
Hand Sew an Easter Chick Softie and Basket with Kata Golda

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

(peppy music) - Hi, my name is Alison, and I have a company called Kata Golda. We make things out of wool felt with an emphasis on hand stitching. My work is sold at boutiques all over the country. And I've been featured on Design Sponge and Goop and One Kings Lane, and some other places, as well. We will be making this three-dimensional egg chick, which is different than a lot of the projects I make, the little animal things that are just two-dimensional. Once you've made the little three-dimensional chick, it's fun to make a little basket. And then you have this complete little project for an heirloom to pass on and to use year after year.

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- To make one yellow chick and one green basket we're gonna be using this wool felt, a scrap of orange, a six by six piece of yellow, an eight and a half by eight and a half piece of light green and 11 by two piece of this moss green. And you can use any kind of felt you want, any kind of material, really, that wouldn't fray. If you have an old felted sweater, that will work. I also have kits available on my website of the materials. And you'll need some stuffing. This is recycled poly fiber fill, but you could use cotton or wool or bamboo, whatever stuffing you prefer to work with. And the amount is if you squish it down in your hands kind of a firm ball. I like to make things quite sturdily stuffed, so that's my preference. And then we have the templates. There are three pages of templates. One of the chick and two for the basket. And then I have my rulers. I have a six by one inch ruler, a see-through ruler, a 24 by six inch see-through ruler, rotary cutter, fabric scissors, paper scissors X-acto blade, snips, and the three colors of embroidery floss we'll be using, yellow, kind of a deep green, and a dark brown, size five sharp needles. I like to use the number five sharp needles because they have a long eye, they're easy to thread, and they have a sharp point. You'll need pins and a cutting mat.

Chapter 3 - Create Chick

Stitch chick features

- We'll start with the chick. I've already printed out my templates and then I've cut my templates out of a card stock. Before I go into the cutting, I like to lay my templates on my felt just to make sure that I'm using my felt wisely, and get all the pieces I need out of it. I think one's tendency is to just stick it right in the middle. Well if you stick it right in the middle, you're not going to be able to cut your other parts. So I lay it out. If that goes to that edge there... And this goes over here, I'm gonna be able to get two of these out... Of this piece. If I flip it that way, two will come out of that piece. So I keep my big p-- Cutting my big piece first. I'm gonna hold that in place. And I don't do any pinning. With my fabric shears, that are very sharp and cut very accurately. And I never use these for paper. If there's one tool that I think is essential, it's a very sharp fabric shear. Sometimes I have to readjust my pattern because I don't have it pinned. I find with something this small that can be handheld, that pins become pretty cumbersome, get in the way. Okay. Let me go in and just cut these a little bit cleaner. Alright, now with my... The rest of my felt. Again, I'm gonna test to make sure I can get these both out of here. Which I can. Put this tail over in the corner. And let's say I couldn't, and I cut

