

Introduction

This download gives you tips on the tools and supplies used to make the projects on Florabunda's page. You can also find tips in this download to help you finish the projects.

Tools

Sewing Tools

For the sewing projects on Florabunda's page you will need scissors, pins and a pin cushion, and hand sewing needles. You might also like a thimble, a needle threader, and a tape measure.



1. Scissors Children's *safety* scissors probably will not cut felt. But you can use some brands of regular children's scissors to cut the felt for the easy sewing projects on Florabunda's page. When you need two matching pieces of felt to make one of the projects, some scissors can cut both pieces at once and some scissors will only cut one piece at a time. Some scissors that will cut felt are: Fiskars for children, Westcott children's scissors, and Crayola scissors. Singer makes small inexpensive scissors that are 4" (10 cm) and 6½" (16.5 cm) long that cut felt and fabric very well. If you are around a grownup who sews, you might borrow a pair of dressmaker scissors, but remember that sewers are very careful with their scissors.



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2. Pins Glass head silk pins are a good type of pin to use on your sewing projects. They are long and sharp and easy to find if you drop one.



Ouch! I should remember to keep my shoes on if I use pins.

3. Pin Cushions A tomato pin cushion is a good place to keep your pins. You can also make a globe pin cushion from the free pattern on Florabunda's page, but to make it, you will need the help of a grownup who sews.



4. Needles You will need hand sewing needles for the sewing projects and for the tiny butterfly net on Florabunda's Page. There are many types of hand sewing needles. Different sewing jobs need different sizes and types of needles, so choose your needles carefully.



This needle is probably too big for these projects.



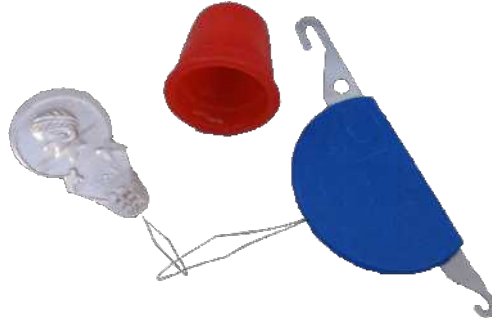
I think that this needle is too curvy.

A good size needle for hand sewing is a size 8 embroidery needle. It is easy to thread and easy to handle. Felt is so thick that you might also want to try a needle that is a little longer than a size 8 like a size 6 embroidery needle when you are sewing felt.

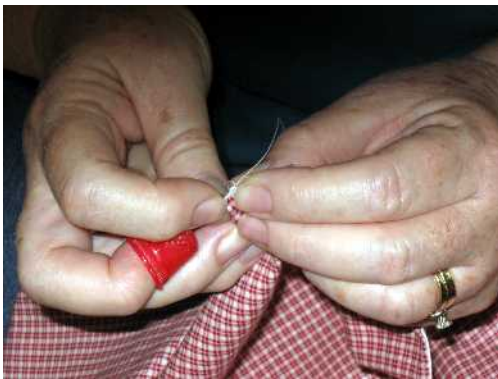
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5. Needle Threader A needle threader is a handy gadget. It is great for people learning to sew, but it is helpful for experienced sewers, too.



6. Thimble Not everyone uses a thimble, but many people like them. To use a thimble, hold the needle between your thumb and index finger. Put your thimble on your middle finger and push the needle through the fabric with the thimble.



Use a thimble that fits your finger. This one is a little big for me.

Stuffing Tools

You can use any kind of stick with rounded edges like a chopstick or wooden spoon handle for a stuffing tool. A hemostat and a pair of tweezers make very good stuffing tools, because you can hold the stuffing with the tool and then put it where you want it.



Knitting Tools

1. Spool Knitters The spool knitters used in the spool knitting projects on Florabunda's page have either four or five pins to hold the yarn loops. Sometimes the knitters are called French knitters instead of spool knitters.



2. Loom Hook You need a loom hook or crochet hook to move the yarn loops while you are knitting.
3. Plastic Needle Use a plastic needle with a large eye to sew the butterfly and the tiny rug.
4. Tape Measure You will need a tape measure for the spool knitting projects.



