



8 Easy Steps to
CREATE ANY FELT STUFFIE

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NOTES

STEP 1: MATERIALS, TOOLS + BASICS

WOOL-BLEND FELT - the blended felt gives you the softness of the natural fibers of wool with the added structure that works the best for making felt stuffies and other felt projects

EMBROIDERY THREAD - a high-quality cotton embroidery thread that come in matching colors for the felt and works work best with small stuffie projects

STUFFIE PUFF - our name for polyfill

SAFETY EYES - the best replacement for buttons and beads and safe for children

TACKY GLUE - for the smallest details that don't require sewing

SMALL DETAIL SCISSORS - work best for the small details when cutting felt

SEWING PINS - keep a box of your favorite style on hand

SHARP PENCIL - use to outline pattern onto your felt

EMBROIDERY NEEDLES - have larger eyes for multiple strands of floss

PRINTED PATTERNS - the PDF patterns are available to print for all our projects

Optional items

NEEDLE THREADER - to easily thread multiple strands of floss into needle

DISAPPEARING INK PENS - for marking details before applying

STUFFING TOOL - the best tool for adding filler to your project

WOODEN DOWEL - second option if you do not have a stuffing tool

PLASTIC-COATED FREEZER PAPER - for cutting out your felt

Using embroidery thread

Embroidery thread is a bundle of 6 smaller threads. They can be used together or pulled apart depending on the desired thickness of the stitch. To pull your threads apart without tangling, start by cutting your thread 2-3 feet long or the length you need. Roll one end between your fingers to loosen threads, then gently pull one thread of the floss out of the bundle at a time. You can then select and regroup as many threads as you like.

Using a needle threader

This tool is great for beginners and is a quick way to thread multiple pieces of floss through the needle eye. Simply slide the wire loop through the eye, insert the floss through the wire loop, then gently pull the threader back out of the eye, replacing it with the thread. Note: More threads will need a needle with a larger eye.

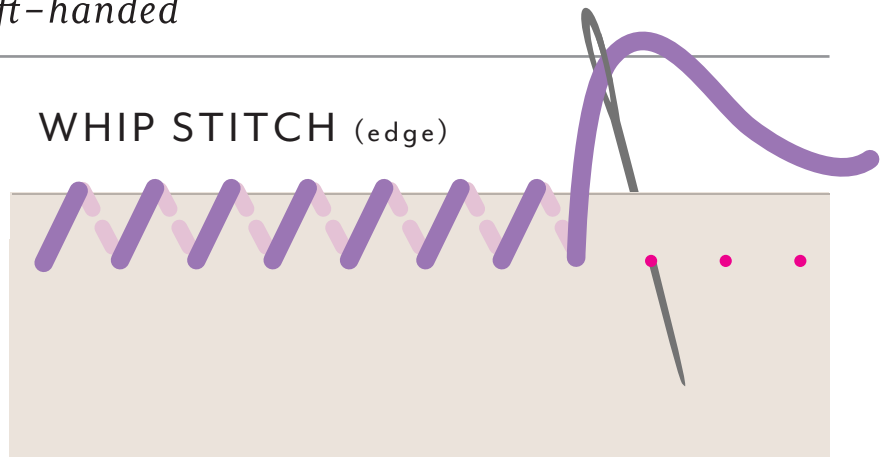
THREAD	<i>Whip Stitch: 1 thread</i>	<i>Whiskers: 3 threads</i>
GUIDE	<i>Ladder Stitch: 1 thread</i>	<i>Mouth Details: 2 threads</i>
	<i>Blanket Stitch: 2 threads</i>	

BASIC STITCHES *left-handed*

WHIP STITCH (edge)

When sewing together two pieces of felt to attach at the straight edge, start by aligning right sides together. Sew evenly spaced stitches from the left side to the right, looping the thread over the top edge. Do not pull threads too tight or deform the edge of the felt. Once sewn, open and flatten the two pieces with the right sides facing up. The stitches will appear straight.

