

# paper & pen holder sewing tutorial



## MATERIALS:

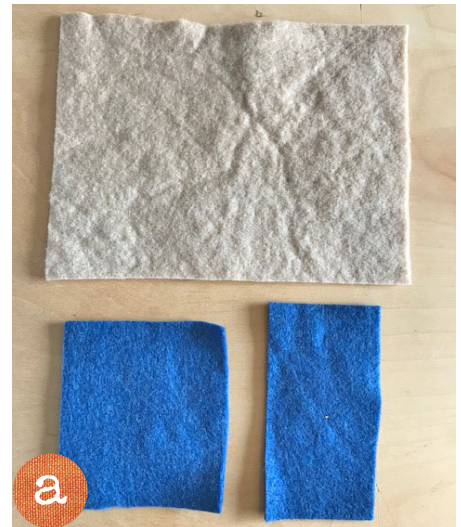
I like to use wool felt for this project because it has a bit of stretch and the edges do not fray.

- [1] 8 x 6" piece of wool felt for the back piece\*
- [1] 3.5 x 3.75" piece of wool felt for the paper pocket\*
- [1] 2.25 x 4.5" piece of wool felt for the pen pocket\*
- ruler or tape measure
- sharp scissors
- cotton embroidery floss
- sewing needle
- straight pins
- sewing machine (optional)

\*These measurements are for pockets that will perfectly hold 1/8th of a piece of 8.5 x 11" paper and 3 pens or pencils. You can modify the size of the back piece and pocket pieces if you would like to use different size paper. Make sure your pocket is at least .75" wider than the width of your paper and your back piece is big enough to accommodate the pocket pieces.

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Refer to the Notes and Guide to Basic Stitches on the second page.
2. Cut a piece of felt that is 8" wide and 6" tall. This will be the back of your paper and pen holder. Cut the two front pockets: the paper holder is 3.5" wide and 3.75" tall and the pen/pencil holder is 2.25" wide and 4.5" tall. (photo a)
3. With your sewing machine, sew two lines of stitching along the top edge of each of the pockets (but do not attach the pockets to the back piece yet). This will give the pockets a more finished look and will help them to keep their shape. If you don't want to use a sewing machine, you could also use the blanket stitch or the running stitch to sew this edge with 2-ply embroidery floss.
4. Decorate the paper and pen pockets. Keep in mind the direction that they will be attached to the back piece. I used 2 ply of 3 colors of embroidery floss and stitched lines of horizontal stitches spaced randomly.
5. Lay the decorated pockets on the back piece (refer to photo b for placement) and pin in place.
6. With your sewing machine, stitch the pockets in place as close to the pocket edge as you can (do not stitch the top edge). I machine stitched 2 lines of stitches around the 3 edges of the pockets. If you are hand sewing the edge, use the blanket stitch or the running stitch with 2- ply embroidery floss.
7. If the pockets look off center or your edges no longer look straight, trim the back piece.
8. If desired, add decorative stitching to the back piece.
9. With your sewing machine or by hand stitch the perimeter of the back piece.

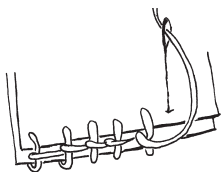


# GUIDE TO BASIC STITCHES:

## BLANKET STITCH

Note: these instructions are much easier to follow with your actual needle and thread in hand. The stitch is simple; the instructions sound complicated.

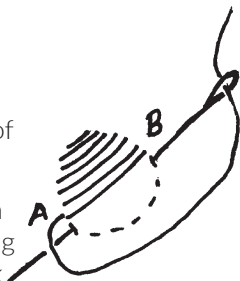
- Thread your needle and tie a knot at the tail.
- Starting between the sandwiched pieces, poke the needle through your top layer of felt about 1/8" from the edge. The knot will be between the two layers of felt where it will not be seen.
- Bring the thread around the edge of the two stacked pieces of the felt 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 felt. 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 felt. 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 felt. 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 finish, connect your last stitch to your first stitch by sliding your needle underneath your first stitch and knotting it at the back. Push your needle between the layers and out through the front about 1 inch from the edge. The thread will be pulled inside, hiding the knot from view. Then cut off the excess thread very close to the top layer of the felt.



## SATIN STITCH

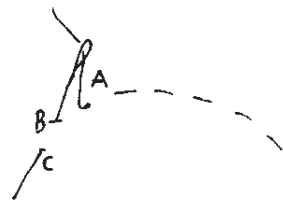
This stitch is used to fill in a space.

- 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](http://www.katagolda.com).

