

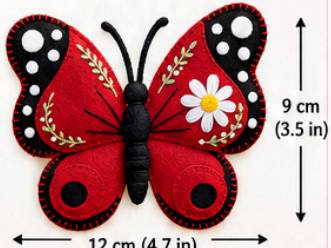


Felt Butterfly

♥ Step by Step Tutorial

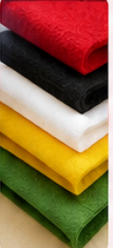
A sweet project
for decoration,
gifts or to sell! ♥

Finished Size



12 cm (4.7 in) 9 cm (3.5 in)

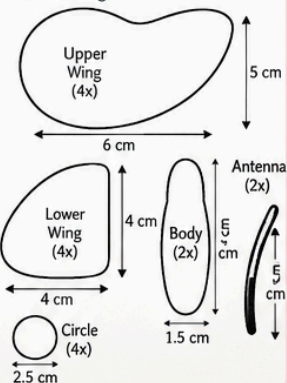
Materials



- Felt fabric (red, black, white, yellow, green)
- Embroidery floss (black, white, green, yellow, red)
- Stuffing (polyester fiberfill)
- Hand sewing needle
- Fabric scissors
- Pins or fabric clips
- Small pearl beads (optional)

1 Pattern pieces

Print or draw the patterns. Add a 0.5 cm seam allowance when cutting.



2 Cut the felt

Cut all pieces in the indicated colors.



3 Prepare the wings

Sew the decorative pieces onto the red wing using appliqué or hand stitch (blanket stitch).



4 Embroider the details

Add the embroidered leaves, flower and wing veins.



5 Make the body

Sew the body pieces together, stuff with fiberfill and add the antennae.



Use a running stitch and pull gently to shape the body.

6 Sew the wings

Join the upper and lower wings on each side using blanket stitch.



7 Assemble

Position the wings on the body and sew securely.



8 Finished!

Your felt butterfly is complete! A beautiful handmade piece to decorate, gift or sell.