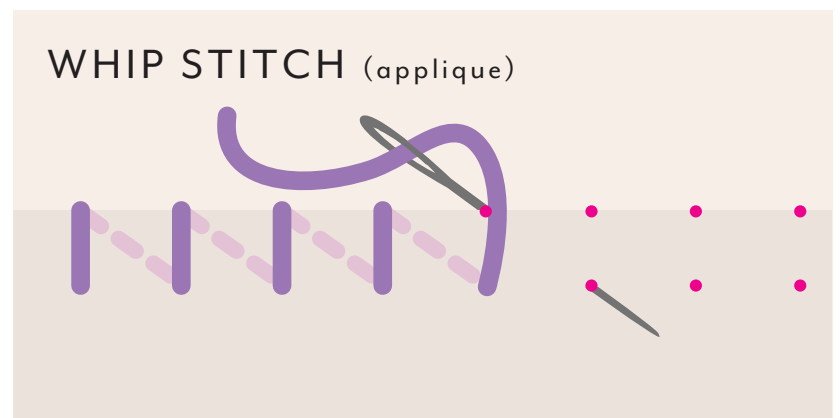
WHIP STITCH (edge)



WHIP STITCH (applique)

Start your whip stitch on the left and sew to the right when doing an applique left-handed. Angle the needle from the top of the finished stitch. Run it under the felt, then back out at the base of the next stitch. Sewing at an angle will allow the visible part of the stitch to look straight. For rounded edges, space accordingly to keep a visibly even stitch.

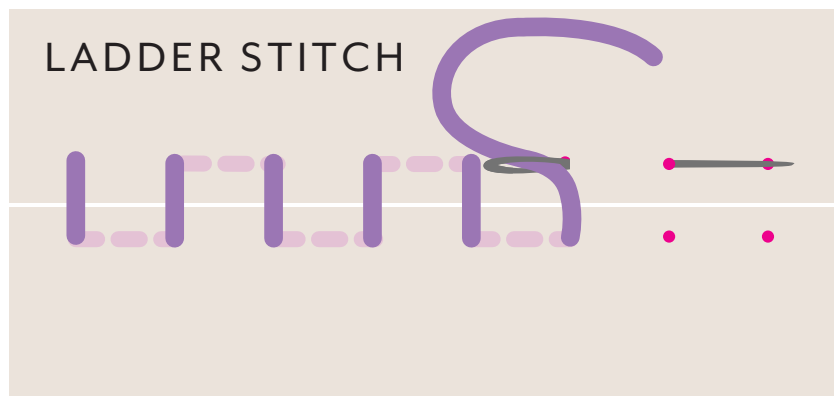
WHIP STITCH (applique)



LADDER STITCH

To attach parts of a stuffie together, like ears to the head or stuffed limbs to a body, sew from left to right, starting with your knot under the felt at the first stitch. At the other side of that stitch, run the needle under the felt horizontal, bringing it out at the beginning of the next vertical stitch. Continue with the squared stitch to create an even ladder stitch.

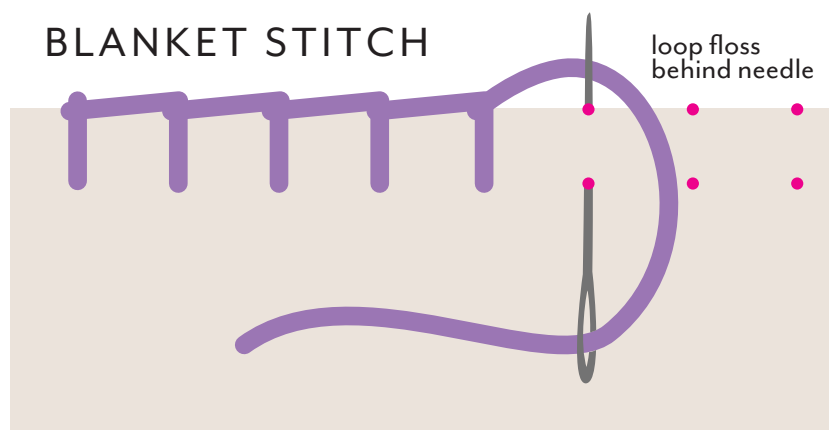
LADDER STITCH



BLANKET STITCH

This decorative stitch adds a nice finish to the edge of one or multi-layers of felt and an applique. Starting on the left, sew the first vertical stitch twice, then run the needle behind the top of the second thread. Hold that thread along the top edge, stitch from behind, and loop the thread behind the needle. Continue working left to right, assisting the alignment of the top edge thread as you sew.

