

HANGING BUD VASE

sewing tutorial



This hanging bud vase can hold cuttings from your favorite plant, fresh blooms, dried seed heads (my fall favorite), or dried flowers. Hang one or a whole row in a window or on a wall to brighten up any space. It is a wonderful way to use up fabric or felt scraps from your stash and makes a lovely gift.

MATERIALS & TOOLS:

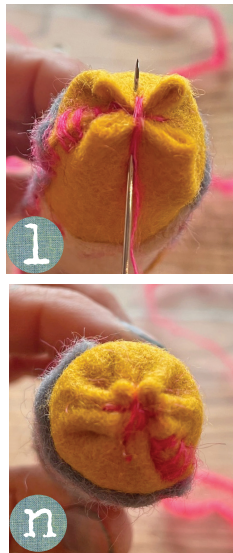
- Glass tube (I used a test tube that was 5 3/4" long with a 3/4" diameter opening)
- Fabric for lining (used as a template for the wool felt wrap and as part of the construction for the fabric wrap)
- Fabric or wool felt scraps for decorating
- Glue stick (for the fabric wrap)
- Straight pins (for the wool felt wrap)
- Scissors
- Sewing thread, embroidery floss, sashiko thread, and/or a thin yarn like mohair
- Hand sewing needle
- optional: crochet hook

I made three variations of this bud vase, and the instructions for the three differ slightly: a fabric patchwork vase wrap, a wool felt patchwork vase wrap, and a simple wool felt vase wrap with a tassel.

1. Refer to "Notes & Stitches" on page 3 and gather your materials and tools. **(photo a)**
2. Create a fabric liner/template for your vase wrap. **(photo b)**
For the **patchwork fabric version**, this template will also serve as your liner; you will stitch your patchwork to it. For the **patchwork felt version**, the fabric will just be used as a template that you will lay your patchwork on top of. For the **simple felt version** you can use the felt that you intend to use as your vase wrap during this step.
3. To determine the WIDTH: wrap the fabric around the tube with a 1/4" overlap. Err on the side of slightly larger for the **fabric** (the dimensions of your fabric patchwork piece might tighten up a bit from the stitchwork) and a bit tighter for the **wool felt** (wool has a lot of give and stretches).
4. To determine the LENGTH: measure 1/4" to 1/2" below the top of the glass tube and extend 1/2" to 3/4" beyond the base of the tube (use the smaller dimensions for both **wool felt versions** as wool stretches).
5. For **both patchwork versions**, overlap your fabric or felt scraps on top of the fabric lining. **(photo c)** Play with color, shape, and balance and trim pieces as necessary. For the **patchwork fabric version**, use a glue stick to adhere the patches to the fabric once you have determined the layout. For the **patchwork felt version**, pin the scraps together. Do not pin the felt to the fabric, you are only using the fabric as a template. **(photo d)**
6. Use decorative stitching to connect your patchwork pieces together. **(photos e & f)** For the **patchwork fabric version**, stitch your pieces to the fabric liner. For the **patchwork felt version**, remove the fabric template and stitch the felt pieces together. You can use the whip stitch, the blanket stitch, and/or the running/double running stitch. This is an opportunity to incorporate color and interest to your bud vase wrap. Once your patchwork piece is complete, you can trim the edges to make them even and flip the piece over to remove any extra overlap. **(photo g)** For the **felt versions**, blanket stitch around the top edge. This will prevent the opening from stretching. **(photo h)**



7. For **all three versions**, wrap the decorated piece around the tube and use the whip stitch to connect. **(photo i)** I think this is easiest to do with the glass tube in place as it ensures a good fit.
8. At the base of the tube, fold the fabric or felt at the base (like you are wrapping a rounded gift with a piece of paper). Secure the base with stitches. **(photos j, k, l, m, n)** You can attach strands of ribbon to create a tassel as I did on my **simple felt version**. **(photo o)**
9. Attach a 1-yard-long cord for hanging (I like a long cord, you might prefer a shorter length). I used both plant-dyed sashiko thread and crocheted mohair. You could also use ribbon, braided embroidery floss, or yarn. Secure your cord $\frac{1}{2}$ " down from the top along the whip stitched seam **(photo p)** and then repeat on the opposite side. If you would like your whip stitch seam to be a decorative feature when hanging, you can attach your cord in a different spot so the seam shows when hanging.
10. Your hanging bud vase is complete! Add water for plant cuttings and fresh flowers or leave empty for seed heads and dried flowers. **(photos q & r)**



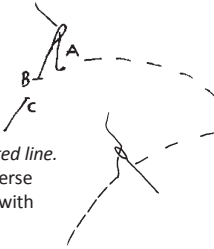
NOTES & BASIC STITCHES

- 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.

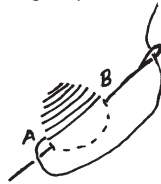
- Pull the thread up through your fabric (A) and back down (B). This is your first stitch.
- Pull your thread up through your fabric one stitch length away (C) and pull it back down through your second stitch (B), creating a stitch by taking the thread backward. Repeat.



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



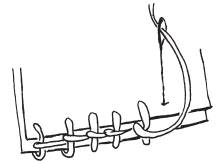
the blanket stitch

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.

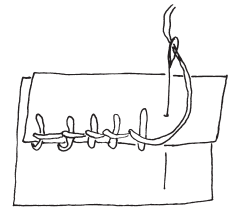
TO CONNECT TWO PIECES ALONG THE OUTER EDGES:

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.



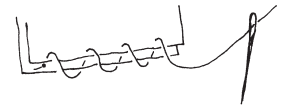
*unless you are intentionally choosing to make unevenly spaced stitches.

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.

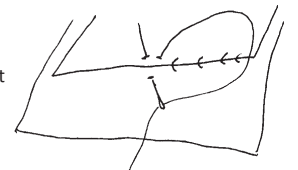
TO CONNECT TWO PIECES ALONG THE OUTER EDGE:

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.

