
Woodland Mushroom with Tamar Mogendorff

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

- Hi, I'm Tamar, and I'm gonna show you in my class today how you can make your own mushroom, and I'm gonna show you how to use the machine in order to sew the body and the head of the mushroom. We're gonna focus on the hand-stitched details, and of course on how to give your little mushroom a face impression and actually give it character. And also I'm gonna show you a little trick how to make it actually stand. And I think we're gonna have a lot of fun. So I hope you're ready 'cause it's a lot of work.

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- So, to make your mushroom you will need a sewing machine and you will need fabric for the top of the mushroom. It can be whatever fabric that you choose. I recommend linen or cotton, and, of course it's always nice if it comes with polk dots so it's a mushroom, it's cute. But, you can always go with solid color, you can do any pattern you choose, it's your mushroom. You can play with the colors. Then, for the under part of the mushroom I recommend a pleated fabric. I know it's hard sometimes to find but if you find it it's really adding, and if you use the pleated, if you can't find it you can just use whatever, linen or cotton that you would like, but if you do use the pleated, you should have just a very regular felt. It doesn't matter the color and I'll show you later why. And then, for the stem, you will need just a piece of linen, make sure it's long enough. Also because we're gonna make the roots out of the same fabric, I used today just a cream color linen, but you can use whatever color you want. Again, it's your mushroom, it's your decision. But recommending linen and not any other fabric. You will need a nice amount of stuffing material. It can be cotton or polyester, whatever you find in a store, it doesn't really matter. You can even open like an old pillow if that's what you'd like. Then you will need a few colors of embroidery thread. I chose these colors because they compliment, nicely, the color of the fabric I chose for the top of the mushroom. You also need another thread, I recommend a little stronger, but if you can only find the embroidery thread in that color it's okay. The reason it's cream is because it's the same color of the color of the fabric I chose for the stem. You'll need good needles, choose any of those that you like to work with. Pins, little tiny beads for the eyes of the mushrooms. Rice, just regular rice, whatever you find in the store, I recommend round rice and not the very pointy one. A good iron, a piece of paper because we're gonna make a funnel with it later, I'll show you how, of course. The patterns, that you can download in the site. A good pair of scissors, pencils. Now, if you use a very dark fabric you might wanna use the white one and just a few sticks, one or two, chopsticks can work really well. Just wood sticks would be the best. And I think if we have all that we are actually ready to start the class.

Chapter 3 - Start Mushroom

Prep and create cap

- We start with the pattern so for the first mushroom you make will be great. Just go and download the pattern on the website. After, you're gonna see it's so easy to make your own pattern in variation of size, and shape even. For now, you're gonna have three pieces of the pattern. The top one, which is kind of a round, oval shape. Again, it can go a little bit more round, it can be a little

