tiny tabletop tree
sewing tutorial
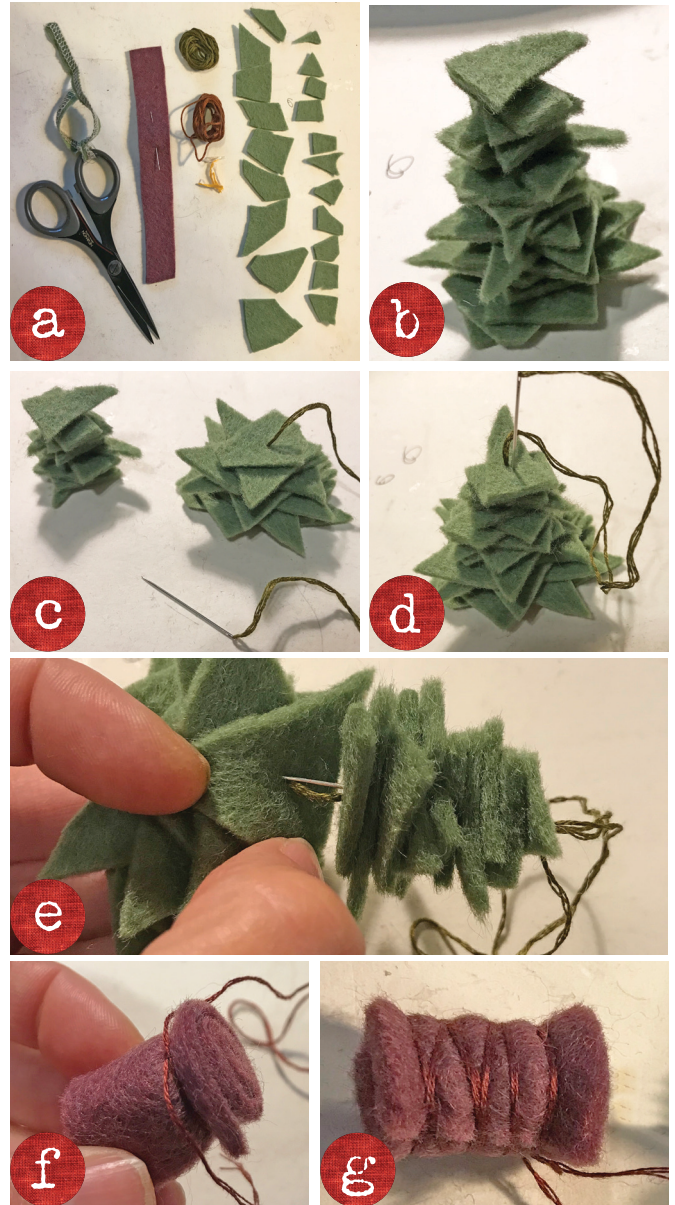
kata golda handmade

Stitch up a tiny forest for your holiday table. These little wool felt trees use up the smallest of scraps and can stand on their own thanks to a sturdy base. The tree size is adaptable, just make sure that your trunk roll has a big enough diameter to support the top if you make a tree larger than 3" tall.

Note: *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.*

1. Cut about 20 haphazard shapes from your tree color(s) ranging in size from ¼" to 2 ½". Make these shapes truly random but do aim to have some pointy corners. **(photo a)**

2. Stack your tree pieces from biggest to smallest with the biggest on the bottom. **(photo b)**

3. Thread your long needle with an 18" 3-ply strand of embroidery floss and knot the two ends together so you are stitching with 6 plies of thread.

4. Take the bottom half of your stacked tree scraps and push your needle up through the center of the stack starting from base. **(photo c)** Add the top half of your stacked scraps and push your needle through the center of that stack (it is hard to sew through the entire stack of 20 at once this first time, which is why I suggest dividing the stack in half). Insert your needle through the center of the top of the tree and pull it back down to the base again. **(photo d)** (Note: As I sew up and down through the tree, I am peaking in between the layers to make sure that I am keeping my stitch near the center of each flat piece of felt.) **(photo e)** Once you have reached the base, pull snug (not so snug that you indent the top but snug enough that the stack stays upright). Do not trim the thread as you will continue on in step 6 to attach the tree to the trunk.

5. Cut a 24" strand of 3-ply embroidery floss. Tightly roll the rectangle of brown felt into a cylinder. Wrap the thread around one end and tie a knot leaving at least a 3" tail. **(photo f)** Wrap the roll from the top to the bottom and then back up to where you began, keeping the short tail out of the way as you wrap. When you reach your starting point, knot the two ends of thread together. **(photo g)**

h

6. Pull the thread from the base of your tree down through the center of the trunk roll **(photo h)** then back up again through the trunk and all the way up through the tree. Pull your thread out the top of the tree. **(photo i)**

7. At this point you can add a little bundle of thread to decorate the top if you like before you knot the thread. To make a thread bundle, cut the thread from the needle and separate the thread into two sections. Lay a cluster of colorful threads that are between ½ - 1" long between the two sections of thread and knot them in place.

8. To finish: If you would like to hang your tree, do not trim the remaining thread. Knot it at the top to create a loop. If you do not plan to hang your tree, trim your thread close to the thread cluster. **(photo j)** Finally, thread your needle with the tails on the trunk and pull them through the roll and out the other side. Trim the tails close to felt, they will sink into the roll and disappear.

9. Make more trees in various sizes and colors to complete your tiny felt forest! **(photo k)**

i

j

k

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.

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