

Project: Wool and Whimsy

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Love to work with wool? Bring garden-fresh blooms to any sewing table with folk art wool pincushions that you can stitch in an afternoon.

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Materials

- 5×9" rectangle pink felted wool (background)
- Scraps of green, yellow, dark pink, turquoise, red, blue, and orange felted wools (appliqués)
- 2—6½×9½" rectangles teal plaid felted wool (pincushion)
- Embroidery floss: green, dark pink, and gold
- Polyester fiberfill
- Freezer paper

Finished pincushion: 6×9"

Quantities are for 100% wool fabrics.

Cut Fabrics

Felted wool (available in many quilt shops) doesn't fray, so there is no need to turn under the edges of the appliqué shapes. To felt your own wool, machine-wash it in a hot-water-wash, cool-rinse cycle with a small amount of detergent; machine-dry it on high heat and steam-press.

To make the best use of your fabrics, cut the pieces in the following order.

Patterns are on pages 4–5. To use freezer paper for cutting appliqué shapes, complete the following steps.

1. Lay freezer paper, shiny side down, over patterns. Use a pencil to trace each pattern the number of times indicated, leaving ½" between tracings. Cut out freezer-paper shapes roughly ¼" outside the traced lines.
2. Using a hot, dry iron, press freezer-paper shapes, shiny side down, onto designated fabrics; let cool. Cut out fabric shapes on drawn lines and peel off freezer paper.

From pink wool, cut:

- 1 of Pattern E

From green wool, cut:

- 1—¼×5" strip for stem
- 1 of Pattern D

From yellow, dark pink, turquoise, red, blue, and orange wool scraps, cut:

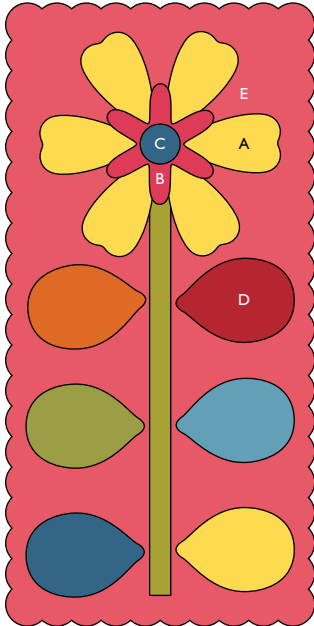
- 1 each of patterns A, B, and C
- 5 of Pattern D

Appliqué and Assemble Large Pincushion

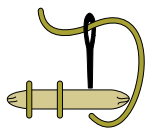
1. Referring to Appliqué Placement Diagram, position green wool ¼×5" stem on pink wool E background; baste in place.
2. Using two strands of green embroidery floss and a couching stitch, sew stem in place. To make a couching stitch, work small stitches, ¼" to ⅜" apart, back and forth over the strip (**Couching Diagram**).
3. Position A flower on background; pin. Using one strand of dark pink floss and a running stitch, sew A flower in place. To make a running stitch, pull needle up at A and insert it back into fabric at B (**Running Stitch Diagram**). Continue in same manner, loading several stitches on needle at a time.
4. Referring to Appliqué Placement Diagram, position B and C pieces on center of A flower. Using two strands of gold floss and a star stitch, sew both pieces in place. To make a star stitch, pull needle up at A and push it down at B (**Star Stitch Diagram**). Bring needle up at C, cross it over first stitch, and push needle down at D. Pull needle up at E and push it down at F.
5. Using two strands of gold floss, add a French knot at center of C piece. To make a French knot, pull the floss through at A, the point where the knot is desired (**French Knot Diagram**). Wrap the thread around needle two or three times without twisting it. Insert the tip of needle into fabric at B, ⅛" away from A. Gently push the wraps down the needle to meet fabric. Pull needle and trailing floss through the fabric slowly and smoothly. The size of a French knot depends on the number of floss strands and how many times you wrap them around the needle.
6. Referring to Appliqué Placement Diagram, position D leaves along stem; pin. Using one strand of green or gold floss and a backstitch, sew each leaf in place. To backstitch, pull needle up at A (**Backstitch Diagram**). Insert it back into fabric at B and bring it up at C. Push needle down again at D and bring it up at E. Continue in same manner.
7. Referring to photo on page 119, pin appliquéd background to a teal plaid 6½×9½" rectangle. Using one strand of dark pink floss, tack-stitch along scalloped edges to make pincushion top. To tack-stitch, pull needle up at A and push it down at B (**Tack Stitch Diagram**). Come up at C and continue in same manner around entire appliqué shape.
8. With right sides together, sew together pincushion top and remaining teal plaid 6½×9½" rectangle, leaving a small opening for turning. Trim corners.

