

spooky little bat sewing tutorial



MATERIALS:

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

- [1] 8.5 x 4.5" piece of grey wool felt for the front piece*
- [1] 8.5 x 4.5" piece of black wool felt for the back piece*
- sharp scissors
- black cotton embroidery floss
- sewing needle
- straight pins
- stuffing

*These measurements are for the bat pictured, but you can increase or decrease the percentage when photocopying the templates to have a family of bats of different sizes. I chose light grey for the front so the black stitching would show up, but any color will do. I recommend that the front and back are different colors.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Refer to the Notes and Guide to Basic Stitches on the second page.
2. Print templates on page 3 and cut out the pieces. (photo a) If you want to make bats 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 black felt for the the back piece (the larger template) and grey felt for the front piece (the smaller template).
4. Refer to the template for the placement of the facial features. On the front side of the top/grey piece, stitch 2 triangles for the eyes using 2-ply black embroidery floss. Fill in the triangles with the satin stitch. Stitch a line for the mouth.
5. Using small sharp scissors, carefully poke into the ear spaces of the top/grey piece and cut triangular shaped holes in each ear (refer to the template for placement).
6. Align the top and bottom pieces and pin into place (photo b): the ears line up along the top edge, the base of the wings line up along the bottom edge, and back wings extending above the top wings.
7. Using 1-ply black embroidery floss, stitch around the perimeter of the ears with the running stitch to attach the front piece and back pieces of the bat.
8. Once you have anchored the front and back pieces together, continue with the running stitch to create the central body shape of the bat (refer to template for body shape). Leave a 1.5" opening to lightly stuff the bat body.
9. Continue stitching to close the bat body opening and then continue making little stitches around the body and the ears.
10. Using the same little random line of stitches follow the top edge of the front/grey wing to connect the wings, leaving the bottom edge of the wings unstitched. (photo c)



GUIDE TO BASIC STITCHES:

SATIN STITCH

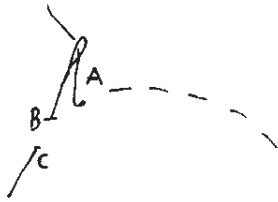
This stitch is used to fill in a space.

- 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 bat pictured in the tutorial. Print at smaller or larger percentages to make a bat family of various sizes.

