

Corinne Lapierre

# A Year of Felt Decorations

Easy-to-sew accessories for every season



SEARCH PRESS



**Corinne Lapierre** studied Fine Art in France before moving to the UK to study Fashion Design. After working as a fashion designer for a few years, Corinne studied millinery, through which she fell in love with felt and its many qualities. In 2009 Corinne started her own craft business as a felt maker, and her company, based in Leeds, UK, now sells an expanding range of craft kits and patterns designed for adults and children. Corinne lives in Yorkshire with her three children and two cats. This is her sixth book, following her best-selling *Folk Embroidered Felt Birds*, *Felt Animal Families* and *All-New Twenty to Make: Festive Felt Decorations*. She was awarded *Best British Brand* in the Craft Business Awards 2021.

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This book uses material from the following books published by Search Press: *Fabulous Felt* by Corinne Lapierre, 2016 and *Twenty to Make: Felt Christmas Decorations* by Corinne Lapierre, 2013

This edition published in 2024  
Search Press Limited  
Wellwood, North Farm Road,  
Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3DR

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Photographs by Paul Bricknell at Search Press Studios  
Author photograph on cover by Col Morley  
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ISBN: 978-1-80092-047-7  
ebook ISBN: 978-1-80093-040-7

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You are invited to visit the author's website: [www.corinnelapierre.com](http://www.corinnelapierre.com), Instagram: @corinnefeltkits  
Facebook: @Corinne Lapierre

#### Publishers' note

All the step-by-step photographs in this book feature the author. No models have been used.

### Dedication

This book is dedicated to my late mother who gave me the love of crafts and always encouraged me to pursue my dreams.

### Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my family, including my three beautiful children for their enthusiasm about this book, and my friends for their cheerful support:  
Emma, Oonagh and Olivia.

Last but not least, a very big thank you to the Search Press team who have been fabulous, especially Daniel Conway for his patience and guidance.

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# Introduction

Ever since I was a little girl growing up with a very creative mother, I have always had a passion for crafts.

My attraction to fabric and sewing is probably what led me to become a fashion designer, but it wasn't until I studied millinery that I discovered felt and knew that I had found my real passion. Since then, I have spent years studying and teaching different techniques of working with felt and I still remain fascinated by the many beautiful qualities of this medium.

I have my own brand of craft kits in which felt has taken centre stage. Even now, I get a buzz when I look at the different coloured rolls neatly stacked on my shelves!

Felt is one of the most ancient textiles known to man and is used all over the world. The legend goes that shepherds used wool to cushion their feet in their clogs and that the movement, heat and sweat matted it into felt. Making felt really is this simple and its properties make it a very versatile material: it is simple to cut, does not fray and can be stitched easily. It can also be steamed, shaped, glued and layered.

The quality and colours of the felt you buy will really show in your projects so, if possible, I would advise you to use wool felt or a good-quality wool mix.

I hope to share my passion for felt with this collection of felt decorations and accessories. Some projects are quick and easy and others will require more time and patience. All projects are sewn by hand so you don't need to set anything up and you can easily take them out and about with you. Whether you are a complete beginner or a more advanced crafter, I hope you will find plenty of inspiration.

The important thing is that you enjoy making, stitching and mixing colours and you should be very proud of your finished items.

Happy sewing!



Corinne



# Materials and equipment

## Felt

Throughout this book I have used a wool/viscose blend of felt. It is a more affordable alternative to pure wool while keeping all its luxurious qualities of softness and easy handling. Like pure wool, a wool-mix felt can be gently washed by hand in cold water.

I would really recommend you do not use 100 per cent acrylic felt as the feel of it is very different and it will not be as easy to sew. Sometimes it can be a little thin and see-through too. If you cannot find good-quality felt on the high street, there are a growing number of online outlets from which you can order felt in beautiful shades and various sizes.

## Equipment

The equipment is fairly basic and standard to most sewing kits. You will need some sharp fabric scissors, small pointed embroidery scissors, pins and embroidery needles. You will also be required to use some pencils, pens to transfer the templates and some paper scissors. Fabric pens can be used, although they are optional.

For some projects you will need some double-sided fusible webbing material to stick two pieces of felt together and I also like to have plain tissue paper handy to transfer embroidery patterns (see page 11).

## Other materials

To complete all the projects, you will also need some toy stuffing, ribbons, embroidery thread in various colours and dried lavender flowers. A few beads, sequins or pretty buttons always add a personal touch too.



From left to right: embroidery scissors, embroidery needles, pins and fabric scissors.



The projects in this book have been made using metric measurements, and the imperial equivalents provided have been calculated following standard conversion practices. The imperial measurements are often rounded to the nearest 1/8in for ease of use except in rare circumstances; however, if you need more exact measurements, there are a number of excellent online converters that you can use. Always use either metric or imperial measurements, not a combination of both.

