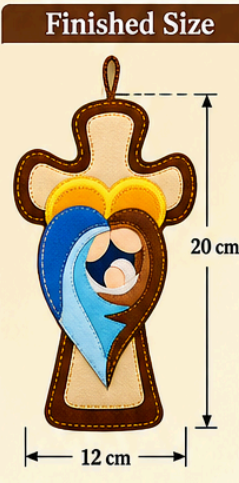


Felt Cross with Holy Family Appliqué

Step by Step Tutorial



Finished Size



Materials

- Felt fabric (different colors)
- Embroidery thread
- Stuffing (optional, for padded look)
- Scissors
- Sewing needle
- Pins or fabric clips
- Fabric glue (optional)
- Hanging cord (12 cm)



Main Stitches Used (U.S. Terms)



Running Stitch



Backstitch

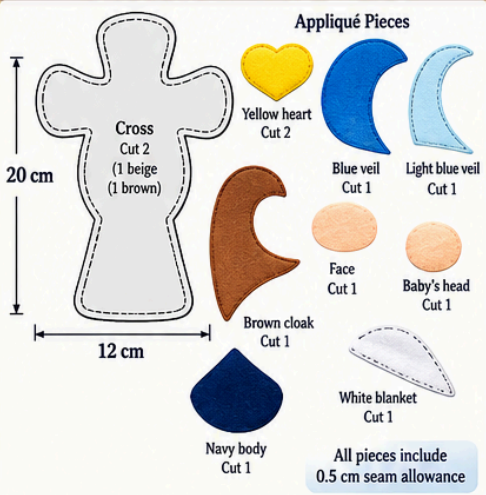


Whipstitch



Blanket Stitch

Template Pieces (with seam allowance)



All pieces include 0.5 cm seam allowance

1 Cut the Pieces



Use the templates to cut all pieces from felt. Each piece includes a 0.5 cm seam allowance.

2 Prepare the Cross Base



Sew the beige cross onto the brown cross using a running stitch or backstitch.

3 Make the Yellow Heart



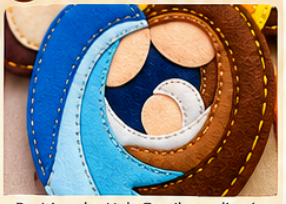
Sew the two yellow heart pieces together. Attach to the top center of the cross.

4 Create the Holy Family



Layer and sew the applique pieces as shown. Start with the brown cloak, then add the blue veil, face, baby, and blanket.

5 Sew the Appliqué to the Cross



Position the Holy Family appliqué in the center of the cross and sew around the edges with a running stitch or blanket stitch.

6 Add Stitch Details



Use embroidery thread to add decorative stitching around all pieces. You can use a running stitch or backstitch.

7 Add the Hanging Loop



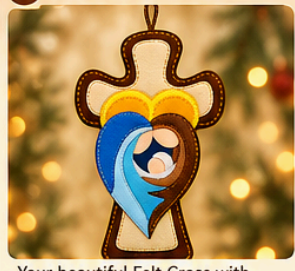
Cut a 12 cm piece of cord. Fold it into a loop and sew it securely to the back of the cross before closing.

9 Sew the Back



Place the back piece over the front and sew around the edges using a blanket stitch, leaving the top closed where the loop is.

