

Santa Claus Holding a Christmas Tree – Complete Felt Sewing Tutorial (U.S. Sewing Terms)

Create a charming handmade Santa Claus holding a Christmas tree using colorful felt, simple embroidery stitches, and basic sewing techniques. This detailed Christmas sewing tutorial follows the illustrated pattern, from preparing the templates and cutting the fabric to assembling Santa's face, decorating the Christmas tree, and finishing the stuffed ornament.

The finished Santa measures approximately 34 cm tall and 22 cm wide, making it a wonderful decoration for a Christmas wall, door, holiday display, or handmade gift. His traditional red coat, fluffy white beard, black boots, cheerful face, and decorated green Christmas tree create a festive design full of personality.

This project is suitable for beginners who are comfortable with basic hand sewing. You will learn how to use the running stitch, backstitch, whip stitch, blanket stitch, and cross stitch, following standard U.S. sewing terminology. Most pieces are assembled using simple appliqué techniques, so a sewing machine is not necessary.

Step 1: Gather Your Materials and Prepare the Templates

Before beginning your felt Santa Claus sewing project, organize your materials on a clean, well-lit work surface. Preparing everything in advance will make cutting, stitching, and assembling the different pieces much easier.

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Materials Needed

- **Red felt or cotton fabric for Santa's hat and coat**
- **White felt for the beard, mustache, hat trim, cuffs, and coat trim**
- **Green felt for the Christmas tree**
- **Black felt for the boots, mittens, and belt**
- **Beige or peach felt for Santa's face**
- **Brown felt for the tree trunk**
- **Yellow or gold felt for the star and belt buckle**
- **Pink felt for Santa's cheeks**
- **Small red beads for Christmas tree decorations**
- **Polyester fiberfill for light stuffing**
- **Matching sewing thread**
- **White, black, and red embroidery floss**
- **Hand-sewing needles**
- **Fabric scissors**
- **Pins or sewing clips**
- **Fabric glue (optional)**
- **Paper, pencil, and fabric marker**
- **Printed sewing templates**

Finished Measurements

Finished height

34 cm

Finished width

22 cm

Approximate dimensions based on the illustrated pattern, including the hat and decorative elements.

Understanding the Sewing Templates

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The illustrated pattern includes separate templates for Santa's hat, face, beard, coat, boots, hands, and Christmas tree.

Cut the following pieces according to the template labels:

Pattern piece	Quantity	Felt color
Santa hat	2	Red
Hat trim	2	White
Pom-pom	2	White
Face	1	Beige
Beard	2	White
Eyebrows	2	White
Mustache	2	White
Nose	1	Red

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Body	2	Red
Coat trim	2	White
Tree	2	Green
Tree trunk	2	Brown
Star	2	Yellow
Hands	4	Black
Belt	1	Black
Buckle	2	Yellow
Boots	2 visible pieces	Black

The diagram shows two visible boot templates. For a lightly stuffed ornament, cut two additional mirrored boot backs using the same outlines.

Important: The reference illustration is a visual template guide, not a verified full-size printable pattern. To reproduce the intended 34 cm × 22 cm size, enlarge the templates proportionally and check the measurements before cutting.

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The diagram also does not specify seam allowances, so the instructions below use a practical hand-sewing allowance of approximately 0.5 cm where needed.

Prepare the Templates

Print or trace the pattern pieces onto paper. Carefully cut each paper shape along its outline.

Place the paper templates onto the corresponding felt colors. Secure them with pins or clips, then trace around each shape using a removable fabric marker.

Cut slowly around the curves, especially the beard, mustache, tree branches, and Santa's hat. Clean edges will make the finished ornament look more polished.

For symmetrical pieces, fold the felt before cutting or flip the template to create matching left and right sides.

Keep the small pieces in separate containers or labeled groups. This will prevent the eyebrows, cheeks, nose, and other decorative elements from becoming mixed up during assembly.

Step 2: Cut the Felt Pieces and Sew Santa's Face 🧑🏻

Once the templates are ready, begin cutting all the fabric pieces. The illustrated tutorial shows the complete collection of felt shapes arranged before assembly, making it easier to understand how each component fits into the finished Santa Claus.

Cut and Organize the Fabric

Start with the largest red felt pieces for Santa's body and hat. Cut the two body pieces carefully, ensuring they match in size and shape.

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Next, cut the white beard, hat trim, coat trim, and pom-pom pieces. Use sharp scissors to preserve the smooth curves and rounded edges.

Cut the beige face, white eyebrows, white mustache pieces, pink cheeks, and small red nose. For the eyes, use small black felt circles or embroidery thread.

Finally, prepare the green tree, brown trunk, yellow star, black mittens, belt, buckle, and boots.

Arrange the pieces on your work surface in the same general positions shown in the reference image. Before sewing, check that all parts overlap correctly.

Make Santa's Face

Place the beige face piece flat on your work surface. Position the white eyebrows near the upper part of the face and place the black eyes directly below them.

Attach the eyes with small hand stitches. If using felt circles, stitch around their edges with black thread. You can also add tiny white embroidery stitches to create highlights.

Position the pink cheeks below the eyes, one on each side. Attach them with small stitches or a little fabric glue.

Place the two white mustache pieces beneath the nose area, allowing their curved ends to point outward. Secure them with a whip stitch or small running stitches.