BLANKET STITCH

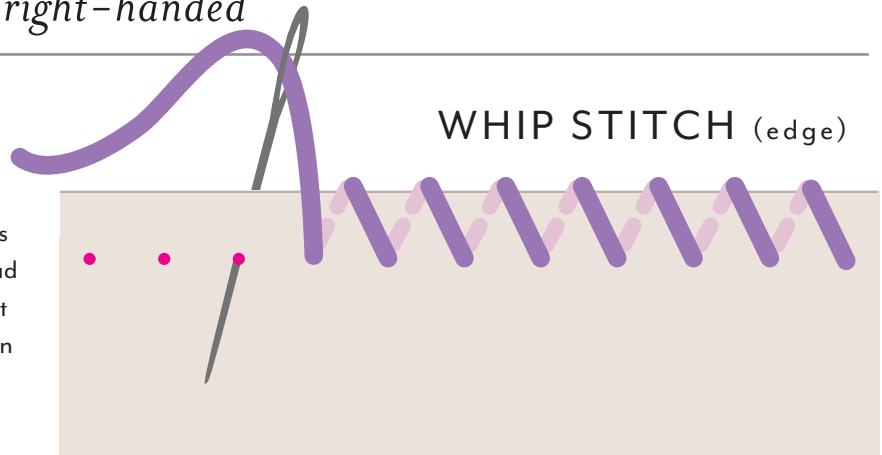


NOTE: *If you edge stitch from the bottom rather than the top, use right-hand version turned upside down for best visual.*

BASIC STITCHES *right-handed*

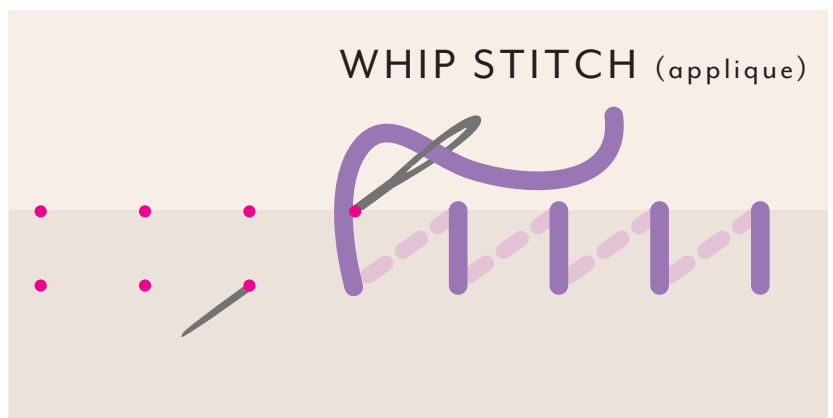
WHIP STITCH (edge)

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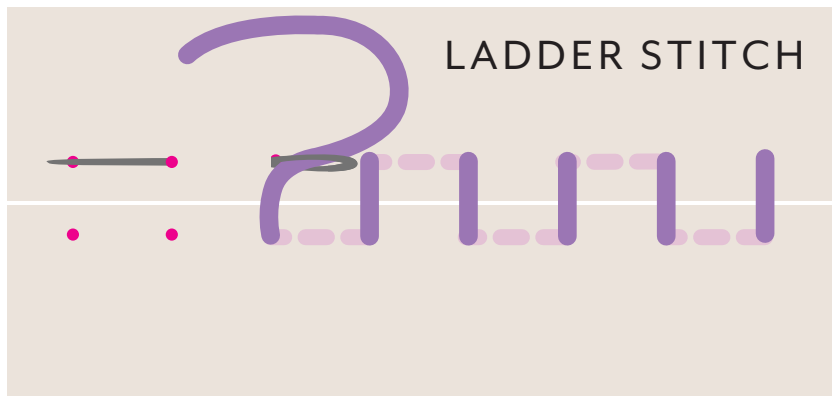
WHIP STITCH (applique)

Start your whip stitch on the right and sew to the left when doing an applique right-handed. Angle the needle from the top of the finished stitch. Run it under the felt, then back out at the base of the next stitch. Sewing at an angle will allow the visible part of the stitch to look straight. For rounded edges, space accordingly to keep a visibly even stitch.



