

# turtle family sewing tutorial

with kata golda handmade



## MATERIALS:

Be creative here! Don't have the felt I am recommending? Try cutting up that old sweater that you accidentally felted in the dryer. Out of embroidery floss? Use regular thread. No stuffing? Try cotton balls or shredded felt scraps. You can also reach out to me to purchase a kit for this project or buy craft supplies from many sellers on Etsy.

- wool felt [light green & dark green]
- cotton embroidery floss [black & yellow]
- sharp scissors
- sewing needle
- stuffing

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Print the template on page 3 and cut out the pieces. If you wish to make all three turtles, print one template at 100%, one at 75% and one at 125%. Place the pieces on the felt and cut out the felt shapes with fabric scissors. Note that you will cut out two of the body pieces and one shell piece for each turtle you make.
2. Stitch the eyes on one body piece using 3-ply black embroidery floss. Use a satin stitch\* and widely place the two eyes.
3. Using a blanket stitch\* and 2-ply black thread, stitch the two body pieces together.
4. Use a double running stitch\* to sew eight "U" shapes on the shell with 2-ply yellow embroidery floss (see photo for placement).
5. To attach the shell to the body, whip stitch\* the shell piece to only the top layer of the body layer three quarters of the way around.
6. Stuff the shell and continue stitching to close the gap.
7. 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.
8. Repeat to complete your turtle family.



## NOTES:

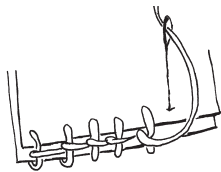
- \*Basic stitches are described on the second page.
- Embroidery floss (thread) is 6-ply and the plies are easily separated. Most patterns use 1-3 plies. Long strands can get easily tangled; cutting them to 18" helps prevent this. It helps to separate the pieces from the center of the strand (instead of at the end) and pull apart very gently.
- 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.

## GUIDE TO BASIC STITCHES:

### BLANKET STITCH

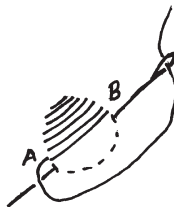
Note: these instructions are much easier to follow with your actual needle and thread in hand. The stitch is simple, the instructions sound complicated.

- 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.
- 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 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.



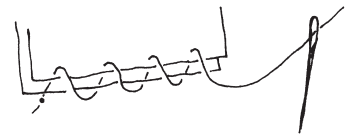
### SATIN STITCH:

- This stitch is used to fill in a space.
- 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.



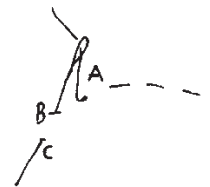
### WHIP STITCH:

- 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.
- When you finish your row of stitches, secure with a knot on the back side.



### 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.



### DOUBLE RUNNING STITCH:

- 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.

#### 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:**

NOTE: The size of this template is for the middle sized turtle in the photos. If you would like to make all three sizes, print a second template at 75% and a third at 125%.

