

DIY Felt Pennants with Courtney Cerruti

Chapter 1 - DIY Felt Pennants

Make felt pennants two ways

Hi, I'm Courtney from Creativebug. And I love the vintage aesthetic. I'm gonna show you how to make a really sweet and easy to make pennant that's perfect for birthdays, a kids' room, or even some seasonal decor. For the pennant itself you have some choices. I like these 12 x 18 sheets of felt that are slightly thicker. They make a really good base for your pennant. But you can also do these smaller and you can get those 9 x 12 or 8.5 x 11 sheets as well. You need to pick one for each pennant that you want to make, so I'll probably be making a green one. You'll also need some contrasting scrap felt. I have two pieces that are a half inch wide by 12 inches long and these will be the little tabs that you use to hang your pennant with. Then I have a different color scrap of felt that's two inches wide by the length of my sheet. And that's to do the edging right on the pennant itself. And you can choose whatever color combination strikes your fancy. For our lettering we have these iron-on embroidered letters, and for mine it's going to spell out the word dive. And you can spell out whatever you like. You do want to remember that the size of your pennant is limited to the sheet of your felt, so you don't want to have a really long word that's gonna run off the end of your pennant. You'll need a sharp pair of scissors. A pair of snips, so something with a short blade that's really super sharp. Chalk, freezer paper which is sort of waxy on one side and plain butcher paper on the back, and that's gonna allow us to create a template later. You'll need your PDF download, a pencil, Tacky Glue, and then your iron and some kind of surface to iron on and a pressing cloth. Your sewing machine, and last but not least a clear acrylic ruler, or just a long ruler is ideal for this project. The first thing we're gonna do is measure and mark our pennant and cut it out from felt. This is 12 inches, and I want to mark it at the half point, but I want to show you a little tip on how to sharpen your chalk. I learned this from my friend, Amanda Brown, who does this in her upholstery. Just gonna snip the edge with my scissors until I have a nice point, and that's an easy way to use chalk and get a fine line. Gonna mark this right on the six inch mark on both the top and the bottom. I want to make this a longer skinnier pennant. So let's see what it looks like if we say that the longest side is about eight inches and we go down to our point. So you can mark that here. And make sure that your letters are gonna fit onto your pennant before you cut this out. And I have plenty of room here, enough room to even space this a little differently. And enough for my edge, this looks great. Cut this out. We're gonna use this side of it. Because it's nice and clean, and doesn't have any chalk marks on it. Next we'll actually place our letters. So let's make sure everything is spaced well. The nice thing about these is they have this paper backing that you can remove and these are sticky, so you can place them before you iron them on permanently. Using a hot iron with no steam and a pressing cloth you're just gonna iron these in place. You'll know these are stuck down when you can't lift them up on the corner. Remember they're stick back in place but you want to actually permanently adhere these to your felt. I like to flip it over and just iron from the back as well. Iron our two inch wide contrasting felt scrap as well, and this is gonna go on the side of our banner. You're just gonna fold this in half length-wise so that you wind up with a fold right down the center. I like to use the pressing cloth here too just to make sure that I don't damage the felt in any way. We're just gonna slip this pennant into this contrasting felt. Now that it's folded it's really easy to do. And then we're gonna take this to the sewing machine and sew it in place. I have dark green