that like a little too short like that. Well, the nice thing about felt is I can pull it a little. And now I've actually pulled it too far and made it too big. Then I can trim it. Now I'm gonna cut the times two piece, which is the wings. When I'm cutting something two times, I'm gonna put my template aside and use the first piece of felt that I cut as my guide for the second side. And lastly, I'm gonna cut out my little beak. And to be honest, when I do this at home, I don't use a template. I just cut a little beak. Okay. There are all my parts cut. I'm gonna move everything I'm not using away so I have a nice, clear working surface here. The first thing we're gonna do is add our facial features and then we're gonna attach the wings. For all of the stitching, I use the six-ply embroidery floss, but I divide the floss into thinner strands. This particular piece that I'm gonna be using to stitch on the facial features is three-ply of the brown embroidery floss. Before I begin doing the stitching, I'm gonna pull my template in here so that I can see the placement of the features and see the placement of the wings. The placement for the eyes is a little bit higher than halfway. And then I can see that the nose is going to come in just between the eyes and a little bit lower. Sometimes when I have more details I need to stitch on, I like to draw it out prior to stitching because then I have a motor memory of where the placement of all the features are gonna go. But on this project, because it's so simple, I'm just gonna look at the template. I'm using an 18-inch strand of thread. You don't wanna go longer than 18-inch because it's likely to tangle. And even sometimes when you think you need more thread, it's better to attach a second thread. Here I'm gonna tie a knot. One... Two. And I want those knots to fall right on top of each other. And if I feel like they're really on top of each other or it's not a big enough knot and it might come through the felt, then I'm gonna add one more. Okay, so I'm looking at my template and I'm gonna do the first eye. I'm stitching a little circle here. And then after I'm done stitching the little circle, I'm gonna fill it in with stitches. So you think, "Why can't you use a thicker thread? "Why couldn't you just use the full six-ply?" Well, sometimes when you just use the full six-ply, I feel like it gets messy-looking. And it's also pretty hard to pull the six strand of thread because remember, you have it doubled here. So you'd be actually pulling twelve strands of thread through each time and it's a little bit difficult to pull through the felt. Almost finished filling in this eye here. And then we're gonna move... To the next eye. And it's okay if you do stitches that go on top of other stitches if you feel like there's a little... Spot that you're not happy with. Now at this point I'm not gonna refer to my template. I'm gonna just try to match the eye that I just created on the other side. When I'm thinking of the placement of this eye... I'm thinking about the distance on this side should be the same as the distance on that side. That's helping me determine its placement. And again, I'm creating... A little circle... In attempts to make them... The same. And one thing that should be noted here, is that I carried the thread on the back side. This is called the satin stitch, when you're filling in a space. The placement of the beak can really change the look of your chick. It's very different-looking if I place it right-level with the eyes or if I move it way down low. And I'm noticing as I'm looking at my template and I'm looking at my chick, that my eyes are closer together, which makes me feel like my beak is too big. So I'm just gonna make it a little smaller. Okay so I'm placing it just a little bit, at the very bottom of the eyes, centered. Same thread traveling. And I'm gonna do... Come up through... Just the yellow layer. And then into the orange layer. And I'm gonna do one more stitch. Into... Through the yellow, over the top of the orange, and then coming out the yellow side. And now I'm gonna knot off here. One... Two. Then I'm gonna add one more. Now I'm gonna trim my threads. The last detail before we assemble our chick is to add the wings. Here I really do look at my template. And I'm gonna place my first wing by looking at my template, where it belongs. I'm gonna wait on the second wing, because I'm not pinning. Because I find pins to be very cumbersome here. And I'm gonna use two-ply yellow thread. And I'm just gonna

stitch... The perimeter... Of... The wing down. I didn't tie a knot. I'm just holding the thread with my finger. And I'm just doing the running stitch around the edge. The running stitch is just moving in and out. Going in through the two layers and then back up through the two layers. And sometimes I can do a few of the stitches at the same time. There I did two stitches... At once. So once I've worked all the way around the perimeter, go on the back side. And I tie off with the tail and the thread. One... Two... Three. And I'm gonna trim... These threads off. And now I'm gonna match... My other wing. So I'm paying attention to how close the wing is to this edge and where the point is falling. So I'm measuring about that distance and then looking over here, seeing if the distance is the same. And that looks pretty good. Now I'm gonna use the running stitch just as I did the other side. The nice thing about felt, too, is that it doesn't really need a pin because the fabric tends to stick to itself pretty well. So it's not like using silks or something like that. Okay. I'm gonna tie off, just as I did on the other side. Three. Now we're ready to assemble our chick.

Sew and stuff chick

- Now, we're ready to assemble our chick. We're gonna be using two plys of the same yellow thread, and I'm gonna separate this for you, this is an 18 inch strand. I've already taken out two plys to sew on the wings, but I'm gonna separate this again. I'm gonna have to go in from the middle point. Don't start at one end. If you start at the end and you pull down, you'll create a big knotted mess down here. So I start in the middle, and I carefully separate two and two, and I pull it apart slowly, and then I don't have any knots. That's the tread I'm gonna keep using. I'm gonna thread my needle, and I'm not gonna knot my thread. I'm just gonna do like a double blanket stitch right on top of each other, and that will secure my thread, and I test it. I'm gonna show you what I'm gonna do here. So I fold these two sides together. We're gonna be stitching the two sides that are around the face first, and lastly, we'll stitch the back. So, I pick one side. I go in between the layers, and come out on one of those two sides, and I pull my thread. I leave a tail, and I hold onto that tail with my finger, and my thumb, actually, no, I guess with my finger. I hold onto that tail with my finger, and I wrap around, go in one layer and out the other layer, and then through the loop. So one stitch would probably pull out if I pull this thread hard. So I'm going to do another stitch in the exact same location. Okay. Now I'm going to work up this seam with the blanket stitch. You're going through the two layers, and then wrapping your thread, and then pulling tight. Through the two layers, wrapping your thread, and pulling tight, but not too tight. If you pull too tight, you'll break your thread. Another thing that you want to consider is the spacing of your stitches between each other, and you also wanna think about how deep you're going into the felt when you're stitching. So, here, is the distance between stitches, and this distance, here, is how far you are in from the edge of the felt. So, we're working our way to the top, we're pulling in the third layer, and we're gonna continue blanket stitching that layer on. Now, if you wonder where to go, remember, you're doing the perimeter of the face first. So, you're coming back down on the other side of the face of the chick. Still continuing the blanket stitch, but instead of wrapping, because my thread is getting short, I'm going through the loop. All right, now we are going to add our last, we're gonna sew up our last seam. So I'm just going to stick my needle through close to where I just finished. I want it to come up on the other side. So, inside, just this long thread traveling to that place. We're going to insert the tail. I have my thread coming up on one side of the egg. We're gonna go through the two layers, leaving a loop here. Then I'm going to go through the four layers on the other side, coming in through the four layers, and going through that loop. Moving right next door like I'm doing the blanket stitch, going through the two layers, going through the four layers, on the other side, I'm

