
Hand Sewn Felt Baby Booties with Kata Golda

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

(fun upbeat music) - Hi, my name is Alison, and I own a company called Kata Golda. We make things primarily out of wool felt with an emphasis on hand stitching. I sell my work in boutiques all around the country, and I've been featured on sites like Fab, Gilt, and One Kings Lane. Today we're gonna work on these baby booties. They're simple and they're classic. They simply use the blanket stitch. They're easy to construct. They're a first pair of shoes for a baby, something that you'll keep for years and years for yourself or for a dear friend.

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- The tools and materials you'll need for this project are a five by 10 piece of wool felt. This is red. And a 12 by six piece of off-white felt. I have these available in kits, but you could also use a felted wool sweater. A 12 by one and a half piece of jersey fabric, a standard hole punch, downloadable template, a six by 24-inch see-through ruler, a rotary cutter, a cutting mat, snips, fabric shears, paper scissors, embroidery floss. Here we have red and off-white. The needles that I like to sew with are 5-sharps because they have a long eye and they're easy to thread, and they have a pointy tip. The soul of this shoe is roughly four inches long. It's intended for a three- to six-month old baby. You, of course, can reduce or enlarge to fit the baby you are making the shoe for, and it's not intended for a walking baby.

Chapter 3 - Sew Booties

Cut out and assemble bootie

- We begin our baby bootie by cutting out our felt pieces. I've printed the template onto a card stock and I've cut that out and now I'm going to cut out the pieces of felt using my template. Make sure when you start cutting your felt that you make sure to use the space wisely. There's plenty of felt here but there won't be if you start cutting right in the center. Start at the edge. I'm gonna cut this piece. This is gonna be the back of the bootie. I prefer to hold pieces that are small, rather than pin. I'm gonna use my fabric shear to cut this piece out. It's clearly indicated on the template pieces how many of each you need. I'm just gonna cut out this one because I've already cut out the rest of my pieces. Go ahead and cut out all of your felt pieces now and then we'll go ahead and assemble our first baby bootie. We're gonna start with the top of the shoe which is these parts. I'm going to stitch the bootie with a contrasting color thread. I'm using embroidery floss. It's comes six ply. I've separated here to be using two ply. It's 18 inches. If you use a thread any longer than 18 inches, it tends to knot up. It's better to use a shorter thread and add additional thread than using a very, very long piece of thread. We're gonna begin where the arrows are on the template piece which is right here. We're gonna go between the two layers. You're gonna leave a little tail. Wrap around the outer edge and go back in roughly in the same place as on the other side. Go almost through the same hole or through the same hole. Before you finish the stitch, go through the loop and give a little tug. Then we're gonna do the same thing again. Doing it right on top of the first stitch. You're gonna go through the loop and give a little tug. Now you're anchored your work just like a knot. Don't worry about this thread sticking out right now. Now we're going to stitch this piece up with

the blanket stitch. I'm gonna go through both layers and then through the loop. Through both layers and through the loop. You can do the same stitch coming from the back to the front. It doesn't matter which direction you go. And through the loop. It's creating a nice line on the edge. I'm paying attention to the distance between my stitches as well as how deep I'm going into the felt. I'm gonna move all the way down to the point. When I've finished each stitch and I pull my needle, I give the thread a little tug to line it up but if I tug it too hard, I'm gonna break the thread. All right, one more stitch here. Then we're gonna go right into adding the sole of the shoe. I've indicated on the template where the toe area is. That's where we're going to begin. I've cut out two pieces because the sole is double layered. We're going to start at that point. The center of the small area on this piece. I've just completed a blanket stitch. I'm going to stitch through the center with both layers and come out catching that thread. Just like I'm doing the blanket stitch. Keeping that line. Now, I'm gonna be working the three layers down one of the sides here with the blanket stitch. Don't worry about that little tip that's sticking out. We'll snip that off and clean up our booty later. Going through the three layers, wrap your thread. Three layers and wrap your thread. Make sure that you're getting all three layers in each stitch. Through the three layers, through the loop. Through the three layers. I'm gonna put one more stitch here. Because I'm gonna tie off as well, I'm gonna do one stitch and I'm gonna do another stitch in the same location. As long as I have enough thread, I'll just do one more. I'm gonna stick my thread in between those layers, pull it out, and snip it off. Don't be sewing in to just the sole. Stop when you finish attaching the white piece. I'm gonna repeat what we just did on the other side. Here's my threaded needle with the two ply. I'm not gonna tie a knot. I'm gonna go over the first stitch I made when I was attaching the top to the base. I started in the middle, went through the two layers, came out basically the same hole. I'm gonna pull my thread but I'm gonna keep a little tail here. Going into the top layer out the bottom layer. I went through three layers. I'm gonna go through the hole. I'm gonna do that once again. That will anchor our work and serve as a knot. Then we'll blanket stitch the other side. Again, don't worry about this little point, we'll clip that off. Trying to make my stitches even. Making sure I'm going through all three layers. Thinking about how deep this stitch is going into the felt. The distance between the edge and the end of the stitch on the shoe. You can see here, I'll need to realign this. Pull that over so they're all stacked right on top of each other. I have one more stitch. I'm gonna do it twice or three times. That's one. That's two, which would probably be enough, but my thread is long enough so I'll do one more. Three. Go into the red felt. And I'll snip that off. Might as well just snip that off. I'll clean this shoe up a little. Snip that piece of thread off. I'm gonna snip off that point. Okay, so it's a pretty cute little slipper now, but unfortunately, this will not stay on your baby's foot. So we're going to add a heel piece. Here is our heel piece. We're going to attach this in the center. You may think you wanna sew from one end of the piece to the other but because we wanna keep things symmetrical, start attaching it from the center point, if you fold it in half, the center point to the center point of the sole of the shoe. This could be eyeballed. We're gonna work one side and then we're gonna work the other side. Just like we work the other part of the shoe. Using my two ply red thread, I'm gonna find the center point of the back piece and I'm gonna put my needle through it leaving a tail. I'm going to eyeball the center point of the sole piece, right thereabout. I'm going to go through the two sole layers and the back piece, going through three layers, coming out near the same hole and through the loop. I'm gonna do one more stitch in the same place to anchor the work to serve as a knot. Give a small tug but not too hard. Don't wanna rip the thread. Now, I'm gonna work one side at a time. Using the blanket stitch, working around the heel piece. Making sure that I'm going through all three layers. This really requires adjusting as you go. I find piece

