

# Felt Quickies

## An idea sheet for 4-H Clothing Project Leaders

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**F**elt quickies are designed as easy introductory projects to help you teach basic skills of measuring, pinning, cutting, and hand sewing. Felt is used since it does not have a yarn direction or grain and does not ravel. There are many suitable articles for this project. The ones included are selected as examples of what can be done.

Directions on decorating the felt quickies are purposely vague in order to encourage you and the members to be creative. Creativity will be encouraged if you support whatever design ideas the members offer without criticism or judgment. Allow time for thinking up and doing one's own decoration. Let members set their own standard of complexity/simplicity and workmanship. Have a variety of materials available to make experimentation easier. If the members offer several ideas, you can encourage decision-making by helping them to analyze the alternatives.

### General supplies needed for felt quickies

- Felt, large pieces for items, small pieces for decorations
- Decorative trims such as ribbon, braid, lace, buttons, sequins
- Matching thread
- Decorative thread such as embroidery floss or buttonhole twist

### Equipment

- Seam gauge or tape measure
- Shears, scissors (and perhaps pinking shears)
- Pins
- Needles
- Pencil and paper

### Tape measure holder

#### Procedure

1. Prepare paper pattern  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " x  $8\frac{1}{2}$ " for holder.
2. Plan for decoration. Make patterns for decoration if needed.
3. Pin paper pattern to felt and cut out felt.
4. If desired, decorate.
5. Fold in half to form a long pocket.
6. Pin the long sides together. Stitch pocket using running stitch, back stitch, or a decorative stitch like the blanket stitch.

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*Ardis W. Koester, Extension textiles and clothing specialist, Oregon State University. Ideas for patterns were suggested by county 4-H groups.*



## Christmas tree ornaments

### Additional supplies

- Cookie cutters
- Stuffing

### Procedure

1. Trace around cookie cutters to make paper patterns.
2. Use paper patterns to pin to double layer of felt and cut out ornaments.
3. Decorate each piece of felt on one side.
4. Pin front and back of ornament together.
5. Partially stitch ornament together, then stuff. Pin closed and complete stitching.

## Pin cushions

### Additional supplies

- Wool scraps
- 1/2" elastic
- Cardboard

### Specific supplies

#### Ladybug

- 4" circle of red felt
- 3" circle of red felt
- Black felt for head
- 1/2" stripe and spots

#### Blossom

- Two 3" circles of felt
- One half-dollar-size circle
- One dime-size circle

#### Car





- Two 3" x 4" pieces of felt
- One 1" x 1/2" felt
- Two quarter-size circles

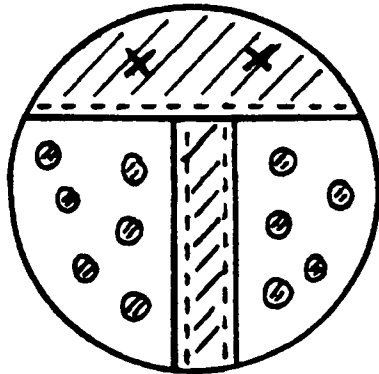
## General procedure

1. Prepare paper patterns according to the dimensions listed for the pin cushion you are making. (Patterns are on page 3.)
2. Pin paper patterns to felt and cut out felt.
3. Cut one piece of lightweight cardboard (cereal box weight) 1/4" smaller than largest felt piece. This will be placed on the bottom inside to prevent pins from sticking through the pin cushion.
4. Measure around wrist and subtract 1 1/2" to determine length of elastic needed if pin cushion will be worn.
5. Prepare finely snipped wool or wool blend scraps to be used as stuffing. Wool is preferred over cotton or other materials because it prevents pins from rusting. Pack stuffing firmly in pin cushion.
6. Decorate top layer of pin cushion before stuffing and attaching lower layer including cardboard.
7. Attach elastic to underside if pin cushion will be worn on wrist.

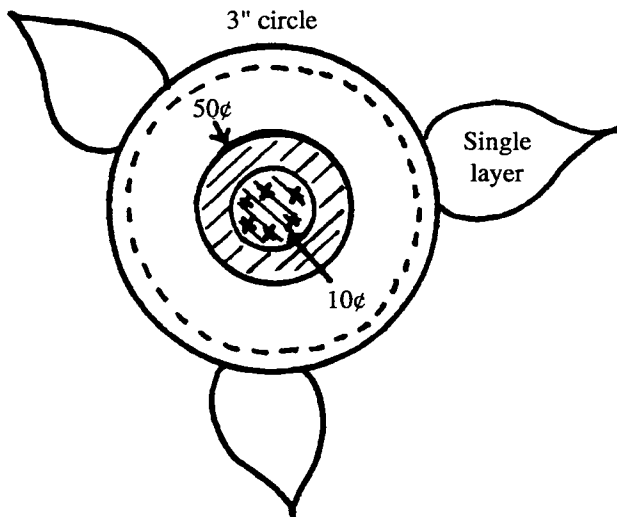
## Special directions for making ladybug

Decorate the larger circle before joining the 4" circle to the 3" circle. Divide large and small circles in halves and quarters and mark with pins in order to work larger piece of felt to smaller and have a rounded bug.