more oval. And you're gonna see that it's gonna change while we're working, too. And each mushroom always gonna look a little different, and that's the beauty of it. Then I'm gonna have the stem part, which is a little more narrow at the top, and go wider, and then a little more narrow towards the bottom. The bottom will be the straight part. And then we will have a little circle. This part going to actually close the bottom part of the stem. So these are really easy. Go to the website, just print those patterns and cut them. Just from a simple paper, that will be great. There is another pattern. It's a smaller version of the same mushroom. You can always do both. You can just start with the small, start with the large, it doesn't matter. It's mainly to show you that it's so easy just to with a little change to make a whole family of mushrooms, and you can really go with it after and really do your own mushrooms in different shapes, different colors, and it's even gonna be more fun. So once you have the patterns ready and cut, we can start to actually work. So we're gonna start first with the top of the mushroom, with the head. So we're gonna take the piece of the fabric, and we're gonna put it on the iron board, and we'll iron it so it's flat and nice, and ready to be cut. Make sure there is no lines. It's gonna just make everything so much easier later. Once we're done ironing, we're gonna take the shape, the pattern, and we're just gonna put it on top of the fabric. Now you can just with pins, you pin it to the fabric. And then we can just cut around pretty much like 1/4-inch around, even less. It doesn't really matter. Now the reason I mentioned earlier the pencil, some people, it's easier for them just to trace the shape of the pattern. In case if you do that, you have to do it on the other side of the fabric. If you have no problem to follow the shape without a trace, without a line later on the machine, you can just go ahead and put the pattern on top of the fabric, and just cut around. I'm just cutting all around. Again, if it goes a little to the right, a little to the left, if it's a little smaller, bigger gap, it doesn't matter. Once you're done cutting you can just take off the pins and put it on the side. Now we're gonna use the pleated fabric and the felt. This fabric gonna be for the underpart of the mushroom. The reason we use the felt is to hold the pleated fabric better, because the pleated fabric can stretch and lose the pleats, which that's the look we want to get. Also, it's gonna make it much easier to sew later. So the way it's gonna be, we're gonna pick up first the felt. And we're gonna take the top of the mushroom fabric and we're gonna put it on top. And we're gonna just cut around leaving like something like 1/2 an inch, 1/4 of inch extra around. Now we're gonna put the pleated fabric on the wrong side, and we'll put the felt on top, and we're gonna do the same thing. We're just gonna cut around. This can be really rough kind of cutting. Doesn't need to be in any way straight up the sides. It's actually good to leave a little extra. We're gonna turn it to the other side. Make sure that the nice side is actually facing up, and you can just put a few pins just to make sure it's gonna be together. Now we're gonna go and prepare the stem. So we're gonna take the linen that we chose for the stem, and we're gonna go through the same process of ironing it well. We'll iron the linen, make sure it's straight and nice. Now when the linen is ironed and ready we're gonna take the pattern of the stem and we're gonna put it on top of the linen. Now again, you can use a pencil and trace the pattern. It make it easier for some people because they can follow the line later on the machine. And I'm gonna show it this time with the pencil. We pin it the same way we did before. It doesn't matter where, just make sure you pin it good enough so it doesn't move. And with the pencil, very slowly and carefully, you're tracing the pattern. Again, you can just put the pattern on top and cut around 1/2-inch. When you're done tracing the pattern... You cut around roughly, and you put the piece of paper on top of another one. We need to pieces because we're gonna sew them together, and they're gonna be exactly the same pattern and size. Now if you use the pattern in pencil and you trace the pattern, you can take off the pattern. If you did not use the pencil, keep the pattern so you can follow the pattern and cut it right.

Make sure both of the pieces are pinned together... And then just go and follow the line or the pattern and cut 1/4 to 1/2-inch around. The rest of the fabric you should keep on the side. You will need it later to make the roots out of it. Now this little guy can be cut from the linen or from the felt. Felt will be easier. Linen will be prettier. You might want to use the felt for the first mushroom, and maybe later you can go and use the linen. But we're gonna do the same thing. We're gonna pin the pattern on top of in this case, the felt, and we're just gonna cut around. There's no need to leave any extra this time. I'm gonna put the pattern on the side. Same goes with this pattern of the stem. Just make sure again, that both of the fabric are pinned. So now we're gonna have four pieces ready to sew. The bottom of the stem, the stem, the top of the mushroom, the top of the head of the mushroom, and the bottom part of the head of the mushroom. (laughing) If you have all this ready, we can start prepare that piece, the head of the mushroom. We want to create a shape that is a little bit more interesting, and a little bit more like a little mountain. So it not just look like a little pillow, two sides that connected with a stem. What we're gonna do is take the pins and we're gonna start to fold it all the way 'til the middle so it's getting like, from wide to very, very narrow. Once you have it, pin it... So it's gonna stay. Same thing you're gonna do from the other side. It's basically three 1/3. It's like you cut a cake to three pieces. And you're gonna do the same thing, pin it together so it's one move. And the last one. This part might feel a little bit awkward for some of you. But I promise you it's very easy at the end and it's gonna make a lot of sense. Now when you're done it should look like that. If it looks a little bit like a Chinese hat, it's actually good, that's how it should look like for now. Now once you have that, if you feel that you need to, if the fabric does jump a little, or not very flat, you can always just use the iron and very, very gently iron it so it's gonna be easier for you to sew later.

