

luggage tag

sewing tutorial



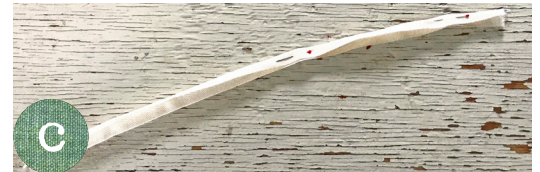
MATERIALS & TOOLS

- 2.25 x 3.5" piece of printer paper or thin tracing paper
- Pencil
- 4.5 x 3.5" piece of plain colored sturdy cloth or wool felt (I used 9 ounce cotton hemp muslin with raw/torn edges)
- (2) 12 x 1/2" colorful ribbons or thin strips of torn fabric (I used silk ribbon)
- 12" strand of 3/4" twill tape (or a thin strip of sturdy fabric)
- Embroidery floss (in a contrasting color to your fabric)
- Sewing machine and thread (though this project can be sewn by hand)
- Hand sewing needle
- 2 straight pins

Is it time to travel? I am not much of a traveler. I don't dream about exotic vacations or seeing new places, I am such a nester and I love being home. But when I DO travel, I find myself watching all the black suitcases going around the baggage carousel and wondering why most luggage looks the same. My luggage also fits this boring mold, so here is my little personal touch to help my bags stand out.

REFER TO "NOTES AND BASIC STITCHES" ON PAGE 3.

1. Gather your materials. **(photo a)** Draw what you plan to stitch on your paper. This is important for spacing and placement. Leave a little more space around the perimeter of your writing as there will be lines of stitching along all 4 edges that need some space.
2. Fold the fabric in half, mark the fold line with two straight pins, and unfold. Your tag will be folded in half when it is constructed so the back side of your stitching is sandwiched between the layers.
3. With 2-ply contrasting embroidery floss, stitch what you have drawn/written on your paper on one side of the pins. **(photo b)** If you feel comfortable stitching freehand, refer to your original drawing for reference. You can also stitch a few indicating stitches right through tracing paper and then carefully tear the paper away when you are done. (Some of your stitches might pull up a bit as you tear away the paper. I try to tack down the stitches with the tip of my finger as I pull, and then I pull any loose stitches taut again from the back.) Then go back in and complete the words/design with the rest of your stitches. If you want your tag to be two-sided, stitch on the other side of the pins (being mindful of how it will be folded and assembled in the next step).
4. Fold twill tape in half **(photo c)** and stitch 4 lines of stitching with the sewing machine. **(photo d)** You can also do this by hand.
5. Fold over the stitched fabric again and remove the pins. Fold the ribbons in half and pin the folded end about 1/2" inside the fold of the stitched fabric and pin. On the other side of the stitched twill tape about 1/2" inside the fold of the stitched fabric and pin. **(photo e)**
6. Using your sewing machine, stitch the perimeter of the tag (you will catch the twill tape and the silk ribbon in your stitching) travel around the perimeter 3 times. **(photo f)** You can also stitch the perimeter by hand.

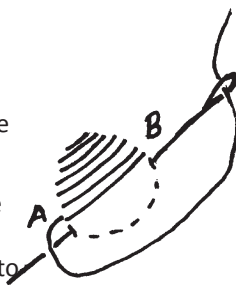


GUIDE TO BASIC STITCHES:

SATIN STITCH

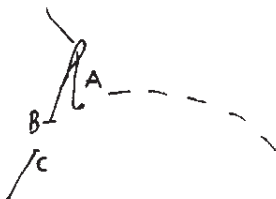
This stitch is used to fill in a space.

- 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.