coming out here, and through the loop. Going through the two layers, coming out on the other side, going through the four layers, I'm gonna create that loop again, I got rid of it by pulling too tight, I just pulled it up and made it a loop again, go through the loop, and now you can just resume the regular blanket stitch. Through the two layers. Wrap your thread. Pull tight. So you can see the blanket stitch makes this nice line, falls right on the seam. The modified blanket stitch when you're going through this tail, these little stitch here are gonna fall to one side. So here they are on this side. I'm gonna do one more stitch, and then I'm going to stuff my chick. So I like to break my stuffing into smaller bits, than trying to shove a big giant piece inside. That's still a little too giant. I kind of ball it up. I like things to be pretty heartily stuffed. So stuff that in. I'm going to take another piece, and stuff that in. There's no exact amount of stuffing that you need to put inside this chick. You just do what feels right to you. Some people don't want his really hard ball chick. I like it to be pretty substantially stuffed, but it's whatever you prefer. It also depends on the kind of stuffing you're using. Okay. Now I'm going to resume stitching until the end. So this is the place where the three sides come together. I'm gonna go underneath this point here. So I'm attaching the layer, going underneath the threads, then go through the loop. I'm going to do that exactly again. Underneath those threads, through the loop, and I might just go one way the other, one time the other direction, just for good measure. Through the loop, and then I'm gonna come out like so, and snip my thread. And there you go. All finished.

Chapter 4 - Create Basket

Cut out and stitch basket

- To cut out the basket, I like to use a rotary cutter. I really like this six-inch-wide, see-through ruler. I've cut my template on card stock, and I'm laying it on top of my eight-and-a-half by eight-and-a-half piece of grass green felt. I'm gonna cut the two long sides. The templates provided for this project make a four-inch basket, but of course, you can enlarge those to make a larger basket. My rotary cutter. I guess I'm gonna cut off little pieces of my pattern as I do it. Alright, flip it over. Line it up again. And rotary cutter. Alright, were the rotary cutter didn't cut through, I can just trim with my scissors. Okay, now I'm going to cut the short sides. Again, with my rotary cutter. Be careful not to cut off the points on the longer side. So I don't start at the very edge. I start in a little bit and then I'll use my scissors to finish that cutting. Now I'm gonna take my scissors and I'm gonna cut the black line all the way down, and because that's not cut all the way, I'm gonna cut there as well. Turn it, line everything up. Take my scissors and cut the black line and I'm gonna cut that piece off. Alright, I have one more side to demonstrate my stellar skills with the rotary cutter. Remember, don't get too close, start in. You don't wanna cut off these tips. Get my scissors, cut, line, and cut there. Each time I move my template, I readjust to make sure that it's lined nicely on top of the felt I'm cutting. I'm gonna cut my last line here. Okay. There's my basket piece. I'm just gonna clean it up a little bit. Check these lines. This one looks a little short to me. I'm just gonna add a little cut there. Lastly, gonna look at my template and I need to make these little slits. I'm gonna lay it on top. I'm gonna use my small ruler. I'm gonna use an X-Acto blade. Do not extend beyond the black line there. If any thing, go a little short. The felt will stretch. Alright, gonna flip it, make sure the template is lined nicely on top of the piece of felt. Let's make sure that those went through. When you cut the slits, best to make them a little short than a little long. They can be adjusted when you attach the strap. Now go ahead and cut out the strap and the two button pieces. The next thing we're going to do is assemble the basket. We're gonna take a short side and a long side. You're gonna put the short side outside the basket and the long side is on the inside. You're gonna fold it over the top