Handstitch cap

- Now we're gonna do the stitching part, the hand stitching part. We're gonna choose the color of the thread. I like when it's a little contrast, but I chose this green for example, because it's a complement really nicely the polk-a-dot. Now you can always just choose a color that is more natural, that is very colorful. Like I said before, and I'll keep saying it, it's really up to you. It's gonna be your mushroom, your creation, and your choices. And I think it's always good to just try different ones. But I'm gonna show it with this green today. I have a few samples here of different colors of mushrooms that I prepared before, and they all have very different choices of colors of thread. What is important that when you use the embroidery thread, use just one-ply. It always look more delicate, more elegant, and it's also easier. Also, and this is the way I like it to be, I like when the stitches are not very perfection, let's call it that way. I like when they have a little rhythm into them. Just make it more fun, it makes it more interesting. But each one of us have a very different handwriting, and the same like, very different way of stitching. Go with your handwriting. Go with your own stitch. So we're gonna take the needle. I'm using just one-ply of thread. Knot it at the end, of course. We're gonna hold the shape, and we're gonna just start stitching from the middle towards one of the sides. One thing that is very important and I would like to mention that the length of the thread that you're using should not be longer than your elbow. If it's longer, it's gonna be much harder for you to sew and to control it, and it's gonna take you much longer as well. Also very important, stitches should be kind of small. Not very tight, but small. Smaller they are, they're gonna actually hold better the fabric. Now make sure you're actually catching both of the folds together. And you just go on with small stitches. Take the pins that no use anymore out. It's gonna make it easier as well. Make sure that the fold is flattened by the stitches. You actually flatten both of the

fabrics really well together. Don't pull too much, but make sure it's strong enough and not loose. When you get to the end, just close it with a knot, go to the other side, and you can just cut. End of the thread, we're gonna thread another one, and we're just gonna start again from the middle. When you get to the end, you close it with a knot. Go to the other side, and just cut it. And we're gonna go to the third fold and stitch the same way, starting from the middle.

Chapter 4 - Finish Mushroom Construction

Machine stitching

- So, now, when we done hand stitch, we're ready to go to the machine and start work on the machine. Make sure you have this part, the plated part with the felt at the back, and the stem part. The little circle, we're not gonna use on the machine, but keep it on the side, and we're gonna hand stitch it later. So let's start with the plated fabric with the felt at the back. What we're gonna want to create is a few lines of stitches. They not necessarily needs to be very even. It can be a little off. They're gonna hold together, both of the fabrics together, and also gonna create a little interesting texture or feeling for the bottom of the fabric, a little movement. Starting in one end of the circle, we're gonna place the foot of the machine. Make sure it's down, and we're gonna go all over there to the other side. It's gonna be a straight line, but it's always nicer if it's a little more organic and soft. So, feel free to just kind of go little more free. Now, there is no need to close the stitch line. We're gonna place the foot of the machine in another edge, and we're gonna go all the way again to the other side. So now we're gonna go to another edge of the fabric, and we're gonna sew only until the middle. The reason I'm suggesting it, and it's only a suggestion, that I personally, I just don't like thing to perfection. So, I like to cut the circle to five, nut it's up to you. You can do three, you can do four, you can do six, you can do seven, whatever is your lucky number, go for it. So, I'm gonna just do one just until the middle. Make sure it's all clean and all the thread are cut. It's just always so much nicer and easier to work clean. Once we're done with this part, we're gonna pick the part of the top that we prepare before, and we're gonna place it just on top with the right side on top of the plated fabric. Make sure again that both of the right sides, the nice sides, are facing each other. And then I'm just gonna take a pin, a few pins, and we're gonna pin them together, so it's not gonna move. Plated fabric is not really very sleeky. So, we're gonna sew all around the perimeter, leaving three inches open, so we can actually flip it later and stuff it. Remember, if you didn't trace it with a pencil, you should sew a quarter inch inside. If you did trace it with a pencil, just follow the pencil line. Now, reverse the machine and make sure to lock it, and then just go all the way around. When you get to the end, of course leaving three inches wide open, make sure to go back and lock the stitch. Now we're gonna go for the stem. It's gonna be very simple. We're just gonna sew from top to bottom, and from top to bottom on the other side. Make sure to back stitch every time in the beginning and at the end, because this part needs to be really strong. You could also just go twice on the same line just to make it even stronger. So, we wanna place it in the machine. What I'm gonna do, I'm just gonna go al the way back and do a double stitch. Same goes to the other side. I'm gonna take off all the pins, and just go around with a scissor and cut it on the edge of the top fabric. Now we're gonna turn the mushroom inside out just like you turn out your pillow case. Look pretty already. Same with the stem. And now we're ready to start and stuff the top of the mushroom, the cap, and work on the stem.