### Opposite

Clockwise from top left: sheets of double-sided fusible webbing, toy stuffing, wool/viscose blend felt in varying colours, ribbons, dried lavender flowers and embroidery thread.



# Techniques

## Transferring templates



**1** Cut out your paper template (photocopied or traced from the book) and place on the felt. Hold or pin in place and draw around it with a pencil or pen.

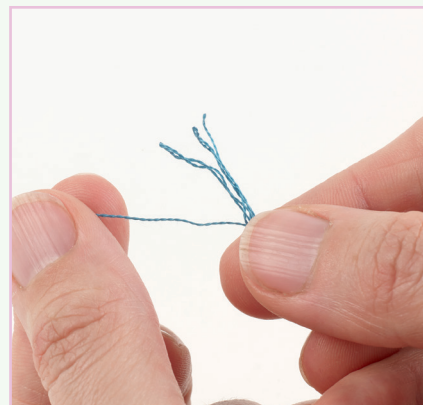


**2** Remove the paper template and use your fabric scissors to cut the felt, following the line you drew.

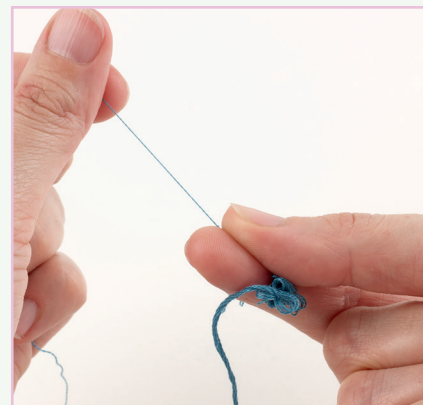


**3** You can double-check your felt shape against the template for size and accuracy.

## Preparing embroidery thread



**1** From the skein cut a length of about 60–70cm (23½–27½in). Holding the thread loosely, take one or two strands at one end.



**2** Gently pull the strand(s) from the rest of the length, which will twist into a ball. This will not tangle it; it will go back to normal once you have taken the strand(s) out.

### Tip...

A dotted line on some of the pattern templates indicates a fabric fold. You must fold your felt and align the fold line against the dotted line before cutting out through both layers. Open out to reveal the complete shape.



## Tissue paper templates



**1** Place a piece of plain white tissue paper on the template in the book and carefully trace the embroidery pattern.



**2** Pin the tissue paper securely onto the felt you wish to embroider with the traced lines showing on top.



**3** Start embroidering as you would normally, but going through the felt and the tissue paper (from the top). Pull the needle through very gently as you might find that it tears the tissue paper a little bit. Do not worry if this happens, just keep stitching.



**4** When you have finished the embroidery it should look like this, with the stitches showing on top of the tissue paper.



**5** Place your work on the table and hold the stitches firmly with your finger while you pull very gently on the tissue paper to remove it. It tends to tear around the stitching. Be very cautious not to disturb the embroidery by pulling too hard. This is why holding the stitches is so important.



# Appliqué

## Technique 1



Place the cut-out shape of felt onto the larger piece you want to attach it to. You can hold it or pin it and sew it on with small regular overhand stitches. If you want the appearance to be very discreet, use thread of a similar colour to the felt.

## Technique 2



Another technique consists of layering shapes of felt and sewing them in place with bold embroidery stitches in a contrasting colour. The stitches become part of the design, but also serve the purpose of attaching the pieces.

## Technique 3



**1** Use double-sided fusible webbing material. Simply place the glue side onto the felt and set your iron to the manufacturer's recommended temperature. Iron for a few minutes on the paper side, until the glue has melted.

# Attaching a hanging loop



**1** Fold a piece of ribbon in half to form a loop. Place the ends together on the wrong side of the back piece of your project. Sew a couple of times through the ribbon and the felt with small straight stitches to hold it in place.



**2** Place the front piece of the project on top and stitch through both layers of felt and the ribbon to hold it securely in place. Use pins to secure the layers if needed. Carry on stitching around the edges with the recommended stitch (usually blanket stitch).



**2** Once the felt and paper have cooled down, transfer the shape you wish to make from the template onto the paper and cut with your fabric scissors.



**3** Peel off the paper from the felt. You should now be able to see a shiny residue on the felt which is the glue.



**4** Position your felt shape onto the base you wish to attach it to, glue side down. Iron on a warm setting for a few minutes. This will make the glue melt and bond the two layers of felt together. You can leave it as it is or add embroidery.

# Stuffing a project



**1** When you have sewn about three-quarters of the way round your piece, do not cut the thread, but take small amounts of toy stuffing and push them inside the gap. Carry on stitching to close the gap and end the sewing where you started.



**2** If you are filling your project with lavender, use the same technique as for toy stuffing. I would always advise putting a small amount of toy stuffing at the bottom of the project to seal the seam. Add the lavender in small pinches. If you do this over a bowl or tray, you can collect what falls out. Add a tiny bit of toy stuffing to finish, then carry on stitching to close the gap completely.