♥ Handmade with love! ♥

Main Stitches Used

Tips for a Perfect Result

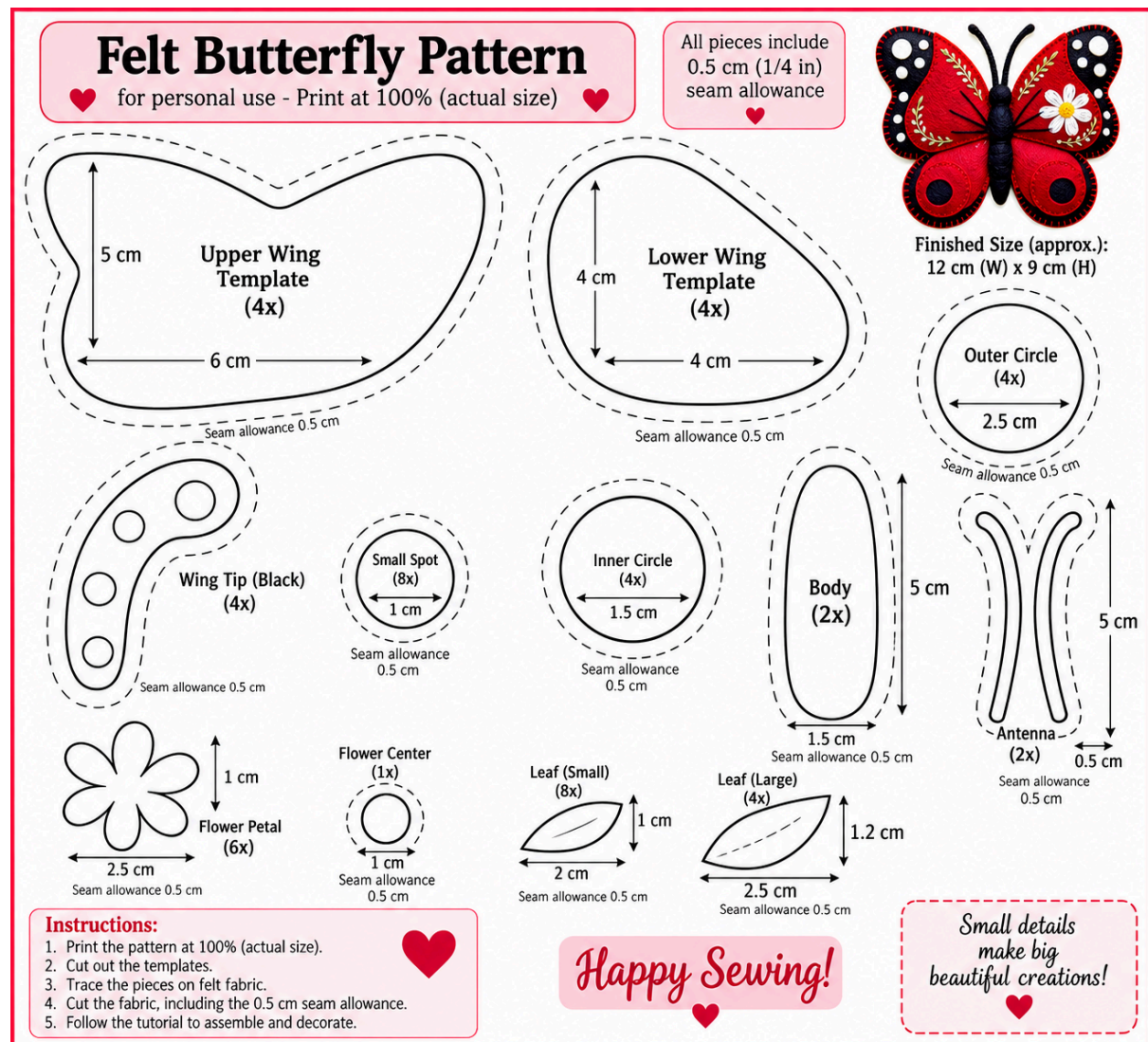
- Use high-quality felt fabric.
- Keep stitches even and neat.
- Add pearl beads for a special touch.
- You can glue small pieces before sewing.
- Stuff the body firmly, but not too much.
- Replace the flower with buttons or other decorations if you prefer.
- This project is great for beginners and makes a lovely handmade gift!

Variations



Try different colors and decorations!

♥ Small details make big beauty! ♥



Felt Butterfly Step-by-Step Tutorial

This Felt Butterfly is a charming hand-sewn project made with layered felt, decorative embroidery, simple appliqué, and light stuffing. The finished butterfly shown in the tutorial measures approximately 12 cm (4.7 in) wide × 9 cm (3.5 in) high.

Although the measurements are given primarily in centimeters to stay consistent with the pattern, inch equivalents are included where they are especially useful for U.S. crafters.

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The design combines red and black felt, white dots, embroidered greenery, a white daisy, black wing veins, and a softly stuffed black body. One of the nicest features of this project is that it does not require a sewing machine. The butterfly can be completed with basic hand-sewing and embroidery techniques commonly used for felt crafts, appliqué, and decorative quilting projects.

Before beginning, read through the entire tutorial and prepare all the pieces. Felt is forgiving because its cut edges normally do not fray, making this an approachable project even if you are relatively new to hand sewing. Keep your stitches small and consistent, and take your time when positioning the decorative pieces.

Step 1: Gather the Materials

For the butterfly shown in the tutorial, prepare red, black, white, yellow, and green felt. The red felt forms the primary wings, black is used for the body and contrasting wing sections, white creates the dots and flower petals, yellow forms the flower center, and green is useful for the decorative leaves.