Stuff the cap

- So, now we go to the stuffing part, the stuffing on the cap. And it's a very fun part, and

super-important, and it might look very easy, but it's not as ... And it's quite important to do it right. And whatever you think gonna go inside, you probably need double the amount. So, it is quite easy, just taking some stuffing and gently push it in. Now, you might need a stick, to just stuff it even deeper and more. So you go in small bunches. Now make sure that the little bundles, the little bunches of stuffing, are not too small, 'cause you don't want to create a feeling of stones inside. This needs to be soft. You can use your fingers, and again, make it much easier sometime just with the stick. Make sure it's really stuffed well. You wanna get to all the corners. (stuffing rustling on fabric) Now when you feel the cap is quite full, take another little bunch, and push it to the center, in the middle, Creating this little mountain. 'Cause there is more space there, we've actually created more three-dimensional form, by stitching those three folds on top. So keep on stuffing until it's really, just you can't go more. And make sure there is no wrinkles. When it's feel, like, full, you can just hold it in your hand, make sure you have the shape of the dome, and that there is the underpart, it feels full. This is what is gonna be the face, so you want it to not be flat, but round. And now, all we need to do is close the open part. You're gonna fold the edges of the fabric inside. Then we're just gonna pin it. (rustling of pins in container) I'm gonna take the thread. I like to use the same color of thread like we use for the top-stitching. You can also always change colors, if you want it more colorful. You're gonna go from the inside with the needle, and we're just gonna sew the both of the fabric together with small stitches, same like we did before. Again, small stitches are always holding better. (sound of thread passing through material) Now, once we've finished to close the open part, we're just gonna go and continuous sew all the way around. Those stitching are more for decoration, but they really give it, like, the feeling of hand-sewing, and a little bit more rhythm and personality. And also stretch nicer the fabrics together. Now, when when we get to the end of the thread, we will need to knot it and hide it, and just start with a new one. So, I'm gonna go inside, I'm gonna go twice and knot it very well. And then I'm just gonna go inside the mushroom, and go, with the thread out, stretch it, and cut, so you can't see anything, it just disappeared. And now I'm gonna just put a new thread, and I'm gonna go over, around the whole mushroom. Starting with a new thread, I'm gonna try and go just through the both of the fabric in the seam, and just pull it, so it's a little higher than in-between them, and then I can just make the little stitch on top, so it's even gonna hide it a little more. And it's okay to see it a little bit: it's part of it. But it's a little bit more clean, that way. And then I'm just gonna go and stitch all around the cap. Once I go to the end, I knot it again, and hide it. And voilà , we have the cap ready, and now we can start to work on the stem.

Finish stem

- So we're gonna first start with closing the bottom part of the stem, 'cause right now it's still open. We can't really stuff it. And what we're gonna do is take a little piece of the stuffing and stuff it all the way to the bottom. So we're creating a little kind of a cushion so it's gonna hold better, the bottom part that we cut in advance. Now if you do need to adjust it a little, and cut it a little smaller, or if it's too small, you need to cut a little bigger, do that. It's very hard to be very precise here 'cause just a little difference in the sewing machine can make this a little different. And you want it to be the exact size like a cap on a bottle. So we're gonna place the felt, the little circles on the bottom, on the top. It should fit like a cap on a bottle. It should be very precise, I mean more or less. And then just to make it stay there we're just gonna pin with two pins. We're gonna take the needle and the thread, and we're gonna start from one point around, and we're just gonna go in very tiny stitches, and very close to each other, very tight, and just gonna go all the way. I'm using the cream

