

# sweet little pumpkin sewing tutorial



## MATERIALS:

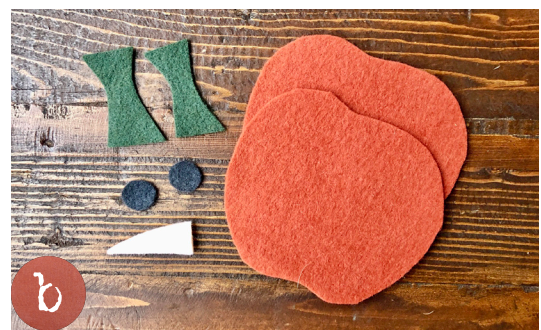
I like to use wool felt for this project because it has a bit of stretch and the edges do not fray.

- 8 x 5" piece of dark orange wool felt for the pumpkin\*
- 2 x .5" piece of light peach wool felt for the nose\*
- 1 x .5" piece of black wool felt for the eyes\*
- 3 x 2" piece of dark green wool felt for the stem\*
- sharp scissors
- glue stick
- black cotton embroidery floss
- sewing needle
- straight pins
- stuffing
- pencil with eraser end

\*These measurements are for the pumpkin pictured, but you can increase or decrease the percentage when photocopying the templates to have a family of pumpkins of different sizes.

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Refer to the Notes and Guide to Basic Stitches on the page 2.
2. Print templates on page 3 and cut out the pieces. (photo a) If you want to make pumpkins of all different sizes, print the templates at different percentages.
3. Pin the templates to your felt and cut out the pattern pieces. (photo b) I used burnt orange felt for the pumpkin, black for the eyes, peach for the nose and dark green for the stem.
4. Refer to the template for the placement of the facial features. With a glue stick, secure eyes and nose to one of the pumpkin pieces. Then use the whip stitch with 1-ply black embroidery floss to stitch the facial features on the pumpkin. Add a little stitch line for the mouth.
5. Using the blanket stitch and 2-ply black embroidery floss, sew the 2 stem pieces together. Leave one end open for stuffing (this end will be sandwiched between the front and back pumpkin pieces). Stuff lightly using little bits of stuffing, it helps to use the eraser side of a pencil to push the stuffing in.
6. With the pumpkin face on top and facing out, stack the front and back of the pumpkin so they match up. Trim if necessary and pin. Starting close to one side of the where the stem will be placed, use 2-ply black embroidery floss and begin blanket stitching the perimeters of the pumpkin front and back together. Direct your stitches towards where the stem will go. When you reach the center of the top of the pumpkin, sandwich the stem in between the 2 pumpkin layers and continue blanket stitching until you have a 1.5" opening.



7. Stuff the pumpkin. Continue the blanket stitch to close and then secure with a knot. To hide your knot, pull the needle through the stuffing. Trim the strand as close to the felt as you can, it will sink into the stuffing and disappear. Your pumpkin is complete! (photo c)

stitch the whole collection of halloween projects!

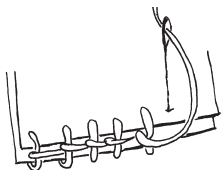
# NOTES & GUIDE TO BASIC STITCHES:

- 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.

## 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.

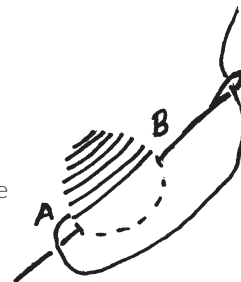
- Thread your needle and tie a knot at the tail.
- Starting between the sandwiched pieces, poke the needle through your top layer of felt about 1/8" from the edge. The knot will be between the two layers of felt where it will not be seen.
- Bring the thread around the edge of the two stacked pieces of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

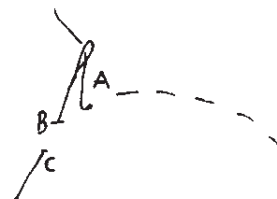
This stitch is used to fill in a space.

