



Every spring I feel inspired, like many others, to sift through my boxes of stuff and re-evaluate what I'm going to keep and what can be donated. Rubber stamps are always a real stumbling block for me. Each year I thin my collection that dates back more than 30 years. This year I decided that if I am going to keep them then they must be used. I had fun using my stamps on scraps of fabric as templates for stitchwork. These became patches and pockets on well-loved tote bags and dresses.

### MATERIALS & TOOLS:

- clean rubber stamps
- all-purpose ink stamp pad
- scratch paper
- fabric
- sewing needle
- embroidery floss

1. Clean your stamps with dish soap and warm water. Rub them gently with your fingers (do not scrub) and pat dry.
2. Use a permanent all-purpose ink stamp pad. The stamp pad should say that it is suitable for fabric. I chose to work with only black ink as I wanted a clearly visible line that I would be covering with stitches. Stamping with light colored ink can be tricky as sometimes it does not show up.
3. With clean stamps, do some stamping tests on scrap paper before you stamp your fabric. **(photo a)** This will help you determine your best work surface, how to get ink evenly on the stamp, how hard to press for the complete image to show, the lay out of your design, etc.
4. You may want to test the different kinds of fabric as the quality of your stamping will be greatly affected by the material you are stamping on. After testing on paper, I tested on 100% light linen, 50% cotton/ 50% hemp, heavier cotton, and silk. **(photo b)**
5. Stamp your fabric **(photoe c & e)** and then set your stamped design with a hot iron (do not use steam). If your stamping does not come out perfectly even **(photo c)** it might not matter. You can use your stamp mark as a template that you can cover with stitches. **(photo d)** Play with repeats and angles. **(photos f & g)** One of my stamps is an arching branch and I discovered that I could create a sweet botanical wreath when I repeated it four times around.
6. I used a variety of threads for my stitchwork. **(photo h)** 1 or 2 ply embroidery floss and thin sashiko plant dyed thread.







I find such great satisfaction in using something I already have in a new way. A pile of scrap fabric, some old rubber stamps, and items from the mending pile have all taken on a new life. I've patched holes, covered stains, and added pockets.

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