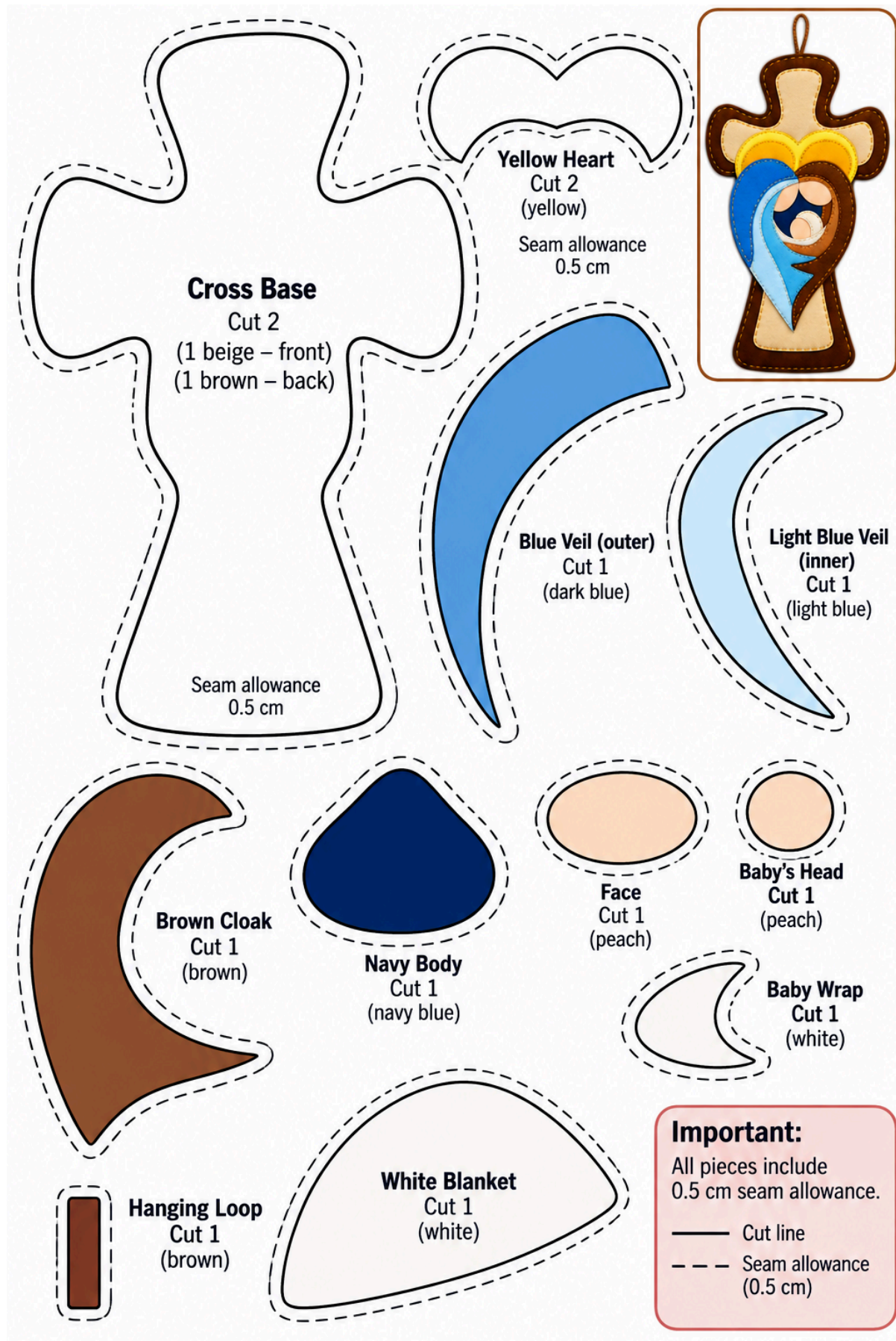
10 Finished Ornament



Your beautiful Felt Cross with Holy Family Appliqué is ready! Perfect for Christmas décor, gifts, or year-round inspiration.

Tips for Success

- ✓ Use good quality felt fabric.
- ✓ Keep stitches even for a neater finish.
- ✓ You can use fabric glue to hold pieces in place before sewing.
- ✓ Choose contrasting thread colors to highlight the design.
- ✓ For a larger decoration, simply enlarge the template (keep the proportions).
- ✓ This pattern can also be made using fabric instead of felt.



Felt Cross with Holy Family Appliqué – Complete Sewing Tutorial

This Felt Cross with Holy Family Appliqué is a beautiful handmade project that combines simple felt appliqué, decorative hand stitching, and layered fabric shapes. Based on the tutorial graphic, the finished ornament measures approximately 20 cm tall × 12 cm wide, not including the hanging loop.

The project is especially suitable for Christmas decorations, handmade gifts, wall décor, or a meaningful keepsake. Although the design looks detailed, it is assembled from relatively simple shapes. By working one layer at a time, even a beginner can complete it successfully.

Step 1: Gather Your Materials

For this project, you will need:

- Felt fabric in brown, beige, yellow, dark blue, light blue, navy blue, peach, and white
- Embroidery thread in coordinating or contrasting colors
- Hand-sewing needle
- Sharp fabric scissors
- Pins or fabric clips
- Fabric glue, optional
- Lightweight stuffing, optional
- 12 cm hanging cord
- Printed pattern pieces
- Fabric marking pen or chalk

Choose felt that is firm enough to hold its shape but still easy to stitch by hand. Craft felt works well, while wool-blend felt can create a softer, more refined finish.

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Embroidery floss is ideal for the visible stitching. In the example, contrasting golden-brown stitching helps define the individual pieces.