Supplies

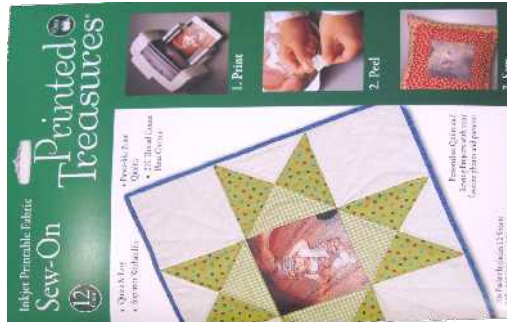
Felt

Felt comes in rectangles. You can also find it on fabric bolts. To buy a yard or two of felt, ask the clerk to cut the amount you want from the bolt. You can make most of the felt projects with one rectangle of felt, but the large elephant takes two rectangles.



Printable Fabric

The easiest way to make the globe pin cushion is to buy sheets of printable fabric. You can find printable fabric in the quilting section of fabric stores.



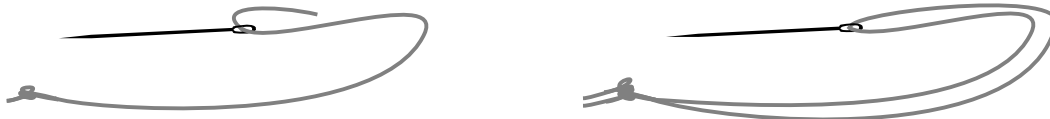
Fusible Webbing



Fusible webbing comes in packages or on bolts like fabric. Use fusible webbing to glue two pieces of cloth together or a piece of fabric to a piece of paper. You will need an iron to use the fusible webbing. Read the directions that come with it carefully. If you add fabric to the tiny basket project, you will need fusible webbing.

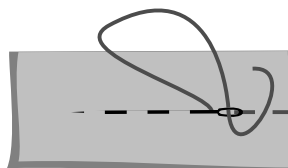
Hand Stitches

Threading Your Needle



The first step in hand sewing is to thread a needle. Use a needle threader if you like. Tie a knot in one end of the thread. When people are learning to sew they sometimes tie both ends of the thread together so that the needle will not come unthreaded. You can tie the thread ends together, if you like.

Running Stitch



The running stitch is a very easy stitch to sew. You will use the running stitch on the felt projects. To make a stitch, stick the needle through the fabric layers to the back of both fabric layers. Then stick it through the fabric layers again to bring it to the front of the layers.

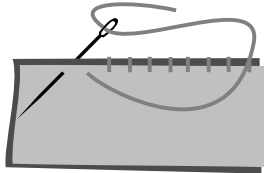
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You can make one stitch at a time or make several stitches with the needle before pulling the thread through all of the fabric.

When you have finished sewing, sew a stitch in the same spot four or five times before you cut the thread. Those last stitches that are piled on top of each other should keep the thread from coming out of the cloth.

Overcasting Stitch



You will use the overcasting stitch to sew the net of the tiny butterfly net and to sew the spool knit butterfly and tiny rug together.

Wrap the thread around the edges of the fabric or knitting as you sew.

Sew through the fabric or knitting pieces with each stitch.

Transferring Pattern Markings to Fabric

After you have cut out the pieces for a felt animal, you need to mark the felt with dots, lines, and notches. The dots will show you where to glue the eyes and noses and where to sew the cat's whiskers. The lines and notches will show where to sew the elephant's ears. The notches will also show how to match the elephant felt pieces.

Choosing a pen

Test the pen that you want to use on a scrap of felt. It should make a dot that you can easily see. It should make a small sharp dot, not a large blurry dot. For the eyes and nose dots on the cats and bears, you can use a permanent marker. To mark the elephants you should use a disappearing ink pen.



Dots

1. On the paper patterns for the felt animals, pull a pin through the middle of each eye and nose. Pull a pin through the end of each whisker on the cats. The pin should leave a hole in the paper at each spot.

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2. Put the pattern on the fabric to be marked.
3. Use a pen to mark the fabric through each hole in the pattern.



Notches

Cut out the small notches in the elephant pattern. The notches are used to help match felt pieces. Mark the notches' placement on the elephant felt pieces with disappearing ink. When you learn to sew more difficult projects with the seam allowance on the inside of your sewing project, you may decide to cut out the little notches rather than coloring them in with disappearing ink.