cumbersome. Going through three layers. We're about to go through four layers. I'm going to try to make my next stitches land in the same place as the previous stitches. Going through four layers now. My last stitch. Got my thread a little layered there. That was one. Going into the exact same place. That's two. I'll do three. Through the loop. That's three. Go through the red. And cut off my thread. I'm going to repeat what we just did on the second side. Starting in the middle. In through the sole of the shoe, through the two layers. Keep a tail. Through the off-white felt. Back through the two layers and through the loop, and pull. I'm gonna go through all three layers. Then through the loop. And pull. That will anchor the work and serve as a knot. Now, I'm going to blanket stitch this side just as I did the first side. On my last stitch, I'm gonna do it three times. Repeat it in the same location going through all four layers. Going through the loop. Going through the loop. Pull my thread through the red felt and trim. I'm gonna trim off these long pieces aside. We have our cute little booty but it's not done yet. We need to put on some embellishments and a tie.

Chapter 4 - Finish Booties

Add laces and finish booties

- These embellishments are both functional and adorable and they give us a little different take on the blanket stitch. We're going to use the off-white thread because that's going to be contrasting with our red piece that we're attaching. And before we begin sewing, we're going to use the hole punch. This is just a standard hole punch. I'm punching a hole in the center, the eye-balled center of this red piece. (pops) I'm also going to do both pieces here. (pops) I think I'm going to clean these up a little bit to make them look a little bit nicer, make that circle look a little more centered. On my template piece, I have two black marks that indicate where you should hole-punch on the piece of felt, but it's also something that you can eye-ball and I'm gonna go for the eye-balling. So, I'm going to punch the hole on each side. (pops) And as you can see I've gone about a 1/2 inch from the top and a 1/2 inch from the side. I'm gonna try to repeat that on this side. (pops) Attach these red circles. The first thing I'm going to do is tie a knot. One ... Two ... And those did not fall right on top of each other. I wanted them to. Three ... That's a pretty good sized knot. I'm gonna lay this red piece on top of the off-white piece matching up the holes. I'm gonna start with my knotted thread and go into the off-white piece. Come through the center. Both pieces. Back into the red piece and to the white piece. Keep a little loop from the center, coming through the loop. And I'm pulling. What I'm going to do here is blanket stitch the inner circle. And the reason that I say this blanket stitch is a little different is because here, you're going for different depths into the red felt, making a star-like decoration. Through the hole. Through both layers of felt. And then through the thread hole. And pulling it tight. Moving along. Through the hole in the felt. Through both pieces of felt. Through the loop in the thread and pulling it tight. I like a little bit of variation in the spokes of the wheel of the blanket stitch, but the length between the stitches, I'm trying to keep consistent. Through the hole. I'm gonna come up wide. And then I'm gonna go through the loop of my thread. And through the hole, onto my red. Wrap my thread around. You could go around again. I'm gonna go around one more time, so you can really see the decorative element I'm putting on here. Up through the back through both layers. This also serves more than decoration going around twice. You're really securing that whole end. You're making a nice place for the jersey material to go through to create a lace. This will be my last stitch. I'm gonna go over that exact stitch one more time. And then I'm gonna go between the two layers. And I'm gonna find my, where I started and I'm gonna tie a little knot. One ... Two ... Three ... You're going to repeat that on the other side. Through the two layers of felt, through the hole, wrap my thread, and pull tightly. Let's add the

laces. I like to use jersey material as opposed to ribbon because I just like the texture. I like the way it looks. But ribbon would work as well. Using my rotary cutter, I'm gonna cut this piece of jersey in half. I want the lace to be a little bigger than 1/2 inch thick and it's about 12 inches long. This is a little finicky to cut, but once it curls up it looks good. So I wanna cut it roughly a 1/2 inch. Watch me struggle here. And I wanted to show you this because it doesn't have to be perfect. It doesn't have to be exactly half. You will not be able to tell once it's cut. I'm gonna string it through those holes I just created. Through the second hole. You can tie it as loose or tight as you need it to be on that baby's ankle. Here is your finished, very sweet, little booty. You're going to make the second one just like you made this one. A little pair. There is no left or right, so they can go on either foot. I have some variations to show you. If you like traditional baby, we have pink and we have blue. I put a darker pink sole on this one and I used the same color button felt, but I used a darker thread and this whole booty is stitched with the dark pink. And I did that same technique here with the darker blue and the lighter blue. And this is all stitched with the darker blue. These baby booties whip up pretty quickly and you'll get to be a real expert with the blanket stitch. To wash them, you wanna wash them in cool or cold water and you wanna line dry them, do not put them in the dryer. If you need to use a little warm water, that's okay. Just do not put them in the dryer or they will shrink and be very small. And they're a really great project to play with color so you can make them for all the little babies you know.