Project: Fresh Picked

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Felted wool pincushions will be the hit of the party when given as take-home favors.

Project: Fresh Picked

Materials

- 2—5" squares gray felted wool (appliqué foundation, backing)
- 5" square gold felted wool (tomato appliqué)
- Scrap of red felted wool (strawberry appliqué)
- Scraps of green felted wool (leaf appliqués)
- 5×10" piece muslin (lining)
- Embroidery floss: gold, light gold, red, and green
- Crafts sand
- Pink safety pin

Finished pincushion: 4½" square
Measurements include ¼" seam allowances. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

Cut Fabrics

Cut pieces in the following order. Patterns are on *page 4*. To make pattern templates, see Make and Use Templates, *page 5*.

To felt 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.

It's not necessary to add seam allowances when cutting out the appliqué pieces. Because felted wool doesn't ravel, there are no edges to turn under. Cut the edges cleanly, keeping them as smooth as possible.

From gold wool, cut:
- 1 of Pattern A

From red wool, cut:
- 1 of Pattern B

From green wool, cut:
- 2 *each* of patterns C and D

From muslin, cut:
- 2—5" squares

Appliqué Pincushion Top

1. Referring to **Appliqué Placement Diagram**, arrange gold wool A tomato and red wool B strawberry on gray wool 5"-square appliqué foundation; baste in place. Using two strands of gold embroidery floss, blanket-stitch around edge of tomato.

   To blanket-stitch, pull your needle up at A **(Blanket Stitch Diagram)**, form a reverse L shape with floss, and hold angle of L shape in place with your thumb. Push your needle down at B and come up at C to secure stitch. Continue in same manner.

2. Using two strands of light gold floss and a running stitch, create lines on tomato.

   To make a running stitch, pull your needle up at A **(Running Stitch Diagram)** and insert it back into fabric at B, ⅛" away from A. Pull your needle up at C, ⅛" away from B, and continue in same manner. units total. (Set aside remaining 1½"-wide segments to make B blocks in Step 4.)

3. Using two strands of red floss and a running stitch, add lines around strawberry.

4. Position green wool C leaves at top of tomato and green wool D leaves at top of strawberry. Using two strands of green floss, tack pieces in place.
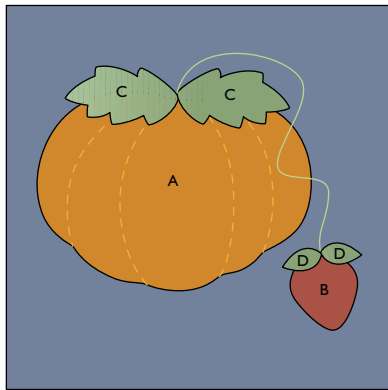
5. Using two strands of green floss, stem-stitch a vine between the strawberry and tomato.

To stem-stitch, pull your needle up at A **(Stem Stitch Diagram)**, then insert it back into fabric at B, about ⅜" away from A. Holding floss out of the way, bring your needle back up at C and pull floss through so it lies flat against fabric. The distances between points A, B, and C should be equal. Pull gently with equal tautness after each stitch. Continue in same manner, holding floss out of way on same side of stitching every time. Using two strands of green floss, stem-stitch a vine between the strawberry and tomato.
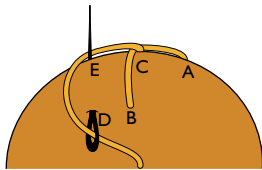
Finish Pincushion

1. Layer a muslin 5" lining square, the remaining gray wool 5" square, and appliquéd foundation with right side down. Place remaining muslin 5" lining square on top; pin to hold in place. Stitch around all sides, leaving an opening at bottom for turning.

2. Turn pincushion right side out. Fill with crafts sand. Whipstitch opening closed. Place a pink safety pin on tomato.
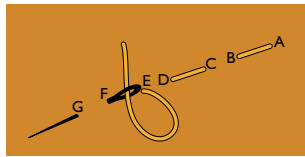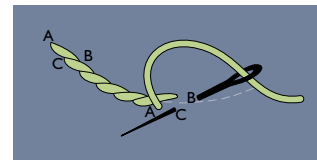
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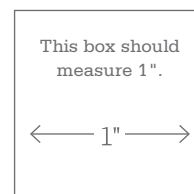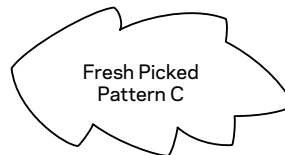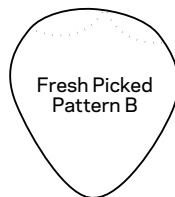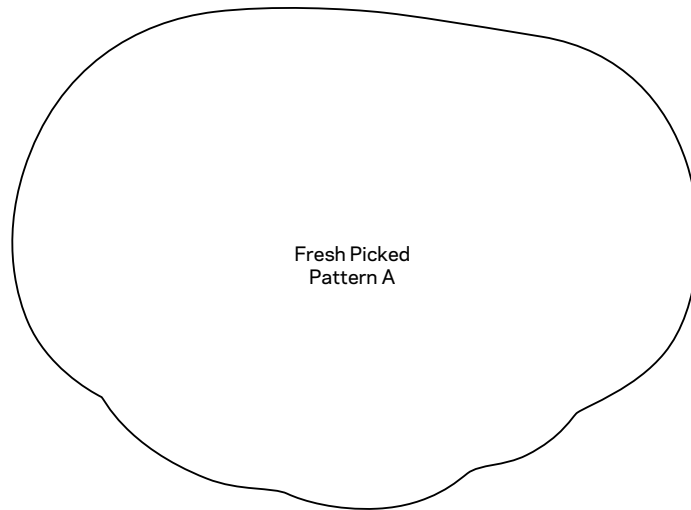APPLIQUÉ PLACEMENT DIAGRAM

BLANKET STITCH

RUNNING STITCH

STEM STITCH

Fresh Picked
Pattern A

Fresh Picked
Pattern B

Fresh Picked
Pattern C

Pattern D

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."

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 ½" away from the previous tracing (Diagram 1), trace again, and repeat. The lines you trace on the fabric are sewing lines. Mark cutting lines ¼" away from the sewing lines, or estimate the distance by eye when cutting out the pieces with scissors. For hand piecing, add a ¼" seam allowance; for hand appliqué, add a 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.
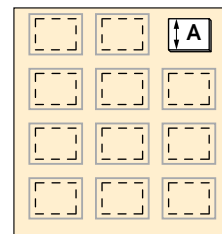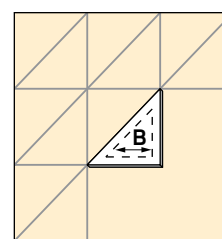

DIAGRAM 1

DIAGRAM 2