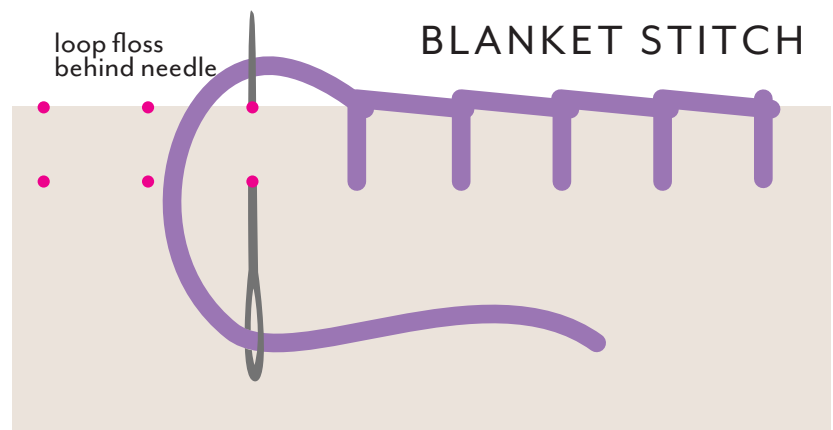
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STEP 2: CUTTING THE FELT

Cutting by hand *the simplest way to cut felt*

- 1) Print PDF pattern onto a text weight paper and cut out all template pieces.
- 2) Place pattern on wrong side of felt and pin the pattern to the felt using sewing pins.
- 3) Trace around the pattern with a sharpened pencil. Note: pencils work better than pens or markers because of the fine, smooth lines that won't bleed through the felt.
- 4) Remove the pins and pattern, and clarify guidelines with your pencil, if needed.
- 5) Use smaller, sharp scissors for cutting the felt pieces.

Using freezer paper *getting the most accurate cut, but has additional steps*

- 1) For this method you will need a plastic-coated freezer paper. Cut a piece that is big enough to fit your pattern. There are two sides — the shiny coated side and the paper side.
- 2) With the paper side up, place the freezer paper over the pattern piece. Trace the pattern using a pencil.
- 3) Place the felt on an ironing board, then the freezer paper, paper side up. With your iron on a high heat setting, carefully iron over the paper to adhere the plastic side to the felt. Iron just until the paper is lightly adhered. Note: If felt is exposed to high heat too long, it will burn and change color. Also, if you heat the freezer paper longer than necessary, it could shrink and alter your pattern.
- 4) Cut felt piece with the pattern adhered, using smaller, sharp scissors.
- 5) Carefully peel off the freezer paper.

Using a Cutting Machine *best for large projects where details are not as crucial*

We only recommend that you use a cutting machine that has a rotary blade, like the Cricut Maker or Silhouette Cameo 4. This will ensure nice, smooth cuts, unlike a typical blade tool that will drag and pull at the felt.

Using a rotary blade machine is a good option when time is more important than accuracy. An example is cutting 50 petals for felt flowers. However, the blade will cut into corners and tight angles which leaves slits in areas you may not want. This can cause issues when you are making a small felt animal.

- 1) Install rotary blade. Press felt onto a sticky fabric cutting mat.
- 2) In Cricut Design Space, use "wool blend felt" setting. If it defaults to a fine-point blade, simply change setting to rotary blade. For the Silhouette, use their recommended setting.
- 3) Carefully remove your cut felt pieces off the mat to ensure they do not stretch.



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STEP 3: SEWING ON DETAILS

For multiple colors on the main body:

- 1) Cut long strand of matching floss and remove 1-2 strands, depending on that set of instructions. Thread your embroidery needle.
- 2) Align and match the detail piece with the main body piece of felt.
- 3) Whip stitch along the edge where the second layer overlaps the first. Do not sew around the edges as the lower layer will be trimmed.
- 4) Knot the floss off on the backside by hooking it through a previous stitch. Tuck the floss tails through the previous stitches and trim thread.
- 5) Trim off the excess felt from the under layer, in this case the body, leaving a bit of an overlap so that the stitches don't pull through.

