

FELT HAIR CLIP

sewing tutorial



This is a simple way to dress up a plain hair clip. They are endlessly customizable and make the sweetest gifts. This is the perfect project for digging into your remnant stash.

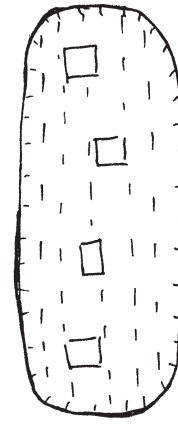
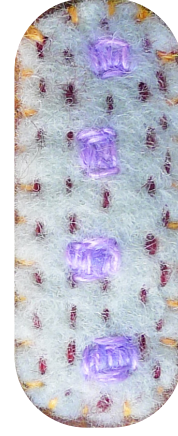
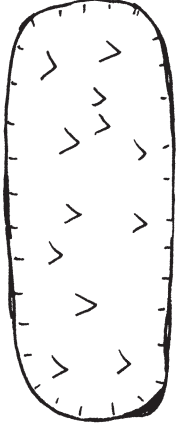
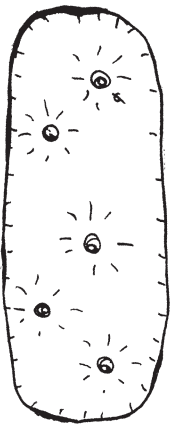
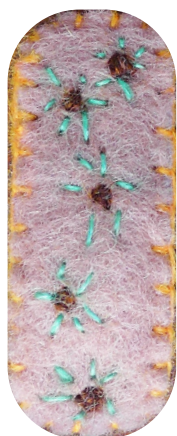
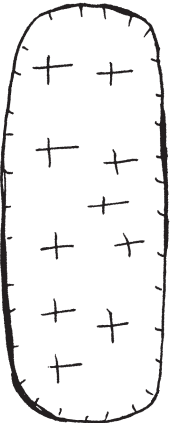
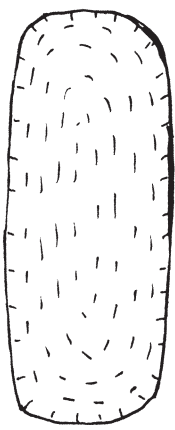
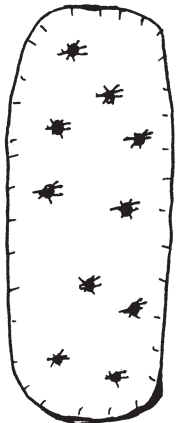
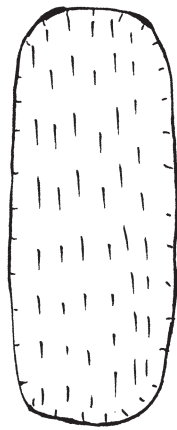
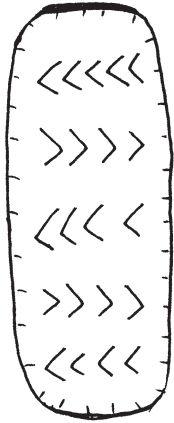
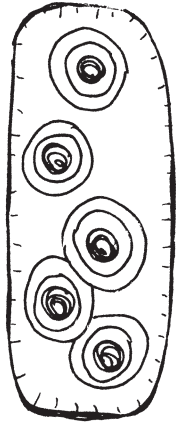
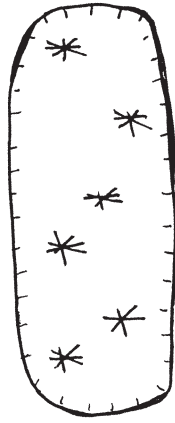
MATERIALS & TOOLS:

- wool felt
- sewing thread: I used a bright palette of thin mohair/silk yarn, but you could also use embroidery floss or sashiko thread
- metal snap clip: I prefer the rectangular ones
- hand sewing needle: I used a size 1 crewel needle to accommodate the thickness of the mohair
- scissors with a sharp point
- scrap paper
- pencil
- glue: I used a hot glue gun, but regular glue could work in a pinch

1. Refer to the "Notes & Guide to Basic Stitches" on page 3.
2. Lay your closed snap clip on a piece of paper and trace the perimeter, making your line about 1/8" larger than the clip. **(photo a)** Cut out the paper template.
3. Cut out one felt piece using the paper template as your guide, and then use the felt cut-out as the template for your second piece of felt. **(photo b)**
4. Stitch a design on your top piece of felt. **(photo c)** Keep in mind that the perimeter will be stitched, so don't embroider all the way to the edge (unless that is part of your design). I used thin mohair/silk yarn, but any thread will do. I like to limit my color palette to three or fewer colors per clip. To see some inspiration for designs, look at the drawings and collection of clips on page 2. You can sketch your design before you begin (my preference) or just jump right in.
5. Snap your clip open and apply a thin line of hot glue to the top of the clip. **(photo d)** Center and attach the decorated piece of felt.
6. With the sharp tip of your scissors make a small slit where you will slip in the back end of the clip. **(photo e)** You can measure the distance from the edge of the felt to the end of the clip opening, but in my experience, I find that the slit needs to be closer to the edge than you think. Make the slit small with the intent that you will stretch it when you insert the clip back.
7. Push the back piece of felt all the way on to the clip and line up the back side with the front side. **(photo f)** You may need to do a bit of trimming so the edges of your pieces align, but don't trim too tightly as you still want the felt to extend outside the clip about 1/8".
8. Knot the end of your thread. Starting between the two layers of felt, use the blanket stitch **(photo g)** or the whip stitch to stitch the two pieces of felt together around the perimeter of the snap clip. Your perimeter stitch can also be a decorative element of your design, you can play with color and/or the depth and spacing of your stitches. When you have finished, secure the last stitch and pull thread through the center of the clip and cut off the end. It will sink between the layers and disappear.
9. Your clip is complete! **(photos h & i)**



hair clip stitch inspiration



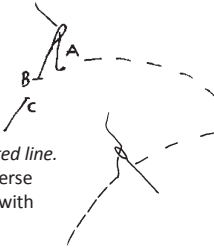
NOTES & BASIC STITCHES

- 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.

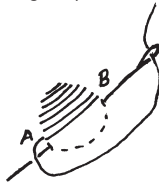
- Pull the thread up through your fabric (A) and back down (B). This is your first stitch.
- Pull your thread up through your fabric one stitch length away (C) and pull it back down through your second stitch (B), creating a stitch by taking the thread backward. Repeat.



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



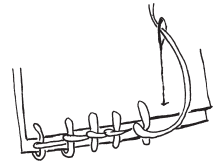
the blanket stitch

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.

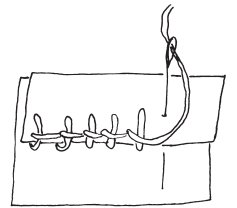
TO CONNECT TWO PIECES ALONG THE OUTER EDGES:

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.



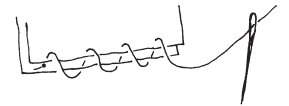
*unless you are intentionally choosing to make unevenly spaced stitches.

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.

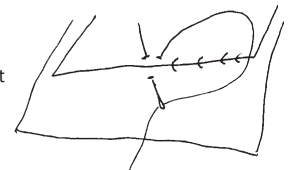
TO CONNECT TWO PIECES ALONG THE OUTER EDGE:

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.