You will also need embroidery floss in black, white, green, yellow, and red. Six-strand cotton embroidery floss works well. Depending on how bold you want the stitches to appear, you can separate the floss and work with approximately two or three strands for finer embroidery.

Prepare a hand-sewing needle, embroidery needle, sharp fabric scissors, pins or fabric clips, and a fabric marking tool. A removable fabric pen or tailor's chalk is helpful for lightly drawing the flower, leaves, and wing veins before stitching.

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For the body, have a small amount of polyester fiberfill available. Only a little stuffing is necessary because the body should look softly dimensional rather than heavily packed.

The original design also includes small pearl-like embellishments. These are optional. If the butterfly will be used around small children, omitting beads and other detachable embellishments is the safer choice.

Finally, prepare the printable pattern pieces or draw them using the measurements below. Check your printer settings carefully if working from a template and print at 100% / Actual Size, rather than using a "Fit to Page" option.

Step 2: Prepare the Pattern Pieces

The approximate upper wing template measures 6 cm wide × 5 cm high. Cut four upper-wing pieces in total so that each finished wing can have a front and back layer.

The lower wing template measures approximately 4 cm × 4 cm. Again, prepare four pieces—two for the front and two for the back.

For the central body, prepare two black felt pieces approximately 5 cm long × 1.5 cm wide. The shape should be elongated and softly rounded at both ends rather than perfectly rectangular.

Prepare two narrow antenna pieces approximately 5 cm long. The tutorial shows them as gently curved black antennae. They may be formed from narrow felt, cord, or another flexible craft material suitable for sewing securely inside the body.

For the lower-wing appliqué, prepare four outer circles approximately 2.5 cm in diameter and four smaller inner circles

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approximately 1.5 cm in diameter. The visible front circles are red with contrasting black centers.

For the upper-wing decorations, prepare the curved black wing-tip sections and several white felt dots. The dots can vary in size, which gives the butterfly the organic handmade appearance visible in the reference.

Step 3: Add the 0.5 cm Seam Allowance

When cutting pieces that will be joined and stuffed, allow approximately 0.5 cm (about 3/16 in) around the required edges if your pattern does not already include that allowance.

Trace the templates onto the felt using a removable marking tool. Keep the markings light, particularly on red and black felt, because heavy marks may remain visible after assembly.

Cut slowly with sharp scissors. Instead of making many tiny jagged cuts, use longer controlled cuts around the curved wings.

After cutting one side, compare the corresponding left and right pieces. The wings should mirror one another so that the finished butterfly remains visually balanced.

Keep the front and back pieces together in small groups. This prevents accidentally using a left-wing piece where a right-wing piece is required.

Before sewing anything, arrange all pieces on your work surface in the shape of the finished butterfly. This quick "dry assembly" helps you identify sizing or positioning issues early.

Step 4: Build the Black-and-White Upper Wing Tips

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Position one curved black felt section along the outside edge of each upper red wing. The black section should follow the outer curve and cover roughly the upper outer portion of the wing.

Pin or clip it temporarily. If you prefer, a tiny amount of fabric-safe glue can hold small appliqué pieces in position before sewing, but glue should not replace the structural stitching.

Attach the black section using small blanket stitches or neat appliqué stitches. Keep the stitches approximately the same length and distance apart.

Cut several white felt circles in different diameters. The tutorial uses a mixture of small and larger spots instead of identical dots.

Arrange the white dots over the black section before attaching them. Keep a little black space between each circle so the pattern remains easy to see.

Secure each circle with tiny appliqué stitches or fabric-safe adhesive followed by stitching where appropriate. Repeat on the opposite upper wing, aiming for balance without requiring perfect symmetry.

Step 5: Prepare the Lower Wings

Place a 2.5 cm red circle toward the center of each lower red wing.

Use red embroidery floss and small stitches around its circumference. The stitching itself becomes part of the decorative design, so try to maintain an even rhythm.

Center a 1.5 cm black circle inside each larger red circle.