stitch here 'cause I don't want it to be visible. And I'm just doing a very simple web stitch. Now that should be really strong and we can actually even go twice around so it's gonna make it even more hermetic. Because inside, we're gonna use the rice, and we don't want it to go through the stitches. When you get to the end, just thread your knot strong. Knot it even twice. Now I recommend to just go ahead and do another round 'cause it's gonna just make it much stronger. And you can just do another round of small stitches going between the stitches you did before. Now this is very, very important, and don't skip this part. If you skip it it's not going to stand. With your scissors or tweezers, if you at home, just go inside and grab the stuffing materials. Make sure you take all the stuffing material out. Now we're gonna prepare the funnel, and all you need is a little bit piece of paper, and you just twist it. The important part is that the bottom is small enough, narrow enough to get into the stem, but it's not too narrow so the rice can still go through. And we're just gonna use some tape. Don't use it in the kitchen. You're gonna stick it inside, and we're gonna take the rice, and slowly, slowly apply it in. Now when we think it's actually full, it's probably not. We're just gonna shake it. Make sure all the rice really fill up really well the stem, and we're gonna just add a little more. We're gonna fill it up, leaving two inches empty at the top. Shake it again. Make sure the rice is really pressed in. You can even just sculpt it with your hands. Now in order to stop the rice and close the stem, we're gonna take some small pieces of the stuffing and press it really strong in. Now the rice is not gonna run out. We're basically using the stuffing like a cork, so that the rice is not gonna spill out. Later we're gonna put it together with the cap. But until then, that's gonna just hold it together really tight.

Attach cap to base

- The next steps will be to actually connect between the stem and the cap. They're both now stuffed and ready to just become one piece. The best way to do it will be to just put upside down, the cap. Take the stem, and this part, you should do very, very slow. It will make it easier on you. And then place it just in the middle, and press a little. Now while holding it, take pins and gently pin the two pieces together. From all around. Now taking a new thread, try using the strongest thread that you can find 'cause this part really needs to be strong enough to hold those two pieces together, and just start sewing around in a web stitching. Now we're gonna go through it twice. And the reason is it's just gonna make it like, stronger, and more tight. It's also easier just to go after in between the stitches instead of making tiny stitches very tight. Once you finish one round we can start to take all the pins out. Still hold the stem to the cap. And now we can go another round. Should really make sure the two pieces really pressed strong against each other. If you feel like you need to go even third time around, that's totally okay. When you feel it's strong enough, make a good knot, strong knot. Then hide it inside. So now we have a little mushroom. It's already had the shape, and it's gonna actually stand. Let's see if she does it. She does. Good girl. (laughs)

Chapter 5 - Add details

Add features and variations

- So we got to the part of the roots and I hope you remember, at the beginning, I mentioned that for the stem we're gonna use a linen, and we're gonna use the same fabric for the roots. So, I'm taking the same fabric I use for the stem, the linen. Now, with a pin, very gently, I'm gonna start and pull away thread by thread. I will say we can use around 10. If you want more, you can use more. If you want longer, you can use longer. I think I actually made, like, around 15. And also, I you need more, you can always just pull out some more. Just very gently, just go over them to make them more

