
Felt Drink Markers with Amelia Strader

Chapter 1 - Introduction to DIY Drink Markers

Overview of DIY felt drink markers

- Hey, welcome to Goa Craft. In this workshop I'm going to teach you how to make this really fabulous DIY drink marker. It's inexpensive to make and takes only basic hand-sewing skills. It's a great gift to give and a wonderful favor to have at your next sitter party.

Chapter 2 - Making the Drink Markers

Tools & Materials

- The materials that you'll need for the DIY drink marker workshop are some felt glue, some thread that'll match the base color of your drink marker, some common pins, a pen, a pair of scissors, some card stock to make the template, and a variety of colors of wool felt.

Trace and cut felt shapes

- To begin making the drink marker, you're gonna take one piece of felt in the color that you're using for the base of the drink marker. So, in this case, I chose a color gray, and you're gonna fold the felt piece in a quarter, enough to cover the template that you've created out of heavy-weight card stock. I'm gonna place it on the felt close to the edge so that you can conserve felt. Then I'm going to hold it with my hand and take my pen and trace around the template like this, around the edges and make sure that the pen is marking the felt. And, once you have the outer edges, you're going to trace the inside marks, the inner circle, the vents, all four of them, like this and then take away your template. And now you're gonna take some common pins and you want to secure the felt because you're gonna cut where you traced. So, take one pin and secure both layers of felt. And, you're gonna do this four times, so you need four pins. And this is the final pin. And now I'm gonna take my scissors and cut out the template following the line that I made with my pen. Don't worry about making it perfect. Felt is an extremely forgiving fabric. And, it doesn't have to be perfect. So, I'm just gonna cut all around following the pen marks that I made, cutting through both layers of felt. Okay, so now, after cutting, you have to take out your pins. And now you have two of the templates cut onto felt. Now, one of them's blank. This is gonna be the bottom of the drink marker. So, you're gonna put this one aside for later. And now, you're gonna take the one that has the vents marked and the inner circle and you're gonna cut these out of the felt. So, to cut the center, you're gonna fold this in half and then take your scissors, and you're gonna take a snip in the center, but don't cut outside the circle, and then you're gonna do the same thing again. So, this kind of makes an X in the center of the drink marker. And now you're gonna cut out the circle. Okay. Again, don't worry about it being perfect. Felt is very forgiving material. Okay. So, there we have the center is cut out. Now, I'm going to just cut along these vent lines in the second one. And the last one. Okay. And, here's the base of my drink marker and this is the top of my drink marker. And, this has the pen marks on it, so I'm gonna flip it over because you can see them a little bit. And then, I'm just going to place one on top of the other as best I can. Don't worry if it doesn't match perfectly. It's not a big deal. Gonna pat it down. And now I'm gonna take some common pins and I'm going to secure the two of them together. You can use as many as you need to make sure they're secure. Okay, it's pinned. You can put this aside until later.

Cut embellishments

- I'm gonna make the embellishments now for my drink marker. You can make whatever embellishments that you like, in this case I made little organic leaf shapes, but you can do whatever you want, whatever your imagination will take you. To make the little embellishments that I made, if you wanna make them exactly like mine which is totally fine, I'm going to take the contrast felt color, which in this case is this dark purple. I'm gonna place it in the middle of the table, and I made a little leaf template. For this particular design, there's four large leafs, and there's eight small leaves. These are my templates, and I'm just going to cut a little bit of the felt so I'm not using the whole thing like this. This will be easier to work this way. Take the big leaf, I'm not even pinning it down, I'm just cutting around it. The felt will kind of stick together. This doesn't have to be perfect by any means. Be creative. You can go back and fix it if you want, felt is very forgiving, like I said. Okay so this is the big piece, and you're gonna make four of these. And then I'm gonna take the small, this is the small leaf, my template, and I'm gonna make eight of these. And I'm gonna cut the same exact way that I did for the big leaf. I'm cutting them one at a time. Because they're so small, it's easier to cut one at a time. And here is the small leaf. You're going to need four of the big leaf, eight of the small leaf. But if you're gonna make a set of six, go ahead and cut as many as you need, and once you've cut all your pieces, then you're to assemble.