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Attach the black circle with discreet black stitches. Because black thread visually disappears into black felt, this is an easy way to achieve a clean finish.

Check both lower wings side by side. The circles should sit at approximately matching heights and distances from the outer edges.

The layered circles give the lower wings the bold graphic appearance shown in the tutorial while maintaining the project's red-and-black palette.

Once these pieces are attached, set the lower wings aside while you embroider the more detailed upper wings.

Step 6: Embroider the Decorative Leaves

Lightly sketch a curved vine on each red upper wing. The reference uses delicate botanical branches following the natural curve of the butterfly wings.

Use green embroidery floss for the stems. A stem stitch, backstitch, or small running stitch works well for these curved lines.

Create the leaves using lazy daisy stitches. Bring the needle up near the stem, form a small loop of thread, and secure the tip of the loop with a tiny anchoring stitch.

Continue adding leaves along both sides of the stem. Varying the angle slightly makes the vine look more natural.

Small French knots can be added between the leaves to imitate tiny buds or flowers. White, pale pink, or other subtle accent colors work beautifully.

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A few small pearl beads may also be stitched into the botanical decoration, as shown in the reference. Sew each bead securely rather than relying on glue.

Step 7: Embroider the White Daisy 🌻

The large white flower is the focal point of one upper wing.

Mark a small center point and lightly indicate the direction of approximately six to eight petals around it.

Use white embroidery floss and satin stitch or long-and-short stitches to fill each petal. Begin near the center and stitch outward.

Keep the stitches close together so the red felt does not show excessively through the petals. Slight variations in stitch direction will give the flower a handmade embroidered texture.

Create the yellow center with dense French knots, satin stitches, or a small round yellow felt appliqué.

The reference places the daisy on only one wing, producing an intentionally asymmetrical decorative composition. You do not need to duplicate the flower on the opposite side.

Step 8: Add the Black Wing Veins

The thin black lines radiating from the center of the butterfly represent stylized wing veins.

Mark their position lightly before stitching. Each line should begin near the body and travel outward across the red felt.

Use black embroidery floss with a straight stitch, backstitch, or couching technique.

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Keep these lines relatively thin. They should complement the botanical embroidery rather than overpower it.

Usually two or three lines on each upper wing are enough to reproduce the look shown in the tutorial.

Check the overall composition before continuing. At this stage, nearly all decorative work should be completed while the wing pieces are still flat and easy to handle.

Step 9: Sew the Wing Layers Together

Match each decorated front wing with its corresponding back piece.

Hold the layers together with clips or pins, making sure the edges align neatly.

Sew around the outside using blanket stitch. The reference uses contrasting red stitching around black areas, creating a very visible handmade border.

Keep the stitches evenly spaced. For a small project like this, stitches around 0.3–0.5 cm apart create a tidy appearance.

Repeat the process for the lower wings.

The wings generally do not need substantial stuffing. Keeping them relatively flat preserves their shape and makes assembly easier. If you want slight dimension, a very thin layer of batting can be placed between the layers, but avoid overstuffing.

Step 10: Make the Stuffed Butterfly Body

Place the two black body pieces together.

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Insert the lower ends of the two 5 cm antennae between the layers at the top of the head so their attachment points will be hidden inside the body.

Begin sewing around the edge with a small running stitch, whipstitch, or blanket stitch.

Leave a small opening along one side.

Insert tiny amounts of polyester fiberfill, beginning at the bottom and gradually working upward. A blunt turning tool or the end of a crochet hook can help position the stuffing.

Continue until the body is softly rounded. Do not pack it too firmly. Close the opening with small stitches and secure the thread inside the felt.

Step 11: Shape the Body

The reference butterfly has a segmented appearance along its black body.

To reproduce this effect, wrap black thread around selected points of the stuffed body and gently tighten it.

The thread creates shallow divisions that visually separate the head, thorax, and abdomen.