smooth, and get rid of like... They're a little wrinkly and a little fuzzy. So, you just want them more silk. But they really look like they're roots. We just go one by one very gentle. And we're preparing a ourselves like a nice pile of roots. The nice part that each of them are gonna be a little different lengths. So, it's actually gonna give it the organic look and a natural look that we want to achieve here. Now, we're gonna take the cream thread, because that's the one we used for the bottom of the stem. Now, we're gonna take the mushroom, and our little pile of roots, and we're gonna start to place them on top of the bottom of the stem. Now, sometimes I wanna place them in couples, sometimes just one by itself, just to give it a little bit more random feeling. We don't want it to be very precise. It should be different gaps between them, just that it looks like it just grow out of the soil right now. I wanna take the thread through, and I'm just gonna make a little stitch on top. And I'm gonna go to the next place. I wanna put another root. I wanna place the root and stitch it into the fabric. I also want them in different lengths, in different groups. So, sometimes all of a sudden, there can be three together and sometimes just one. This part is really important to me at least, because it really give it a special touch and a life, and it just make it more than just a stuffed object. Now again, I recommend to use the same fabric and really pull out those threads. They're so fragile, and really important for the look of the mushroom. But if your fabric does not react really well to that, or you choose a fabric that it's very hard to pull out threads out, you can always use just the thread. Or of course if you want very colorful roots, it's always an option. When I finish again, I'm just gonna knot the thread. The roots are ready and done. Now, the reason I didn't put roots in the middle, which you could put. If you chose that the mushroom, not gonna stand very well, you can add more roots in the middle and it's gonna have more roots, and it's gonna be beautiful. But it's really gonna make it very hard for you to make it stand. So, that's why I put the roots only on around. Now, it's the fun part, and we're gonna give her face, and we're gonna give her even more personality because she have a big personality. And for that, we will need a dark brown. I like when the eyes are a little darker. But it really depends what color you use. Sometimes you can use a little more light eyes, and more like dreamy and fairy. Today, I'm gonna show you with the dark brown and the dark brown beads. I want to show you you can always go for like a more natural color and a more silvery dreamy, fairy, feminine color. And then for the mouth, for the entire mouth we're gonna use red. So, let's start to use the eyes. I'm gonna pull a little thread, just a single thread. Now, we still need to choose the side that we actually like to have the face on. It's always nice to just have the stem without the seam. So, the seams are on the side, ad then a more open space for the face, the wide side, and not so much in the other side. So, I think this will be a great side for us for the face, so let's start with the eyes. We have the dark brown thread and the dark brown beads. I'm gonna prepare us two beads for the two eyes. Now, we chose this side for the face. We're gonna place the eyes quite low, and they're gonna be quite apart from each other. The reason is that mushroom have this shyness into her. And so, her face needs to go a little down. It's almost like she's holding this secret. She's coming out of the soil, and we don't want her very necessarily proud and awake. She is just waking up. And the reason we're gonna put them apart is because it's also gonna give it a little dreamy feeling because we're gonna leave her a lot of space in the middle to just dream. So we're gonna go with the needle, and we're gonna make like a big stitch, and go all the way on top to the other side, and we're gonna go again. And we're gonna cross it, but not a big cross, and we go again. Now, this is quite a free hand part, because we want it to be a little free and not necessarily very technical. So, it's almost like you're drawing her eye. Now, I like to give it a little angle down, also because they're just gonna... Not to make her sad necessarily. It's just gonna make it less awake. It's just, again, give it like this a little dreamy. Now, if you choose to give her another mood, it's

totally fine. That's the way I like my mushrooms. I always try to feel what does it feel for my mushroom, or if I make another object, another animal or creature. What does it feel to me? If you pull the eyes closer, it might look a little bit more mean. If you pull them away, there is this like goodness and dreaminess. So, we already stitched the first eye. Now we're gonna add the bead. Sew it through. And we're gonna go through it twice to make it strong enough. And then we're just gonna close this one out, and we will do like we did before. We're just gonna go through the fabric, so we're hiding the end of the thread. We're gonna cut it. And now we can go to the other eye. With the red thread, I'm gonna stitch the mouth. I like when the mouth is really tiny. It's almost like it's whispering, again, like this feeling of like a little secret, very innocent. Mushroom is very innocent. But if you really wanna give her a smile, you can give her a smile. Don't make her sad though. And I'm just gonna do a tiny circle. And I can already close it. Again, if you really wanna make her smile, you're more than welcome. I'm sure she's gonna like that. Now, just go really near the mouth, and take this thread out. Don't go too far because it can be sometimes visible. Pull it a little and cut. We actually made our mushroom. It's your first mushroom, because you can make so many. There's so many variations. And I just brought a few with me to show you. So, it's gonna be different colors, different faces, different faces expression, different beads, every little detail like that really make it look a little different. The roots can be thicker sometimes, because I use a different thread I pull out from different fabrics. It's really endless play with it, experience it. Try different colors, different patterns, different fabric, different size. Give it a smile. Just make your own big, happy, innocent, dreamy family of mushrooms, and just have fun. I certainly just did.