

FLORAL PINS

sewing
tutorial



kata golda handmade

This time of year, I think about flowers. As I start my seeds, I am just amazed that the tiniest of seeds will turn into such visual delights. I am looking forward to wandering through the woods to see some wild magic as the temperatures warm and the light of day grows longer.

MATERIALS & TOOLS:

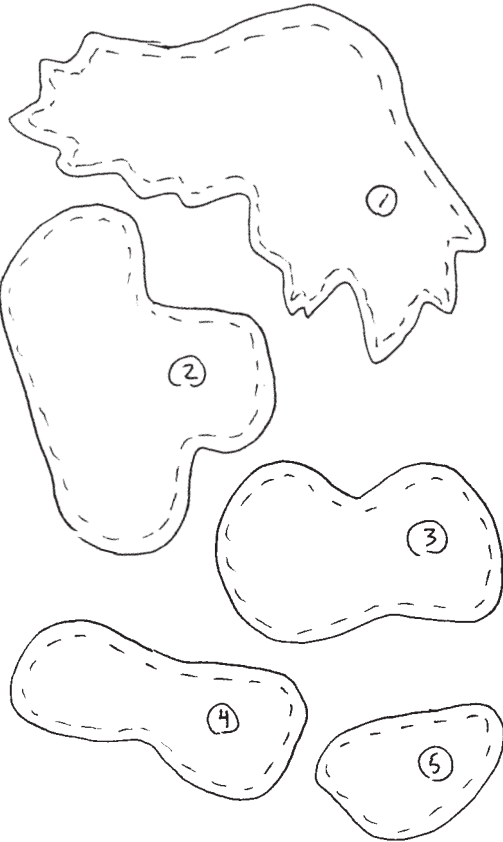
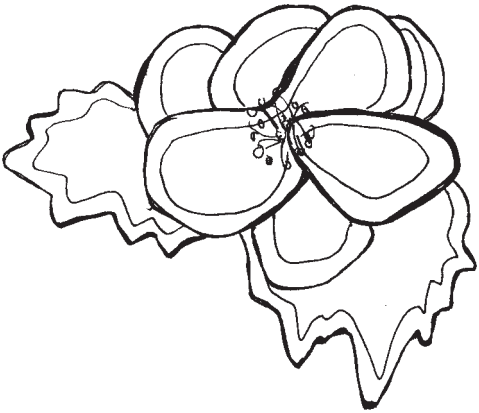
- wool felt: I used green, three shades of pink (pansy), white (creeping dogwood), red and coral (anemone). You can get creative here!
- embroidery floss: I used pink and green (pansy), green and brown (creeping dogwood), and black (anemone)
- sharp scissors
- hand sewing needle
- collarless French pin or safety pin

1. Refer to "Notes & Tips" and the stitch guide on page 3.
2. Choose your felt colors and your thread colors. The use of color in both the felt and the thread will make each flower have a very different look. For the dogwood and anemone, I chose high contrast thread colors, and for the pansy I used a more subtle tone.
3. Cut out the paper templates from page 2 and use them to cut out the felt pieces. Because the pattern pieces are small, I prefer to hand hold as I cut as opposed to pinning the template to the felt.
4. Use the paper template pieces as a guide for the stitch marks on each individual piece of felt. Use 1 ply of embroidery floss and the running stitch (creating a dotted line) or a double running stitch (creating a solid line) around the perimeter of each individual piece. Note that the leaves of the creeping dogwood have additional lines of stitching to form the leaf pattern. **(photo a)**
5. Refer to the number on each template piece for the order to stack the pieces (the base is piece 1). Use the drawing of the assembled flowers on page 2 as your guide for the orientation of the stacked pieces in relationship to each other. **(photos b, c & d)**
6. Connect the layers with decorative stitching. You will stitch through all the layers in this step, using a single ply of embroidery floss for the stitches and 4 plies* of embroidery floss for French knots. For the creeping dogwood, I made two parallel rows of French knots in the center. **(photo e)** For the pansy I used the whip stitch around the green circular felt piece and clustered French knots in the center. **(photo f)** For the anemone, I made a cluster of stitches in the center of the flower surrounded by French knots. **(photo g)** Tie off all threads on the back side. ***note: I recommended using 2 plies of embroidery floss knotted at the base to create 4 plies for French knots.**
7. If you have a collarless French safety pin, work your safety pin through the flower centered on the back side. For a regular safety pin (far right), attach the non-opening length of the safety pin centered on the back side with the whip stitch and tie it off securely. **(photo h)**