- 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

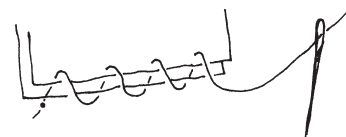
- Start with the threaded needle on the back side of your felt and bring it up through the felt (A) and back down into the front side (B).
- Pull it the whole way through, then bring the threaded needle back up through the felt from the back side (C).
- Try to keep the size of the stitches and the space 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.



## WHIP STITCH:

In this project, the whip stitch is being used to attach a small piece of felt to a larger piece of felt with vertical stitches. It can also be used to attach two full pieces, with the loops coming around the outside of the felt to connect the edges.

- Thread your needle and tie a knot at the tail.
- Starting at the back side, poke your needle up through the single layer of felt, just above the piece you are attaching.
- Come down directly below your first stitch, straight through both layers of felt.
- Continue your next stitch up through the single back layer, and then straight down through both layers again with evenly spaced stitches.
- Make sure you are not pulling the stitches so tight that you cause the felt to bunch.



## ABOUT KATA GOLDA:

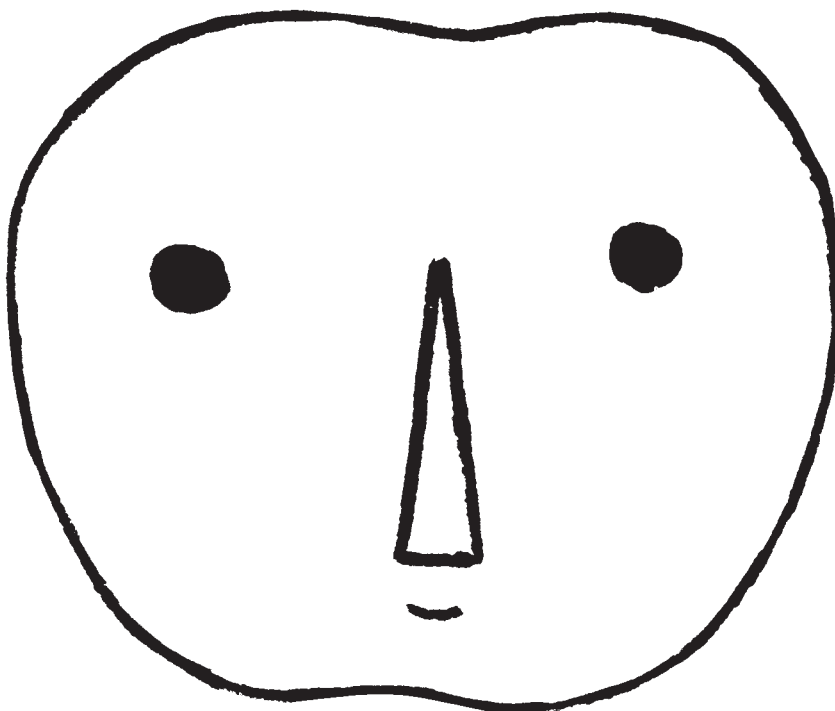
Alison Kaplan is the creative force behind Kata Golda, a craft studio in the mossy seaside town of Port Townsend, WA. Kata Golda is a flourishing business that explores crafts such as needlework, letterpress printing, bookbinding, block printing, hand-thrown pottery, hand-dyed textiles, and jewelry making. 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).



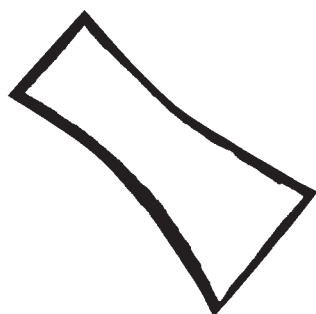
# TEMPLATES:

Print at 100% to make the pumpkin pictured in the tutorial. Print at smaller or larger percentages to make a whole patch of pumpkins in different sizes and colors.

PUMPKIN: CUT X 2



STEM: CUT X 2



NOSE: CUT X 1



EYES: CUT X 2