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- Turn right side out. Using a chopstick or the eraser end of a pencil, push out corners. Stuff pincushion firmly with fiberfill. Whipstitch opening closed to complete large pincushion.



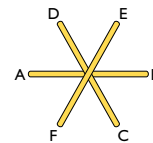
APPLIQUÉ PLACEMENT DIAGRAM



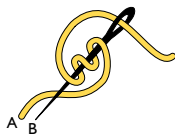
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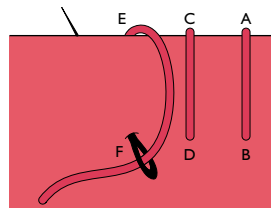
RUNNING STITCH



STAR STITCH



FRENCH KNOT

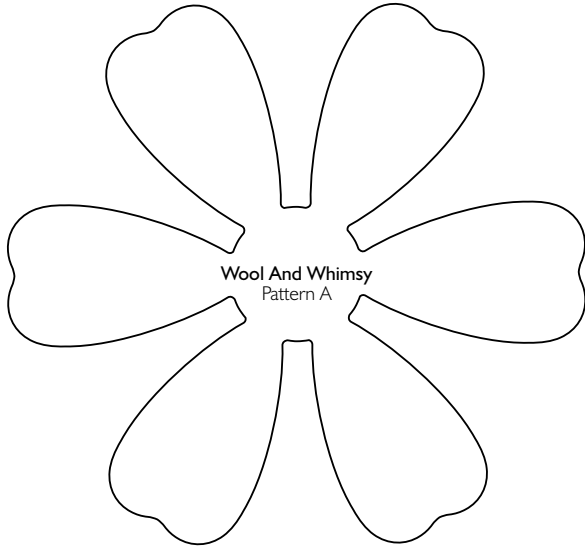


TACK STITCH

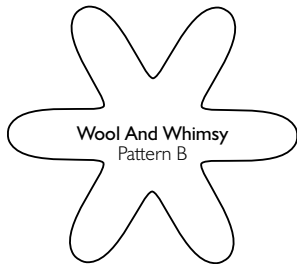


BACKSTITCH

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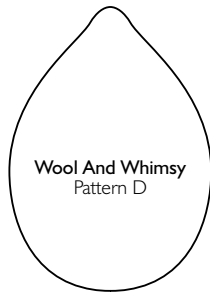
Wool And Whimsy
Pattern A