Secure each wrap discreetly on the back.

Shape the antennae into gentle outward curves.

Before attaching the wings, place the body over their center and make sure it hides the inner wing edges cleanly.

Step 12: Assemble the Butterfly

Lay the four finished wings on a flat surface.

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Position the two upper wings first, keeping their tops at approximately the same height. Place the lower wings beneath them with a slight overlap.

The total finished butterfly should measure approximately 12 cm (4.7 in) wide × 9 cm (3.5 in) high, although handmade variations are completely normal.

Temporarily clip or tack the inner edges together.

Position the black stuffed body vertically over the center. It should cover the joins between the four wings.

Hand-sew the wings securely to the back or sides of the body. Make several passes through strong areas of felt, especially where the upper and lower wings meet.

Step 13: Main Stitches Used in This Project

Running stitch is useful for construction, gathering, and subtle seams. Pass the needle regularly over and under the felt to produce a dashed line.

Blanket stitch is the principal decorative edge treatment. It creates the distinctive looped border visible around the butterfly.

Straight stitch works particularly well for the black wing veins and other linear details.

French knots create small raised dots and are excellent for flower centers, buds, and tiny decorative accents.

Lazy daisy stitch creates individual loop-shaped leaves or petals. It is ideal for the green vines decorating the wings.

Satin stitch fills solid areas with closely packed parallel stitches and works beautifully for the white flower petals.

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Step 14: Final Inspection and Finishing ✨

Lay the completed butterfly flat and compare the left and right sides.

Gently reshape any wing that looks compressed. Felt can usually be adjusted with your fingers without requiring pressing.

Check every appliqué piece and make sure the white dots, circles, embroidered leaves, and flower are secure.

Inspect the body-to-wing connection carefully. Add several hidden stitches from the back if the body moves too easily.

Trim loose embroidery threads rather than cutting extremely close to knots.

Remove any visible fabric markings. Follow the instructions supplied with your particular marking tool rather than wetting the felt automatically.

Your Felt Butterfly is now complete and should measure roughly 12 × 9 cm.

Optional Color Variations 🎨

Once you understand the construction, the same pattern can produce many different butterflies.

Instead of red, try pink felt with black details while keeping the white dots and flower. This creates a softer variation while preserving the original contrast.

An orange-and-black butterfly gives the design a warmer appearance and works particularly well for fall decorations.

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You can also change the embroidery while keeping the basic wing templates identical. Small flowers, leaves, stars, dots, or simple geometric motifs can all replace the botanical elements.

For a more quilt-inspired look, use tiny scraps of coordinating fabrics as appliqué on top of the felt wings. Turn under any fabric edges that are likely to fray, or secure them with an appliqué method suitable for the material.

Whatever colors you choose, maintain strong contrast between the main wings, outer accents, and embroidery so the small decorative details remain visible.

Tips for a Professional-Looking Result ❤️

Use high-quality felt that holds its shape instead of very thin material that stretches easily. Cut all curved pieces slowly and accurately, because clean cutting has a major influence on the finished appearance.

Complete the embroidery and appliqué before assembling the wing layers whenever possible. Working on a single flat piece is much easier than trying to embroider through an already assembled butterfly.

Keep your blanket stitches evenly spaced around the perimeter. Consistency matters more than making every stitch extremely small.

When stuffing the body, add the fiberfill gradually. The goal is a firm but flexible dimensional body, not a tightly packed shape.

Finally, treat the measurements as a guide for reproducing the approximately 12 × 9 cm butterfly shown in the tutorial. If you enlarge or reduce the pattern, scale all pieces together so the proportions of the wings, body, circles, flower, and antennae remain consistent.

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With the final threads secured and the wings gently shaped, your handmade Felt Butterfly is ready for decorative craft projects, handmade gifts, ornaments, wall décor, or as inspiration for a larger sewing and appliqué project. 🦋🧵✨