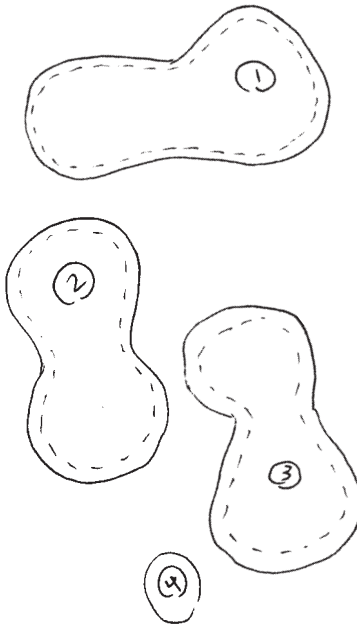
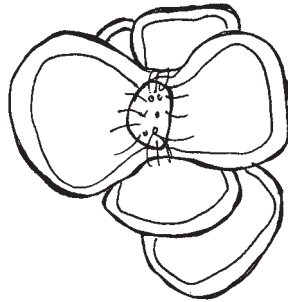


TEMPLATES

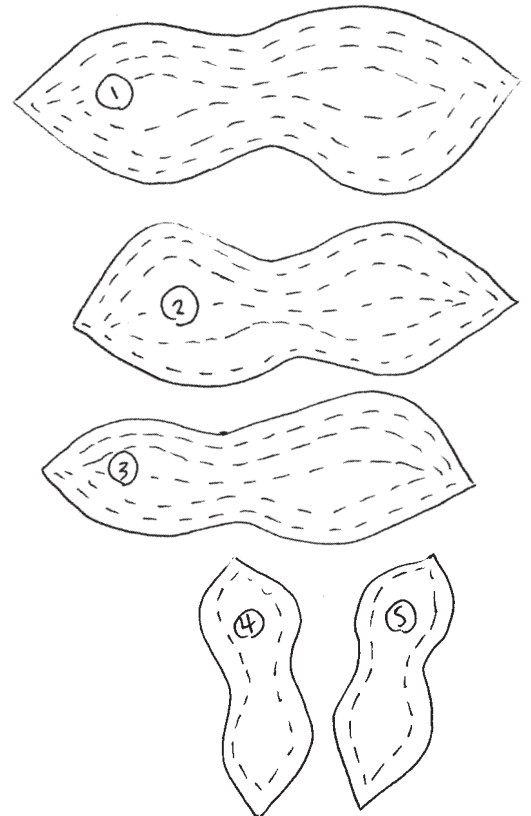
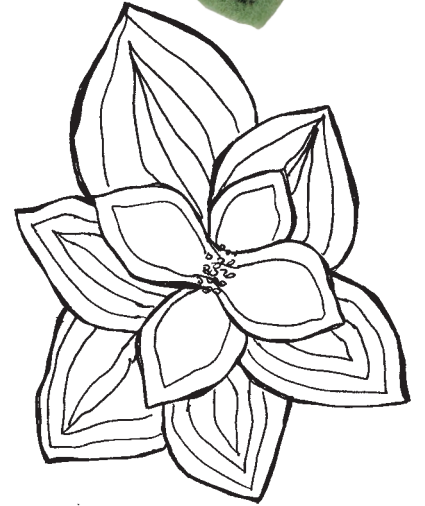
anemone



pansy



creeping dogwood



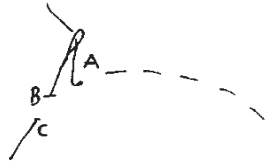
NOTES & TIPS

- 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.

GUIDE TO BASIC STITCHES

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 all the 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.

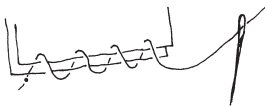


WHIP STITCH

This stitch is used to connect two pieces of felt along the outer edge or to connect two overlapping pieces.

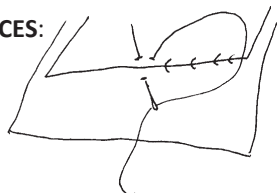
• TO CONNECT TWO PIECES ALONG THE OUTER EDGE:

Thread your needle and tie a knot at the tail. Start your first stitch between the two layers of felt to hide the knot. Wrap your thread around the two lined up edges and push your needle up through the two layers of felt. Repeat, spacing your stitches evenly.



• CONNECTING TWO OVERLAPPING PIECES:

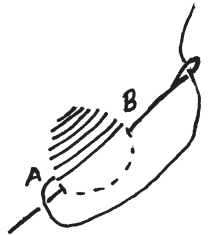
Thread your needle and tie a knot at the tail. Starting at the back side, poke your needle up through both layers of felt, 1/8" in from the edge and then push your needle through the single layer of felt, directly across from your first stitch and close to the overlapping edge. Continue your next stitch up through both layers, and then straight down through the single layer again with evenly spaced stitches. Make sure you are not pulling the stitches so tight that you cause the fabric to bunch.



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.



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.



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

