Felt Appliqué ARTS & CRAFTS KITS at your library

Learn Felt Appliqué

Supplies provided:

Fabric: Wool blend felt
Embroidery Needle
Needle threader
Thread: Embroidery Floss
Additional supplies: Scissors, tape

The supplies in this kit will let you create an art piece using the technique of Wool Felt Appliqué. There are many types of appliqué, but all involve “applying” smaller pieces of fabric onto a larger background piece. Wool felt is a thick, non-woven fabric, so there are no fraying edges and it is easy to cut and sew.

We have included a few simple patterns, but don’t limit yourself, as any solid shape makes a good appliqué pattern. You can design your own or look online for some inspiration. You can also layer the appliqué pieces, just be sure to plan out how you would like them in your finished piece and then sew them on in order.

It can be fun to add some embroidery to your finished appliqué project, so we have included some simple embroidery stitch instructions with this kit.

Resources

For more information and projects on appliqué browse the library’s

**Arts & Crafts Neighborhood** Call #746.454

- 746.454 ARM *Appliqué Inside the Lines* by Carol Armstrong
- 746.454 DIC *The Modern Appliqué Workbook* by Jenifer Dick
- 746.454 LAW *Wool Appliqué* by Angela Lawrence
- 746.454 SUD *Kake-Jiku* by Kumiko Sudo
- 746.454 TIR *Celebrate Wool Appliqué* by Deborah Gale Tirico
- 745.454 TIR *Gorgeous Wool Appliqué* by Deborah Gale Tirico

Stay curious

Sparking curiosity and connecting our community through literacy and learning.
Felt Appliqué ARTS & CRAFTS KITS at your library

Instructions:

- Choose a design from the patterns provided or create your own. Any simple outline shape will work for this project. Decide which colors of felt you will use for each part of your project.

- Roughly cut out your pattern from paper, leaving about 1/8” border. This will allow you to trim to the final outline as you cut your felt. Tape the pattern piece to your chosen felt piece. Using sharp scissors, cut the felt precisely to the pattern shape. Gently remove any tape left on the felt.

- Next, tape your cut-out felt piece to the background felt piece that you have chosen. Gently remove this tape as needed as you stitch around the outline of your appliqué piece.

- Choose which color of embroidery floss you will use and cut a piece about 36” long or about 4 times the length of the outline you are stitching. You can choose a contrasting color to make the stitching stand out or a matching color if you prefer your stitching to blend with the fabric.

- Separate two or three strands of the 6 strand embroidery floss by pulling one strand while gently pinching the rest with your other hand. It may appear to be knotted, but it is just crumpled and will easily unwind. Below you can see the difference it makes to separate and re-align the strands. Thread your needle with the needle threader and tie a double knot at one end.

- You may choose to use either blanket stitch or whip stitch to attach your cutout piece to the background. Blanket stitch will create a solid edge and visible stitches, while using the whip stitch will allow you to applique small or narrow pieces with less obvious stitching for a more delicate look.

- In your mind’s eye, plan how far apart and how long you would like your stitches to be. On a fairly large piece of appliqué it would be usual to have the stitches about 1/8” apart and 1/8” away from the edge of the fabric. If you are working on a thin or very small piece, the stitches will need to be smaller and closer together. Try to keep your stitches uniform, but remember that this is hand-work and some variation is to be expected.

1515 SW 10th Ave | Topeka, KS | 66604 | 785-580-4400 | www.tscpl.org

Sparking curiosity and connecting our community through literacy and learning.
• **Blanket stitch** - Draw your thread up between your background fabric and the applique piece about 1/8” away from the edge of the piece. This will allow you to hide the knot between the two pieces. Pull the thread until the knot catches against the fabric firmly.

• Press the appliqué piece back down against the background fabric. Next poke the needle down through both layers about 1/8” away from where you came up and 1/8” away from the edge of the piece and back up through the background layer just even with the edge of the appliqué piece. When you come back up, be sure that the thread is behind your needle as shown and then pull it through. Keep your first stitch slightly loose as you will need to connect to it at the end to complete the edging.

• Continue stitching around the outline of the piece, pulling each stitch gently to tighten it along the edge.

