reference, make your puppets any colors you choose! Refer to drawings for the placement of facial features, paws and ear marks.

