
Hand-Stitched Deer Ornament with Courtney Cerruti

Chapter 1 - Hand-Stitched Deer Ornament

Overview

(upbeat music) - Hi, I'm Courtney from Creativebug, and I love making things for Christmas. One of the things I especially like to do is add a new ornament to the tree every year, and it's even better if it's handmade. I like to do a little bit of hand stitching, but I don't like to do extensive sewing, or projects that take a really long time. So, for this ornament, I'm gonna show you how to use felt, and just some hand stitching to make a really sweet and simple fawn ornament. A little bit of hand stitching using felt.

Make Ornament

- For this project you're gonna need your PDF template, or any animal shape that you'd like to do this with, a sheet of felt, I'm using a nice pretty color for the deer. A little scrap of felt that's gonna become a scarf. You'll need pins, sharp scissors, embroidery floss or thread to stitch the details in black, red, pink, and white if you're gonna do little spots. A bit of twine to make a hanger, and of course a hand sewing needle. First thing you're gonna do is trim down your template, and fold your felt just in half so that you can cut a front and a back at the same time, and we're gonna pin this in place and cut it out. Just pin in a few places. As carefully as you can, cut along the line through both layers of felt. You can remove your pins. You're gonna be left with a front and back of your little fawn shape, and at this point you can choose if you want your fawn to be facing to the right or to the left. You can change them either way. Once you start stitching the face and other little details that's going to determine what side is the front. The reason we're using two layers is because one it gives you a nice thickness to your ornament, but also it's gonna hide all of the tail ends and your hand stitching in between these two layers. So you'll just need the top layer. We're gonna do a little fawn that's facing to the right, and I'll start with my black embroidery floss. I have it threaded onto a needle and tied at the end. You don't need a lot, because we're just gonna be doing the eye and the nose, and you can refer to your template to see where the placement for that is, or you can just freehand it. Coming up from the back. I'm just gonna do a single stitch to indicate the top of the nose, and you do want to be careful when you're stitching close to the edge here, because felt can be stretchy. You don't want to distort the shape of your fawn. So just be careful as you're stitching here not to pull too hard, or to use too large of a needle. Not worried about this tail, this is going to get tucked underneath. Just want to make a few stitches back and forth to create this shape. That's good. Oh, maybe one more stitch here. Just to close in that shape. All right, and then without cutting our thread we'll go up and do the eye as well. Do your little eye. Again just a few simple stitches to indicate the eye shape. I think that's good, we'll tie this off. You can just shimmy your needle under the stitches you've already made. Create a loop and then put your needle through that loop to create a knot. Pull snug but not too tight so that you don't distort the eye shape on the front of your fawn. That's fine. And we'll trim that off. These little edges just need to get tucked in when we sew. You could put a little bit of glue stick or something if they're getting in your way, or you could trim them down. I'm just gonna press them, that's fine. We'll switch to pink so that we can do a little detail in the ear. I've already threaded a needle and put a knot just like we did with the eye and the nose. This could be red if you wanted to, but I'm choosing pink just because I like the contrast. Do one simple stitch and then come in right next to the stitch you just did. Do another one,

we're just creating about a half-inch line to indicate an ear. These are super simple stitches. They don't have to be perfect. It's just an indication, that's all we really need. Again we'll tie this off on the back in the same way. If you don't have a stitch large enough to shimmy your needle under, just catch a little bit of felt but don't go all the way through to the front. And in that loop you can make a knot. Just make sure that you don't have any extra stitches on the front before you knot off and tie. And then we're gonna switch to white and do some little stitches here to indicate those newborn spots, and I've again threaded a needle with some white embroidery floss, and this time I'm just gonna do little X's, and those are gonna create little spots. If you are good at French knots you could do French knots. Just move around the back of the deer, creating these little X's. And because the felt is pretty forgiving, bigger X's wind up becoming really small so you don't have to worry as much about your stitches. If you're really good at French knots or something then you could do those. And I like to have maybe five to seven spots. I like to do odd numbers. Oops, that happens. Those legs tend to get in the way. All right that's number seven. You can flip this over, you have lots of little thread loops there you can go under. These leggy bits tend to get into the way, all these, the tail and all of that. You can also flip it this way to avoid all those legs. All right. Looks a bit messy but this is gonna be hidden. Just want to make sure that all those little threads are stuck down into the interior of the shape so they don't poke out when we sew the two parts together. You can just align these. Can see how sweet that is. Felt is pretty forgiving and stretchy which means you want to be careful to not distort the shape, but you can also kind of move it if things have shifted or if your ears don't match up or whatever. Before we sew around the perimeter, we're just gonna add a little bit of a tie. I like a twine one because it gives us a rustic feel, but you could do a ribbon, and this is super simple. I have about six and a half, seven inches. We'll just do a knot in the end. And this is gonna go right in the center. You could pin this in place if you needed to, but I'm just gonna start my stitching here, and I'm using the contrast with the red floss because I like the way that looks. But you could also pick a floss or thread that matches the color of your deer so it's more invisible. You could do a blanket stitch to encapsulate this edge. I'm just gonna do a simple running stitch starting at that tie. I've got my red thread with a knot at the end. I'm gonna come up from the center, so in between those two layers right where my tie is. Keep that inside. Then I'm gonna start my stitch here, and I'm staying really close to this edge, maybe about a 1/16 to 1/8 of an inch. All those little legs are gonna get in the way, and we might just go over this twice just to really make sure it's secure. So you'll have a longer stitch here. That's nice and secure in there. I'm actually just gonna flip this so the legs are out of the way, and we're gonna do a simple running stitch all along the edge here. You could also do a whip stitch where you're catching the edge. I just like the look of a running stitch. It's totally up to you. I like to just move my thumb up, kind of hold everything together. Continue your running stitch all along the outside perimeter of your fawn and if you need to add a new thread because you run out of it, you're gonna start in the same way that we started, coming up between the two layers, and then you'll just knot off as normal. I have one that I already finished so that they could be a pair. He's facing in toward this one, and you can see that the running stitch is done all along, and it has the same kind of little tie. But I wanted to show you how to add a really cute little scarf for this, and that's super simple because we're using the felt, there's only one stitch required. I'm just gonna see how this fits him. Oh yeah, that looks good. So before we sew it on I'm actually going to just make little fringe here by using the end of my scissors to cut up about a quarter of an inch. Maybe a little more. And the nice thing about felt is it's a little stretchy so you can give it a little tug so that that fringe splays out on either side. Wrap it around our deer. I like it sort of overlapped at an angle, and then we're just gonna tack it in place. You could

use a white stitch here. I already have a knot in my thread. We'll come up from the center, and just make a little X just to tack that in place. Flip it over and we're gonna put our needle between those two layers, and you can just shimmy your needle under a little bit of felt. And go through that loop to create a knot. You can just snip that, that'll be hidden inside of your scarf. Now you have a second one, and once she's complete you'll have a nice little pair. You can even choose to make these in a less traditional color palette with a little bit of neon which is my favorite. So I have a lighter deer here. She has silver spots and brown stitching for the ears, eyes, and nose, and I just used regular sewing thread that I doubled up in neon pink for the edging, and a bit of ribbon for the hanger. These guys are so sweet. They're pretty quick to stitch up. You can do this project with a friend in front of the fireplace, and maybe a nice cup of hot cocoa. You could give this as an heirloom gift to hang on the Christmas tree year after year, or even just use it as a package topper.