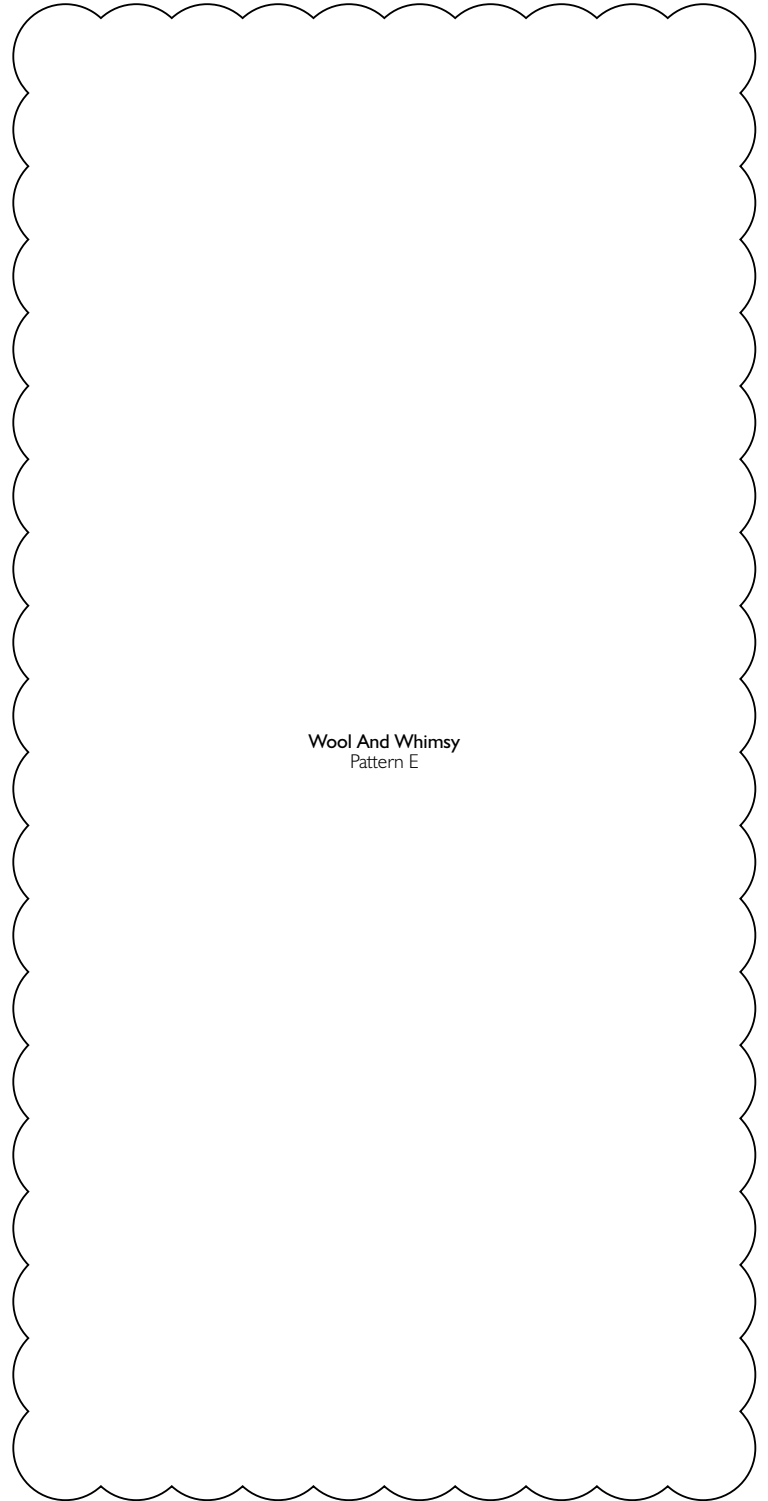
Wool And Whimsy
Pattern B



Wool And Whimsy
Pattern C



Wool And Whimsy
Pattern D



Wool And Whimsy
Pattern E



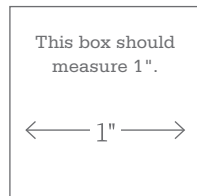
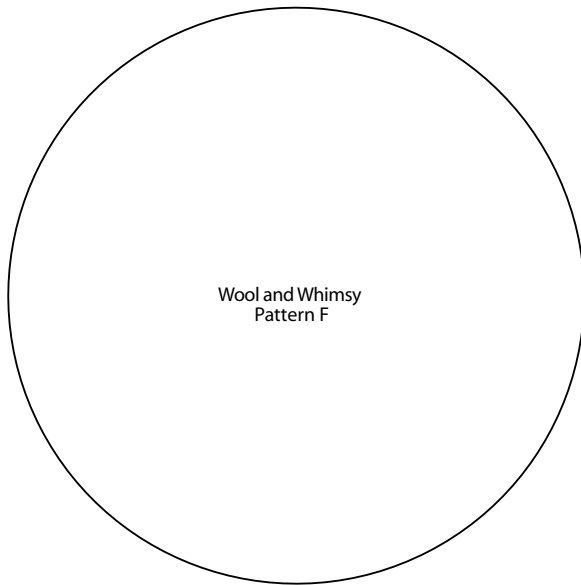
This box should
measure 1".
← 1" →

*** NOTE:**

When printing a
downloadable pdf, set Page
Scaling preference to NONE
to print patterns at 100%.
Do NOT "Shrink to Fit"
or "Fit to Printable Area."

