

Wool APPLIQUE' PINCUSHION

Wool appliqué uses embroidery to attach pieces of felted wool fabrics to create a picture, quilt block, or other project. Gather all supplies, do a bit of prep work and you will have a portable project that will give lots of pleasure.

Supplies

Pattern

Felted Wool Fabrics

Threads

Hand Needles

Small Sharp Scissors

Paper-backed fusible web

Fine line marker

Wool roving

Template plastic - optional

The **pattern** for this project has already been reversed and is ready to be traced onto the paper backing of the fusible web.

Felted wool is made by soaking and agitating woven and knit wool fabrics in hot water with a bit of gentle soap, rinsing in cold water, and then drying in a clothes dryer until good and dry. New wool fabrics can be used as well as reclaimed garment fabrics to make felted wool. Wool content closest to 100% is preferred to get the fabric to felt well (shrink). Wool felt can also be used for many appliqué projects - it is a non-woven fabric and is often made from a blend of wool and acrylic fibers. Washing felt to further shrink the fabric can result in lots of wrinkles. These wrinkles should be smoothed out by hand while the fabric is still damp.

Threads are a matter of personal preference and there are many factors to consider - what will give the desired effect as well as color range and washability. Wool, cotton, rayon, metallic, and silk threads are popular and give different effects. Perle cotton and cotton floss come in a wide array of colors and are readily available. Cotton threads are a good choice for beginning appliqué workers. All the thread choices can be found at specialty shops and online.

Hand needles should be sharp and pointed with an eye large enough to accommodate the thread selected. Try appliqué, crewel, embroidery, betweens, or chenille style hand needles in a size that will create a hole just large enough for the thread to pass through the fabric easily.

Let's get started!

- ◇ Place the paper-backed fusible web, paper side up over the pattern template and use the fine line marker to trace each piece of the design. Leave about 1/4" between pieces - it is helpful to group pieces together that will be cut from the same color wool. Label the pieces to aid in setting up the design.
- ◇ Roughly cut out the shapes drawn on the paper-backed fusible web and fuse them to the wrong side of the selected color of wool fabric. Use an iron to adhere the fusible web - 3-5 seconds is often enough. Check for good adhesion when the fabric cools. Press an additional couple of seconds if the edges are loose.
- ◇ Using sharp scissors, cut out each traced shape directly on the drawn lines.
- ◇ Remove the paper backing from each piece and arrange all the shapes onto the background fabric to create the design. Adjust as needed, leaving 1/4" - 3/8" on all four sides of the background fabric for seam allowances.
- ◇ Press the design pieces in place - set a steam iron to the wool setting and press 5-8 seconds, using steam.
- ◇ Turn piece over and press an additional 8-10 seconds from the wrong side, again with steam. Wool loves the heat and steam but be careful not to leave your iron in one place too long or you can compress the loft and possibly leave a shiny spot.
- ◇ Choose hand embroidery stitches to work around each piece of the design with matching, contrasting, or complementary threads. See next page for stitch directions.
- ◇ After completing all hand embroidery, lay backing fabric piece with right side against the design. Stitch together using 1/4" seam allowances, leave open space for turning. **tip** - a piece of template plastic cut 1/8" smaller than the finished piece and inserted in the bottom of the pincushion will help prevent pin points from pushing through and scratching. Be sure to round the corners to protect the wool corners.
- ◇ Turn pincushion and fill with wool roving to desired firmness. For a bit of weight, add some crushed walnut shells or in the bottom of the pincushion. Hand sew opening together.

Enjoy!

Hand Stitch Directions -



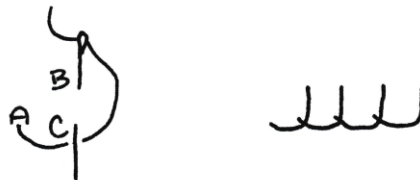
Running Stitch - Used for basting, gathering, and decoration. Work right to left - come up at A, go down at B, and emerge at C. When making even stitches, the spaces between the stitches should equal the stitch length. Experiment with different stitch and space lengths for variety.



Whip Stitch - Often used to secure two edges together, can also be used over the edge of a design element to secure it to the background or another piece in the project design. Work right to left - come up at A, go down at B, and emerge at C. The resulting stitch is a small diagonal.



Back Stitch - Used to stitch a strong seam, attach beads, and add decoration. Work stitches, progressing left. Come up at A, make a small stitch backwards going down at B, emerge at C. Continue by going down at A and emerge at D.



Blanket Stitch - also called Buttonhole Stitch and is used to cover and decorate edges. Come up at A, hold thread down with finger, go down at B, emerge at C. Repeat to form linked stitches, keeping vertical stitches straight and even.

How to tie a knot - Thread needle and lay long thread tail over forefinger. Lay needle on top of tail, pinch with fingers, wrap thread around needle two or three times by coming across the front of the needle first. Continue pinching the thread wraps and draw the needle through, forming a knot at the end of the thread tail.