thread to match the color of my pennant. ^And I'm just gonna sew this with the presser foot lined up ^with the edge of the contrasting felt. ^Just a straight stitch and you can backstitch ^at the beginning and the end if you want, ^but you don't really need to. ^*(sewing machine hums)* ^Just go slowly. ^Re-adjust if you need to, ^I feel like that might be tugging out a little. ^We're just gonna snip these edges off. ^Because this is felt nothing unravels. ^We can add those little felt scraps that are ^a half inch by 12 inches long. ^And these are for if you wanted ^to tie the pennant vertically. ^And those are just gonna go on the back. ^Even if you don't wind up tying this ^I think it adds a really nice little vintage nod ^to those old-school collegiate pennants. ^And I like to just kind of fold them ^and place them about an inch and a half away from each edge. ^We're just gonna tack those in place ^with a quick little straight stitch ^and backstitching at the beginning and end. ^Let's just pull off with that. ^Lift our needle. ^And there's no need to actually cut the thread. ^We can just place our second tab. ^And we'll just trim everything up at the end. ^Stitch. ^Backstitch. ^And pull this out. ^Make sure there are no threads in the back. ^And you have a really sweet vintage-inspired pennant ^that is perfect for summer or all year long. ^I want to show you some other variations I made on this. ^Here's the same pennant in that same green color ^with the word *dive*. ^It's slightly smaller, ^and I actually used white thread here ^and continued my stitch line all along ^the length of the pennant and you can do that ^for a stitch detail if you like the look of that. ^I have a larger one that's much fatter at one end. ^It's a chunkier look and it says *swim on*. ^I thought of this more like a racing flag, ^and it could be hung vertically or horizontally. ^And then finally I have a little sweet one ^that says *lake* in French. ^And it has contrasting contrasting tabs to the end. ^I even did some decorative stitching along the border. ^Let's measure and mark this. ^It's just under 10 inches ^so a half would be just under five. ^I'm gonna mark this just for the five inch mark ^on both the top and the bottom. ^You might be tempted to just fold this in half ^and cut from end to that point. ^But it actually creates kind of a fat squatty pennant, ^and I'd like something a little bit more narrow. ^Let's see what a seven inch pennant looks like. ^So half of seven inches is 3 1/2. ^I'm gonna put 3 1/2 right on that center line. ^And that means I'm gonna draw ^from these points right to the center ^on the other side of the sheet of felt. ^Let's check the size of our letters against this. ^You can see that our pennant's gonna be right here ^so this will clear perfectly fine. ^If for some reason you were doing a different phrase ^and your pennant was too narrow at some point ^you could either widen this left edge ^and draw your lines again. ^Or you could use a larger piece of felt, ^or you'd have to shrink down your text. ^So you'd need to figure out a combination that works. ^We're just gonna go ahead and cut this on the chalk line. ^You can save those scraps for some smaller pennants later. ^Take your freezer paper and with the glossy side down, ^place it over your printed template. ^And we're just gonna trace our letters. ^You want to be somewhat careful ^but this doesn't have to be perfect. ^You want to make sure that when you place ^the freezer paper over your template ^you do the glossy side down. ^This way you'd ensure that your letters ^are going in the right orientation ^when you iron them down later. ^What I love about this template that we've provided ^is that we change the scale of the letters. ^And so they shrink with the end of the pennant, ^which is a very classic vintage look. ^And that's hard to do without using the template. ^So it's nice that we've provided that. ^I'm just gonna press this into place. ^And the freezer paper will temporarily stick ^and help us cut out these letters. ^You want to make sure that you don't have ^any steam on your iron, ^you just want this to be dry and hot. ^Using my larger sharp scissors ^I'm just gonna carefully cut along the bottom. ^And then I'll go in with my sharp little scissors ^and do all this detail work. ^Go ahead and cut out all your letters. ^To get the negative space in here ^it's just like you did in elementary school ^with your construction paper. ^You're just gonna fold it in half. ^You can kinda roughly cut to start

^and then go back in and clean it up. ^Go ahead and arrange these. ^The paper's gonna naturally fall off as you work with it. ^The paper allows us to stabilize the felt ^and makes it easier to cut. ^And now using our Tacky Glue ^we're just gonna glue these into place. ^Apply a good amount of glue. ^You don't want it to be so much that it's ^coming out of the edges when you press this down, ^but you do want a fairly generous amount. ^And I like to just glue and place one letter at a time. ^Take your two inch strip and you're gonna ^fold that in half length-wise. ^And with your pressing cloth and a hot iron ^just iron that in place to keep that fold. ^We're gonna nestle our pennant in place ^and then glue it down. ^It may seem like the glue isn't holding ^because the felt is kind of an odd material to work with, ^but you need to give it time to set up ^and it will definitely hold. ^If you need to make these more quickly ^if you're doing a lot of them for let's say a party ^or a graduation or something, ^you could use hot glue instead. ^But hot glue really shows on felt ^and that's why I prefer the Tacky Glue. ^Snip these in line with your pennant. ^Next we'll add those little tabs for hanging. ^You're just gonna fold it in half. ^Add a little bit of glue. ^And then we'll glue those onto the back ^about one inch from the edge. ^You do want to let that glue set for about a half hour ^since you might actually be hanging it. ^If it's purely decorative it could probably take about ^10 or 15 minutes and that's fine. ^But if you're gonna have the weight of the pennant ^holding this in place then let it fully dry. ^I wanna show you a few other versions ^of this pennant I've made. ^We've got this same phrase, dive in, ^but with a completely different color palette, ^the dark green and the hot pink here on the edge ^with no tabs. ^Here's one that says swim on in those traditional ^collegiate colors yellow and blue, ^which I love. ^And then finally one that says hello, ^which I think is really cute to just do a simple phrase. ^For both of these that have a cursive typeface ^I literally just took chalk and hand drew it on the felt. ^And then cut around my chalk line ^about a quarter of an inch on either side. ^It's actually very easy to free-hand ^and I glued them on exactly the same way we just did ^with our template letters. ^You can make custom banners like these, ^you could pair them with some vintage ones ^for a full collection. ^They're a great way to add color ^and a little bit of type to any wall.