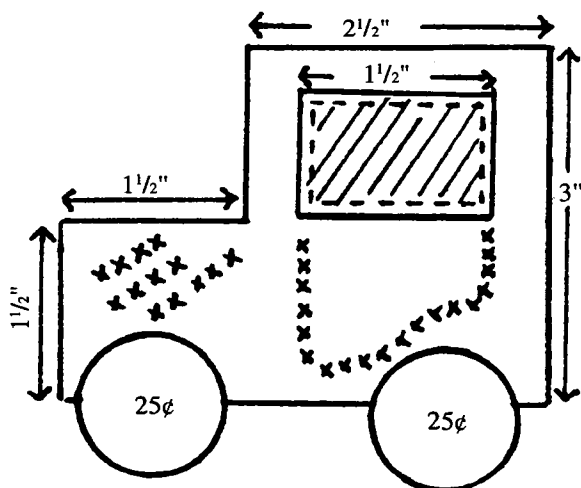
Key	
	basic color felt
	contrast color felt
	running stitch
	decorative stitching



Ladybug



Blossom



Car

## Sunglasses case

### Additional supplies

- Soft woven fabric for lining

### Procedure

1. Prepare paper pattern 7" x 7" for case. Plan for decoration.
2. Pin paper patterns to felt. Cut out. Trim 1/2" from 2 sides of pattern to use for lining pattern. Pin to lining and cut out.
3. Fold case in half, mark fold line with pins.
4. Decorate front of case.
5. Lay lining on inside of case. Stitch lining to case along top edge using close firm stitch such as running stitch, backstitch, or blanket stitch.
6. Fold case and lining in half. Pin together on bottom edge and along side.
7. Stitch edges together using a close, firm stitch.

## Needle cases

### Additional supplies

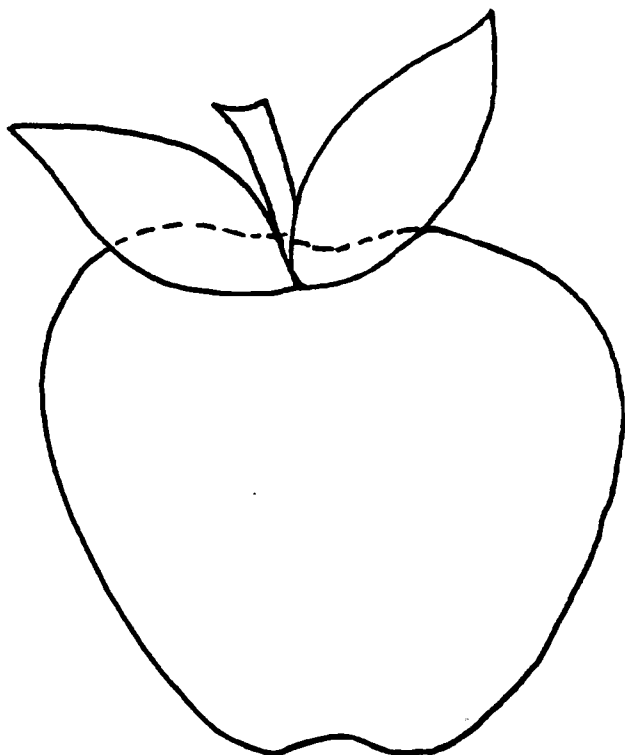
- Inner layer of felt or flannel to hold needles. Felt is firm and does not ravel. Flannel is soft for easy inserting of needles, but ravel.

### General procedures

1. Prepare paper pattern for needle case and any decorations.
2. Pin paper pattern to double layer of felt. Cut out. Trim 1/4" from pattern to make pattern for inner layer. Pin to double layer of inner layer material and cut out.
3. Attach decorations to front.
4. Fold or attach front and back of case with needle holding layers inside.
5. Use running stitch or backstitch along fold or edge of attachment to hold felt pieces and inner layers together.

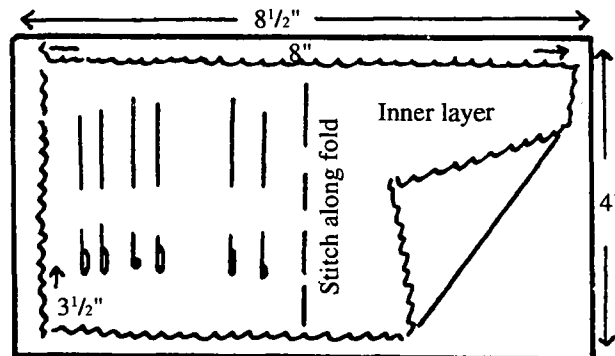
### Directions for making fruit

Lay double inner layers inside front and back felt layers. Attach the 4 layers near the top with 2 inches of backstitching. Attach stem and leaves.



### Directions for making book

Cut pattern for felt cover  $4'' \times 8\frac{1}{2}''$ . Cut pattern for inner layer  $3\frac{1}{2}'' \times 8''$ . Cut out felt and inner layer. Lay inner layer on outer layer, centering the inner layer. Fold in half and pin to mark fold line. Open and stitch to attach inner and outer layers along the fold line. Decorate the cover layer with embroidery, scraps of felt, or trim.



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