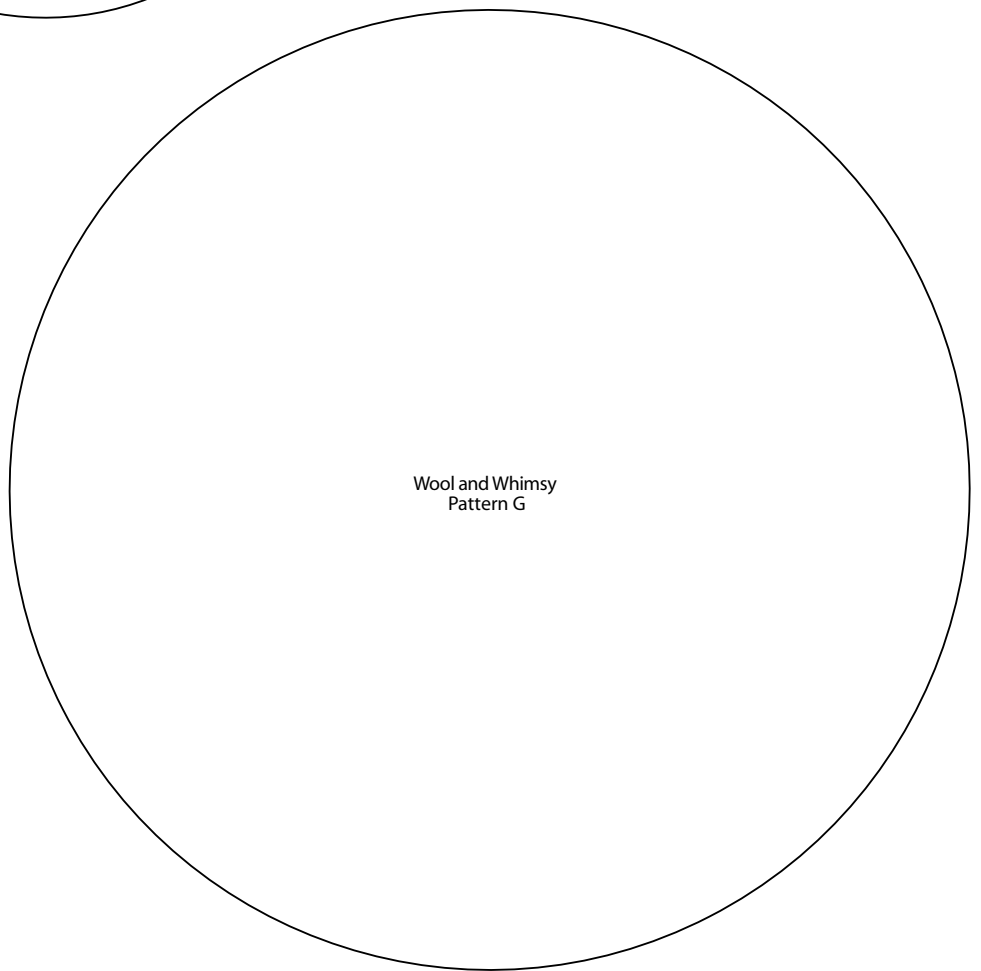


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Make and Use Templates

Make Templates

A template is a pattern made from extra-sturdy material so you can trace around it many times without wearing away the edges. Acrylic templates for many common shapes are available at quilt shops. Or you can make your own by duplicating printed patterns on template plastic.

To make permanent templates, purchase easy-to-cut template plastic, available at quilt shops and crafts supply stores. Lay the plastic over a printed pattern. Trace the pattern onto the plastic using a ruler and a permanent marker to ensure straight lines, accurate corners, and permanency.

For hand piecing and appliqué, make templates the exact size finished pieces will be (without seam allowances). For piecing, this means tracing the patterns' dashed lines.

For machine piecing, make templates that include seam allowances by tracing the patterns' solid and dashed lines onto the template plastic.

For easy reference, mark each template with its letter designation, grain line (if noted on the pattern), and block name. Cut out the traced shapes on their outside lines. Verify each template's shape and size by placing it over its printed pattern. Templates must be accurate; errors, however small, will compound many times as you assemble a quilt. To check templates' accuracy, make a test block before cutting the fabric pieces for an entire quilt.

Use Templates

To mark on fabric, use a pencil, white dressmaker's pencil, chalk, or a special fabric marker that makes a thin, accurate line. Do not use a ballpoint or ink pen; it may bleed if washed. Test all marking tools on a fabric scrap before using them.

To make pieces for hand piecing or appliqué, place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " away from the previous tracing (**Diagram 1**), trace again, and repeat. The lines you trace on the fabric are sewing lines. Mark cutting lines $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the sewing lines, or estimate the distance by eye when cutting out the pieces with scissors. For hand piecing, add a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance; for hand appliqué, add a $\frac{3}{16}$ " seam allowance.

Because templates used to make pieces for machine piecing have seam allowances included, you can use common tracing lines for efficient cutting. Place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template without a space between it and the previous tracing (**Diagram 2**); trace again and repeat. Using a rotary cutter and ruler, cut pieces out, cutting precisely on the drawn lines.

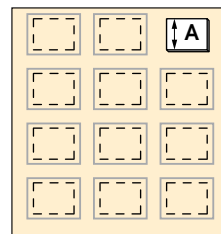


DIAGRAM 1

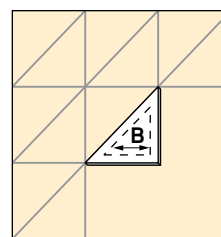


DIAGRAM 2