

pencil holder sewing tutorial

with
kata golda
handmade



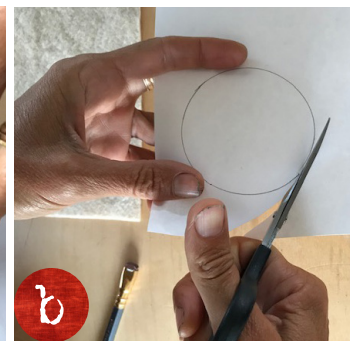
MATERIALS:

It is important to use a fabric that has a little bit of stretch and does not fray - wool felt is a perfect option. Any size tin can will work for this project, just make sure that it is clean and that there are no sharp edges.

- tin can rescued from the recycling
- wool felt
- pencil & paper for tracing base
- cotton embroidery floss
- sharp scissors
- sewing needle
- optional: other fabric scraps for decorating

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Refer to the Notes and Guide to Basic Stitches on the second page.
2. Trace the base of the can on a scrap of paper. (a)
3. Cut out the circle (b) and pin it to the felt that you have chosen for your base. Cut the circle out of the felt.
4. Measure and cut a rectangular piece of felt that is a 1/4" shorter than the height of the can and wraps around the can with a 1/4" overlap. (c)
5. Decorate! The possibilities here are endless. I like to use 3-4 colors of embroidery floss and stitch random patterns all over the felt rectangle. It is also fun to add texture with other fabrics. You might use the running stitch, double running stitch, and the satin stitch here. (d)
6. Using the blanket stitch and 2-ply of embroidery floss (choose a color that complements your decoration), stitch the perimeter of the circle base to the bottom edge of the rectangle. (e)
7. Continue all the way around the circle. When you reach the end, you may end up with an overlap that is greater than 1/4". Before trimming, make sure the cylinder fits. You want a snug fit; you may need to stretch the felt a bit to achieve this. If you have excess overlap, trim your rectangle so it has an even 1/4" overlap. One way to help the base and rectangle fit better is to modify your blanket stitch by spacing the stitches a bit closer on the circle and a bit farther apart on the rectangle piece. (f)
8. When you have finished attaching the circle base, continue the blanket stitch up the seam of the rectangle (f) and then around the top edge of the cylinder. When you stitch around the top perimeter be mindful not to stitch too tightly making it too difficult to slip on to the can.

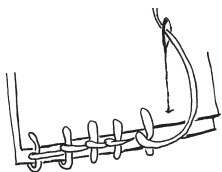


GUIDE TO BASIC STITCHES:

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.

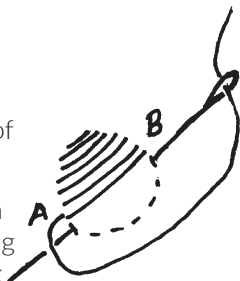
- Thread your needle and tie a knot at the tail.
- Starting between the sandwiched pieces, poke the needle through your top layer of felt about 1/8" from the edge. The knot will be between the two layers of felt where it will not be seen.
- Bring the thread around the edge of the two stacked pieces of 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

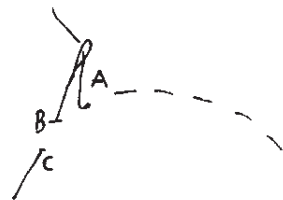
This stitch is used to fill in a space.

- 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.