Step 2: Prepare the Pattern and Finished Size

The finished ornament shown in the graphic is approximately:

Height: 20 cm

Width: 12 cm

Print or trace your pattern pieces at the correct scale. The template should include the main cross shape as well as the individual appliqué pieces.

The pattern uses a 0.5 cm allowance around the indicated pieces. When tracing, carefully transfer both the cutting outline and any useful placement marks.

You will need the following basic shapes:

Cross Base: cut 2 pieces, one beige and one brown

Yellow Heart/Halo Shape: cut 2

Dark Blue Veil: cut 1

Light Blue Veil: cut 1

Brown Cloak: cut 1

Navy Body: cut 1

Face Pieces: cut as required

Baby's Head: cut 1

White Blanket/Wrap: cut 1

Hanging Loop: approximately 12 cm of cord

Before cutting your best felt, arrange the paper templates together to make sure their proportions match the finished design.

Step 3: Cut All Felt Pieces Carefully

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Place each paper template onto the appropriate felt color. Pin it in place or trace around it using a removable fabric marker.

Use small, sharp scissors for curved sections. Instead of making long cuts around tight curves, use several controlled snips while rotating the felt with your other hand.

Cut the brown cross backing first. Then cut the smaller beige cross-shaped section that sits over the brown foundation.

Continue with the yellow, blue, brown, navy, peach, and white appliqué pieces.

Keep all pieces organized after cutting. A small tray or labeled envelopes can be useful because some of the face and baby pieces are quite small.

Do a complete dry assembly before sewing. Lay everything on top of the cross exactly as it will appear in the finished ornament. This is the easiest time to correct a piece that is too large or uneven.

Step 4: Prepare the Cross Base

Lay the beige cross section over the brown foundation.

Center it carefully so that an even brown border remains visible around the beige area. Pin or temporarily secure the layers with tiny dots of fabric glue.

Hand sew around the beige section.

A running stitch produces the simple dashed appearance shown in the tutorial graphic. A backstitch can be used instead when you want a stronger, more continuous stitched line.

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Keep your stitches evenly spaced. Approximately 3–4 mm between stitches is a practical starting point for an ornament of this size.

Do not permanently attach the final brown backing yet if you plan to hide knots, secure appliqué stitches from behind, or add stuffing.

Step 5: Make the Yellow Heart or Halo Section

The yellow section behind the Holy Family creates the warm decorative focal point seen near the upper center of the cross.

Cut the two yellow pieces according to the pattern. Arrange them symmetrically so they form the double-rounded heart or halo appearance shown in the reference.

Position this section across the center of the cross, just below the horizontal arms.

Pin the pieces temporarily or use a tiny amount of fabric glue.

Sew around the edges using a running stitch, backstitch, or small whipstitch.

The yellow section should remain visible behind both Mary and Joseph after the remaining appliqué pieces are installed.

Step 6: Assemble the Holy Family Appliqué

It is easiest to build the Holy Family from the back layers toward the front layers.

Begin with the navy body section in the center. Position it beneath the face area and stitch it securely.

Next, position the brown cloak on the right side. Its curved edge should frame Joseph's side of the composition.

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Add the dark blue veil on the left. This larger blue shape creates Mary's outer silhouette.

Position the light blue veil over the dark blue section. Allow some of the darker blue to remain visible along the outer edge to create depth.

Finally, position the peach face pieces. Check the overall composition before sewing them permanently because the faces establish the visual center of the design.

Step 7: Create the Baby and White Blanket 🧒

The baby is made from small layered pieces and should be assembled carefully.

Place the small peach head near the center of the composition.

Arrange the white felt wrap or blanket around it. The white section should curve around the baby rather than completely covering the peach head.

Secure these small components with tiny stitches. A fine needle and one or two strands of embroidery floss can make this part easier.

Keep your stitches particularly small around the baby's face because larger stitches may overwhelm the small shape.

Once assembled, check that the baby appears naturally centered between the surrounding blue and brown appliqué sections.

The layered arrangement should create the intimate, enclosed composition shown in the tutorial graphic.

Step 8: Sew the Appliqué to the Cross 🧵

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Once you are satisfied with the placement, begin permanently attaching the complete Holy Family design to the cross.

Work from the lowest layer upward whenever possible.

Use running stitch for simple decorative outlines. Use backstitch where you want a stronger line.

A whipstitch works well for securely attaching small curved pieces. For visible outer edges, blanket stitch provides a traditional handmade finish.

Try to maintain the same stitch length throughout the project. Consistency is more important than making extremely tiny stitches.

Choose thread colors that either blend with the felt or intentionally contrast with it. The graphic uses contrasting stitching to emphasize the handmade construction.