and you're gonna pin through all three layers. The short piece on the outside, the long piece on the inside. You're gonna fold over half an inch and pin it. Short side on the outside. Long one on the inside. Fold it over. You're gonna pin through all three layers. Short side on the outside. Long side on the inside, rolled over, and pinned through all three layers. Now you're going to take your strap and you're going to insert it in the slits you made. Thinking about how long you want this little shape to come past the edge of the basket, the top edge of the top of the basket. Tucking in these points and you're gonna pin it. This pinning part is a little bit finicky, but you just wanna make sure you have everything in place before you stitch it. Once we go to the stitching, you're just gonna be running the edge with a running stitch around, so it's important to pay attention to these details right now. I'm gonna finish attaching my strap. I'm gonna stick it through the other side. I'm gonna make sure, I'm gonna tuck those points in, and I wanna take a look. That's how much I have got it going out here. Before I pin it, I'm just gonna take a look at the side I pinned. That's just a little but coming out, so I'm gonna make mine a little shorter over here. You can see that this slits a little tight. I can just kinda pull it a little so it fits in there better and I'm gonna pin it. I wanna make sure I'm getting all the layers in the pinning. I might even go into that place with my snips and give the strap a little bit more space in there. Now I just wanna look at the other side, see how that fits. Look like I've got a little more space in there too. Now we're finished with the pinning and we're gonna sew the basket together with two ply of the green thread. I'm gonna tie a knot. One. Two. Three. My goal here is to get those knots to land right on top of each other. Okay, and I'm gonna start opposite the handle because I know I'm gonna be attaching something here. Attach a little button here at the very end. We're gonna be using the running stitch as we travel around the basket. I'm making sure I'm catching all three layers as I travel around the basket. That's why I like to use this running stitch. I feel like I'm really careful doing one stitch at a time, making sure that I'm getting all the layers. When I come to a pin, just remove it, and I keep working around the basket. I'm going in and out, going through all three layers. I'm attempting to keep my stitch lengths even. I like using a dark thread when I'm doing this perimeter stitch to give some contrast so the stitches show up, but you can use any color thread that you could make the stitches virtually disappear or you could make them really bold. When I showed you the chick, I did a running stitch and I did two stitches at one time. In this basket, I only do one stitch at a time because I really wanna be careful that I catch all the edges, but the pinning really is the complicated part of this project. You can see how it's necessary here to keep everything neat and tidy for sewing it together. This would be virtually impossible to see together, I think, without your pins. Okay, at this point, we need to add another thread. Again, this is two ply, and the length of the thread is roughly 18 inches. Here's we're gonna tie a knot. We want the knot to land as close to the felt as possible. That was one. This is two, and three. I'm gonna keep working around the perimeter here. Okay, now we're come to the place where we're gonna add a little button that covers up where these two pieces, these two points meet. I'm gonna at that with an X. You certainly could embellish this place by making a star or a flower or any kind of design. Now I'm gonna tie a knot. Trim. Now I'm gonna add a button with the X on the other side. I'm not tying a knot here. I'm just gonna hold my thread with my finger. Just make sure it doesn't come through. I'll tie these two threads together with a knot. One. Two. Three. All my threads in here. If I have anything that I don't like the way it looks, like that point coming out, trim that off. Trim those. Lastly, I'm gonna whip stitch the handle. I'm gonna fold the handle piece in to make it three thick. So, a third in here and a third in here, and I'm gonna pin it. I like the way it looks when it's folded in. I also think it makes it more sturdy and substantial with this kind of handle. It's also easier for a little hand to grab. I think four pins should do it. Okay. Gonna tie a knot in my

thread. One. Two. Three. Trying to get those three knots to land on top of each other. I'm gonna hide my knot by inserting my needle under one of the layers. Now my goal as I whip stitch up this seam is to catch these two layers that I'm connecting, but not to go through the outer layer. I have to check my work as I go. Let me remove this pin. I'm gonna whip stitch these two layers together and I'm not gonna go through the backside here. I'm thinking about placing my whip stitches equidistance from one another. You could give this basket quite a different look by making really giant stitches or really tiny stitches. I like to check the other side, make sure I didn't go through. I find working with pins really cumbersome, but necessary in this project. I tend to remove them as soon as possible. I'd rather just hold something in place with my thumb and finger. This project can be made fairly quickly and I recommend that you do it all at one time because you'll notice that the consistency of your stitches will change if you do it at a different time. Gonna check how far I came down on the other side so I can be pretty even. Finish up here. This time when I tie a knot, if I tie just a regular knot, I feel like I lose my tension, so I'm gonna wrap around that thread. Go through the loop. Do it again, around that thread. Through the loop. Then bring my needle up and clip. Now you have a finished basket and a little chick.

Finish

- The egg, chick and basket whip up quite quickly, so you can make lots of them for all of your friends. Here's a range of chicks and baskets in a pastel color palette, and making them is really meditative and lovely to do. There's hand stitching and there's even some room to put some little candy and treats in your little basket. Should you choose to work in a neutral color palette or want to play with size, made these little eggs, chicks. They can also fill up your basket, but this can give you some ideas of how color can really change the effect of the project. These sweet little chicks can be pulled out and played with spring after spring.