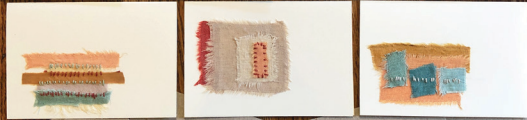
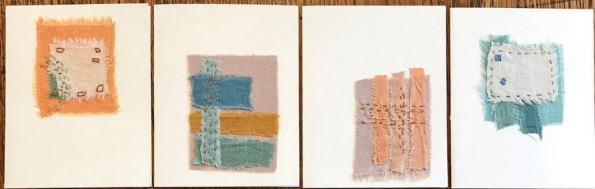


a thoughtful set of stitched cards



kata golda handmade

When I put the effort into making or carefully choosing just the right card to send, I find that my words and handwriting mirror that thoughtfulness. I just pay a bit more attention: my writing setup, the perfect writing instrument, and the time to be intentional. When all of these things are cared for, the experience feels so satisfying. Connecting with a friend while connecting to myself – it is time well spent.

MATERIALS & TOOLS:

- Cardstock or chipboard (thin cardboard)
- Paper cutter or sharp scissors
- Ruler
- Fabric scraps
- Thread
- Bone folder (or the smooth side of a butter knife)

This project is more a guide than a tutorial. Sometimes it helps to have a little inspiration to get started and then the ideas start flowing. All it takes is a pile of threads, some fabric scraps, a glue stick, and your paper of choice. For the designs on the cards pictured, I was feeling inspired by the Quilts of Gee's Bend (look them up if you are unfamiliar, they are magnificent).

A NOTE ON STANDARD CARD SIZING:

- **To fit a standard A1 envelope** (which measures 5 1/8 x 3 5/8") the folded card size is 4 7/8 x 3 1/2" (unfolded the card is 4 7/8 x 7"). One sheet of card stock will yield two cards (with extra trim).
- **To fit a standard A2 envelope** (which measures 5 3/4 x 4 3/8") the folded card size is 5 1/2 x 4 1/4" (unfolded the card is 5 1/2 x 8 1/2"). One sheet of card stock will yield two cards exactly.
- **Postcard:** I made my postcards 5 1/2 x 4 1/4". This size was determined by getting the most use out of my favorite scrap chipboard that comes with ordering stamps from USPS. There are USPS regulations regarding postcard size: the smallest dimension is 3 1/2" and the largest is 6".

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Play around with stacking your fabric scraps. I recommend looking at some quilts for inspiration. Once you have laid out your designs, use a glue stick to glue the layered pieces together (I prefer a glue stick as I worry that wet glue will pool and seep through the fabric).
2. Add some stitch work to your tiny quilts. **(photo a)** As you can see by my examples, the stitching is both decorative and used to attach the pieces together. You may want to add a few extra dabs of glue if the layers are not fully adhered with your first round of gluing and stitching.





3. Lay out the finished piece on to the blank card and decide where you want to place the fabric. Play with placement, as our instinct will have us center the decoration. Consider other possibilities. **(photos b, c & d)**
4. Use your glue stick to thoroughly cover the back of your stitching. I like to place a piece of scrap paper under the piece so I can glue off the edges, not just to the edge. (I used the purple glue stick to demonstrate how much glue to use and how I apply it). **(photo e)**
5. Remove scrap paper and place the design on the card. **(photo f)** Use a bone folder to carefully press the fabric flat. You can turn your card over and gently press the back side too.
6. Write a thoughtful note and send a card to a friend or make a little bundle of cards to send as a gift. **(photo g)**

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.