Step 9: Add the Decorative Stitching

After all the appliqué components are attached, inspect the entire front of the ornament.

Add decorative stitching around the brown border, beige cross, yellow shapes, blue veil, brown cloak, and other major elements.

The four main stitches suitable for this project are Running Stitch, Backstitch, Whipstitch, and Blanket Stitch.

Running Stitch creates a simple dashed decorative line and is excellent for large appliqué areas.

Backstitch creates a stronger, more continuous outline and is useful where additional stability is needed.

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Whipstitch wraps around an edge and works particularly well for small appliqué pieces.

Blanket Stitch combines attachment with decoration and is ideal around the outside edge of the finished ornament.

Step 10: Make and Attach the Hanging Loop

Cut approximately 12 cm of hanging cord.

Fold the cord in half so that the two raw ends meet. Position those ends at the top center of the ornament.

The loop itself should extend upward beyond the cross.

Sew the two ends securely to the back of the front layer. Make several reinforcing stitches because this small connection will support the weight of the ornament.

Test the loop gently before closing the back.

The attachment should remain hidden once the final backing layer is installed.

Step 11: Add Optional Stuffing

The tutorial allows for optional stuffing if you prefer a slightly padded ornament.

If you want the project completely flat, skip this step.

For a padded version, use only a thin layer of polyester fiberfill. Too much stuffing can distort the cross and make the appliqué bulge.

Spread the filling evenly, particularly through the wider upper section and lower body of the cross.

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Keep stuffing away from the final few millimeters along the perimeter. A flatter edge is much easier to close with blanket stitch.

Check the ornament from the front before finishing. It should look gently padded rather than heavily stuffed.

Step 12: Attach the Back

Place the brown backing behind the completed front.

Match all outer edges carefully and pin or clip the two layers together.

Check that the hanging loop is centered and firmly trapped between the front and back layers.

Begin sewing around the perimeter using blanket stitch. Keep the stitches uniform for a professional-looking finish.

If you are adding stuffing, leave a small opening near the bottom. Insert the final amount of stuffing, reshape the ornament with your fingers, and then close the opening.

Secure the last stitch with a strong knot hidden between the felt layers.

Step 13: Check and Finish the Ornament ✨

Examine the entire perimeter and make sure there are no loose areas.

Trim any tiny felt fibers with sharp scissors, being careful not to cut your embroidery thread.

Check the appliqué pieces and reinforce any edges that lift away from the foundation.

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Gently reshape the cross and smooth the layered Holy Family design with your fingers.

If fabric glue was used during construction, allow it to dry completely according to the manufacturer's instructions before hanging the ornament.

Your finished piece should measure approximately 20 cm × 12 cm, with the hanging loop extending above that measurement.

Sewing Methods Used in This Project

Running Stitch: Pass the needle repeatedly from front to back at regular intervals. It creates the attractive dashed lines visible throughout the ornament.

Backstitch: Bring the needle forward, then stitch backward into the end of the previous stitch. This creates a strong, continuous-looking seam.

Whipstitch: Bring the thread repeatedly over the edge of an appliqué piece. It is particularly useful for small curved shapes.

Blanket Stitch: Bring the needle through the fabric while catching the thread loop along the edge. This creates the characteristic decorative border and is especially useful for joining the front and back layers.

Tips for a Neater Result 💡

Use good-quality felt because thin felt can stretch while you are stitching. Always test the complete arrangement before attaching anything permanently.

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Keep your stitches as even as possible. A removable fabric pen can be used to mark tiny stitch positions around difficult curves.

A small amount of fabric glue can hold complicated appliqué layers temporarily, but avoid excessive glue because hardened areas can become difficult to sew through.

Contrasting embroidery thread emphasizes the handmade stitching. Matching thread creates a quieter and more subtle finish.

If you want a larger wall decoration, enlarge every template by the same percentage so the proportions remain consistent.

Although felt is particularly convenient because its edges do not fray easily, the same basic design can also be adapted to other fabrics. If you use woven cotton fabric, consider applying lightweight fusible interfacing to the back before cutting.

Final Result

After the final blanket stitches are completed, you will have a handmade Felt Cross with Holy Family Appliqué featuring layered felt, decorative embroidery, a hanging loop, and an optional softly padded construction.

The combination of the brown and beige cross, warm yellow accents, blue veil, brown cloak, and small central baby creates the same overall composition shown in the tutorial graphic. Once you understand the layering sequence, the project is straightforward to reproduce and can easily be customized with different felt colors, embroidery threads, or decorative details.