• Connect your final stitch to the first stitch as shown here, by bringing the needle through the first stitch from right to left. Then draw the needle through the background fabric at that point and knot off the stitching.

• **Whip stitch** - Draw your thread up between your background fabric and the appliqué piece about 1/8” away from the edge of the piece. This will allow you to hide the knot between the two pieces. Pull the thread until the knot catches against the fabric firmly.

• Press the appliqué piece back down against the background fabric. Next poke the needle down through the background fabric just even with the edge of the appliqué piece and come back up through both pieces about 1/8” away from the edge and 1/8” away from your first stitch. Continue until you have stitched completely around the piece.

• **Knot Off** - End your stitching with the needle on the back of the fabric. Take a tiny stitch through the background fabric and draw the needle through the loop of the stitch before pulling it tight to knot off. You can hide the tail of your thread by inserting the needle beside the knotted end and between the two layers of fabric. Pull the needle through and snip the end near the fabric. The end will pull back into the space between the fabrics!
Running Stitch

Running stitch is the stitch that nearly all those who have held needles in their hands learn first. The running stitch is worked using a basic, almost intuitive in-and-out motion of the needle. This stitch is typically used to outline a shape. It can be worked in any length, but should be kept consistent throughout the area being stitched. Running stitch is also functional and can be used to sew pieces of a project together or for basting.

Back Stitch

Back stitch is used to outline a shape and is worked in a motion of two steps forward and one step back. To work the stitch, bring the needle up through the fabric a stitch length's distance from the starting point and insert the needle at the starting point, working the stitch backwards. Bring the needle up again a stitch length's distance from the first stitch and continue working in this manner to the end.

Detached Chain Stitch

Detached chain stitch is similar to chain stitches; however, instead of making a chain of multiple stitches, you make a single looped stitch, held in place with a small tacking stitch at the opposite end of the loop. Detached chain forms the basis of the lazy daisy stitch.

French Knot

French knots are easy to work once you've practiced them. To work a knot, bring the needle up through the fabric and wrap the working thread around the needle twice. Insert the needle back into the fabric very close to, but not in the same hole as you came out of, and pull the thread through, guiding it with your opposite hand as it passes through the fabric. Do not wrap too tightly or you'll have a difficult time pulling the needle through the knot. The thread should be against the needle, but not snug or tight. If your knot pulls through to the other side when working the stitch, try loosening the wrap a bit, and make sure you're not pulling down into the same hole. You will need a bridge to hold the knot on the surface; usually just a fiber or two in the fabric will suffice.

Split Stitch

Split stitch forms a solid line of stitching and can be used to outline a shape, as stems and tendrils, or to outline an area that will be filled with satin stitch. To work the stitch, bring your needle up through the fabric at the starting point and take a stitch forward. Bring the needle up through the fabric at the center of the stitch you just made, splitting the stitch before inserting the needle into the fabric again to make the second stitch.

Renee Stitch

Stem stitch is a basic stitch that produces a solid line of stitching. This stitch can be used to outline shapes or as stems and tendrils in a project. The stitch is worked by taking tiny stitches backwards along the outline of the shape. The working thread is held below the needle, with each stitch slightly covering the previous stitch. Rows of closely spaced stem stitch can also be used as a filling stitch. A similar stitch called the outline stitch is worked in the same manner, but with the thread held above the needle. The stitches can be used interchangeably.

Satin Stitch Flat

Flat satin stitch is worked by laying down straight stitches without any padding or outlining. This stitch can be difficult to taper around a curve.

Fern Stitch

This easy, textured stitch is worked in three straight stitches, with the insertion point for each stitch at the base of each three-stitch group. These groups are worked repeatedly along the line of stitching. Be sure to space and work each group uniformly for the best results.

From the book Embroidery Basics by Cheryl Fall 746.45 FAL

1515 SW 10th Ave | Topeka, KS | 66604 | 785-580-4400 | www.tscpl.org

Sparking curiosity and connecting our community through literacy and learning.
Felt Appliqué ARTS & CRAFTS KITS at your library

Dresden plate wedge and center

Daisy Flower and Leaf

Tree trunk and leaves

Bird and wing

1515 SW 10th Ave | Topeka, KS | 66604 | 785-580-4400 | www.tscpl.org

Sparking curiosity and connecting our community through literacy and learning.