Sew together felt shapes

- I've got all my pieces cut. Here are the leaves, here's the drink marker and I've pinned it. And now I'm ready to start sewing. In this case you want to use thread that matches the base felt color. But for this example I'm going to use a contrast color so that you can see my stitches easier. I'm doing a double strand of thread and it's knotted at the end. You can start stitching anywhere you like. And I'm going to insert the needle in between the two layers of felt 1/4 of an inch from the cut edge. So I'm inserting the needle and I'm gonna hide my knot in there. Sandwich it between the two layers. And on top I'm gonna take a tiny, little stitch. Like that. And I'm doing the running stitch. It's one of the most basic sewing stitches that you can do. And on top of the drink marker I'm gonna take a really tiny stitch so that it's invisible. And on the bottom I'm going to take 1/4 of an inch stitch. Like this. Again, I'm doing the running stitch. A really tiny stitch at the top of the drink marker and 1/4 of an inch stitch at the bottom. All around the drink marker, you're going to be sewing 1/4 of an inch all the way around. And don't worry if your stitching is not perfect. You're going to add embellishments afterwards and you won't even see the stitching. I'm gonna show you again. Take like 1/16 of a stitch at the top and come up with your needle 1/4 of an inch from your last stitch. So the stitches are almost invisible. I'm gonna continue stitching all around the outside the edge of the drink marker until I reach my last stitch and then I'm gonna knot off the thread. And now I've reached my starting point. And I'm gonna show you how to knot off the thread so that it's secure. So, put your needle through the top layer only and hold the layers open. And you're going to take one stitch, like this. And before the loop disappears, put your needle through the loop and pull. This is creating a knot. And you're gonna repeat this step three more times to make sure the stitches are secure. 'Cause you don't want all your hard work to be undone. And here is the last one. Put your needle through the loop before it disappears. And now you're finished. You can cut your thread. Really close to the knot. Just like that. Now I'm going to remove the pins from my drink marker. All of them. Now repeat this step for as many drink markers as you'd like to make and then you're ready to assemble the embellishments onto your drink marker.

Glue embellishments

- I'm gonna start assembling my pieces onto the drink marker. Felt glue is important to use, you don't want to use any other kind of glue. This one will make sure that it'll stay. And I'm gonna add just a little bit of glue to the back of the felt pieces. Not too little, not too much. And I'm gonna place the first piece onto the felt drink marker. Okay, don't worry if the glue comes out on the sides because it'll dry clear. I'm following my pattern with one large leaf in the center and two on the side. And the pattern doesn't have to be exact, if you don't like mine you can do your own. I'm gonna take the second small leaf. Just a little bit of glue, not too much. And place it on the other side. And see some of the glue has come out on the side, I'm not worried about that because it will dry clear. And then you're gonna turn your drink marker and you're gonna repeat this pattern three more times. Taking a large leaf, placing it in the center and the two small on either side. You can use whatever color felt you'd like. You can do two colors of leaves, or three colors, whichever you prefer. This is the fun part where you get to add whatever design that you like. And now I'm ready to place my last embellishment. Taking the big one, and pressing the big leaf down. Taking the small leaf, putting it on the side. And the final leaf! Okay, I'm gonna give it a good, light press to make sure that all the leaves are down. Your drink marker is complete. And now you're going to repeat this step for as many drink markers you're gonna make in your set. And when you're done making them, you wanna make sure you let your drink markers dry for at least 24 hours, so that you don't mess up your design. And here's a cocktail glass. You're going to insert it in the drink marker, that's where the vents come in handy. And now you have your fabulous drink marker, ready to drink. Cheers!

Variations of felt drink markers

- You can make other variations on the drink marker. You can do whatever your imagination will take you to. You can add little hearts. You can make it into a circle and add the leaf embellishments right on top of each other. You can add flowers. Somebody one time even made a pizza out of a drink marker. You can not add the base and you'll just have the drink marker top that also goes around the base of the cocktail glass. You can use pinking shears and make a decorative edge with the felt, adding different layers. You can use different kinds of felt besides wool felt. This is acrylic felt. Really the sky is the limit and you can make whatever kind of drink marker you like and just have fun.