For applique details:

- 1) Cut long strand of matching floss and remove 1-2 strands, depending on that set of instructions. Thread your embroidery needle.
- 2) Set the detail pieces into place and use a pin or dot of white glue to secure while sewing.
- 3) Whip stitch around the outer edge of the felt detail in small, even stitches.
- 4) Knot the floss off on the backside by hooking it through a previous stitch.
- 5) Repeat with the second body piece, but mirroring the first.

STEP 4: INSERTING SAFETY EYES

Safety eyes are made to secure the plastic pieces on both sides of the felt so they cannot fall off or be easily removed. Though some of our older stuffies do use buttons and beads, safety eyes are our current choice and can be substituted for the older projects.

- 1) Place the pattern onto the felt body and pin if needed.
- 2) Mark the center of the eye with a straight pin.
- 3) Flip the body over, and draw around the pin to create a mark.
- 4) Remove the pins and the paper pattern.
- 5) Using a small pair of sharp scissors, snip a small hole where you marked the felt.
- 6) Slide in the safety eye, making sure it is on the right side of the felt.
- 7) Slide the washer on the backside of the safety eye, concave side facing upward. Push the washer onto the threads of the eye until it is snug with the felt.



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LESSON 7: ATTACHING EARS

If your animal has ears, follow the instructions to prepare them for final assembly.

- 1) Pin an ear in place by sliding the pointed end through the ear and into the head. Follow placement according to instructions.
- 2) Use 1 strand of floss, knotted and coming from either inside the head or ear itself (if there are two layers of felt).
- 3) Use a ladder stitch to sew base of ear to head. If your ears are double sided with two layers of felt, sew around both sides.
- 4) Pull the stitches snug so that the ear is flush with the head.
- 5) Sew end a few times until the ear is secured. Knot off with an existing stitch.
- 6) Pass the needle and floss through the head, and snip off the tail end.
- 7) Pin on the second ear to match the first and repeat steps.

CARE TIPS

*for
finished
stuffies*

Do not wash in a washing machine. Instead, spot clean with a gentle soap and a washcloth.

If any pilling occurs, gently shave off pills with a razor or use a fine tooth comb.

Well assembled stuffies using safety eyes are safe for children under 5.



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LESSON 8: ADDING FINAL DETAILS

Embroidering felt details: *for details that are sewn on after assembly*

- 1) Use a few dots of tacky glue to hold the pieces in place, or if they are large enough you can use a straight pin.
- 2) Thread needle with one strand of matching floss; knot and use a whip stitch around all sides of felt detail.
- 3) Knot the thread through an existing stitch. Pass the needle and floss through the body, and trim off the tail end.
- 4) Repeat for all of the remaining pieces.

Gluing on felt details: *tiny details are best attached with glue to keep them from breaking apart*

- 1) Place a small dot of quick drying tacky glue onto the felt. Too much glue will seep through the felt.
- 2) Gently press felt detail onto main body and allow to dry.

Embroidery thread details: *fine details are "drawn" on with floss*

- 1) Using a disappearing ink pen, draw on the design of the small detail. These pens are great for drawing on detail guidelines as the ink fades with exposure to air or water.
- 2) Thread needle with 2 strands of embroidery floss, and tie knot at ends.
- 3) Pass the needle through a side seam and back out at the end of your ink mark. The knot disappears inside the head and will not bulk up your embroidered detail.
- 4) Embroider your detail as instructed in the stuffie tutorial.
- 5) To finish the last stitch, measure the distance to where you want the stitch to end. Make a knot in the thread at that location (based on measurement).
- 6) Pass the needle back through the spot you started, out through the head or body, and pull gently. You will feel the knot pass into the felt and disappear. Snip off the floss tail.
- 7) If you are sewing a mouth, use the blunt eye end of your needle to pull a bit of slack back to the floss, and curve the floss for a smiling mouth.

Making whiskers:

- 1) Knot the ends of 3 strands of embroidery floss.
- 2) To hide the knot, send needle in from a side seam and come back out near the mouth and nose where the whiskers are placed.
- 3) Tie a knot in the floss flush against the outside of the felt.
- 4) Decide the length of whiskers and snip off the excess floss.
- 5) Repeat for the opposite side.
- 6) Separate each strand, using the pointed end of the needle down the base by the knot to fully fluff the whiskers.