Attach the red nose in the center of the face, slightly overlapping the mustache. For a raised appearance, use a small amount of polyester fiberfill beneath the nose before securing it.

Sew the Beard

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Place the white beard beneath Santa's face, positioning it so the rounded upper edges frame the cheeks and mustache.

Use a running stitch with white embroidery floss to attach the beard to the face. Keep the stitches small and evenly spaced.

For a decorative handmade appearance, leave the stitching visible along the beard's outer edge, as shown in the reference illustration.

If you want a slightly padded beard, place a thin layer of fiberfill between the two beard pieces before sewing them together.

Leave the top area open until the face and hat have been positioned correctly, then finish securing the beard.

Add the Facial Details

Embroider a small curved mouth beneath the mustache using dark red or black thread. Keep the expression simple and cheerful.

Add tiny decorative stitches around the beard if desired. These details can make the white felt look more textured.

Check that the eyebrows, eyes, cheeks, nose, and mustache are symmetrical before proceeding.

Set the completed face aside while you prepare Santa's hat.

Step 3: Make Santa's Hat and Decorate the Christmas Tree 🎄

The Santa hat and Christmas tree are two of the most recognizable elements in this handmade Christmas decoration. Both are constructed from layered felt pieces with decorative stitching around their edges.

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Sew Santa's Hat

Take the two red hat pieces and place them together with their edges aligned.

Using red embroidery floss, sew around the curved outer edge with a blanket stitch or small running stitches. Leave the lower opening unfinished for the moment.

If you want the hat to have a slightly raised appearance, add a small amount of polyester fiberfill between the two layers. Avoid overstuffing, since the hat should remain relatively flat.

Place the two white hat trim pieces together and stitch around their curved edges with white embroidery floss.

Position the finished white trim across the bottom of the red hat, covering the lower edge. Secure it using evenly spaced running stitches.

Make the White Pom-Pom

Place the two white pom-pom circles together.

Sew around their edges using white thread, leaving a small opening.

Add a little fiberfill to create a rounded shape, then close the opening with small stitches.

Attach the pom-pom to the curved tip of Santa's hat, as shown in the illustration.

Assemble the Christmas Tree

Take the two green Christmas tree pieces and place them together.

The reference design features a layered tree with several rounded branches. To reproduce this effect, use the scalloped

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outline of the tree template and add separate overlapping branch details if desired.

Use green embroidery floss to stitch around the edges of the tree, following the curves of each branch.

For a slightly dimensional ornament, add a thin layer of fiberfill before closing the outer edge.

Add the Tree Decorations

Cut the yellow star pieces and sew them together with yellow or gold embroidery floss. You may lightly stuff the star for a raised appearance.

Attach the star to the top of the Christmas tree, allowing it to extend slightly beyond the upper branch.

Sew small red beads onto the green felt to represent Christmas ornaments. Distribute them across the branches, leaving enough space for the decorative stitching.

Use white embroidery floss to create tiny snowflake or star-shaped embroidery details on the tree.

To make each small snowflake, stitch three short intersecting lines, creating a six-pointed design.

Attach the brown tree trunk to the lower center of the tree. Position it behind the bottom branch so only the lower portion remains visible.

Safety note: Small beads can detach and present a choking hazard. For decorations accessible to young children or pets, replace beads with securely embroidered red French knots or stitched felt circles.

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Step 4: Assemble Santa's Body, Attach the Decorations, and Finish the Project

Now that Santa's face, hat, and Christmas tree are ready, you can begin assembling the complete figure. Follow the layering order carefully to create the same appearance as the reference design.

Assemble the Red Coat

Place one red body piece flat on your work surface. This will become the front of Santa's coat.

Position the white coat trim along the lower edge of the body. Align the curved trim with the bottom of the coat and secure it using pins.

Sew the trim in place using a running stitch with white embroidery floss. The visible stitches should follow the outer curve of the white felt.

Next, position the black belt horizontally across the middle of the red coat.

Use black or white embroidery floss to sew the belt in place. In the reference image, white stitches create a decorative outline against the black felt.

Attach the Belt Buckle

Place one yellow buckle piece in the center of the belt.

If using two buckle pieces, layer them together to create a thicker decorative element.

Use yellow or gold embroidery floss to secure the buckle to the belt.

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The center of the buckle should remain black, allowing the belt to show through the opening.

Make sure the buckle is centered and firmly attached before moving on.

Add Santa's Hands and the Christmas Tree

Prepare the black mitten pieces by pairing the matching shapes and stitching around their edges.

If desired, add a small amount of fiberfill inside each mitten to create a padded appearance.

Attach the white cuffs to the upper sections of the mittens using white embroidery floss.

Position the completed Christmas tree diagonally across Santa's front, slightly toward the left side, as shown in the reference.

Place one mitten over the lower-left side of the tree and the other on the right side, creating the appearance that Santa is holding the decorated tree.

Secure the tree with small hidden stitches along the areas that overlap the coat. Attach the mittens over the tree so they appear naturally positioned around it.

Attach Santa's Head and Hat

Position Santa's completed face and beard at the top of the red body.

The beard should overlap the upper portion of the coat, hiding the join between the head and body.

Sew the head in place with small stitches around the overlapping areas.

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Next, position the red hat above Santa's face. The white hat trim should sit just above the eyebrows, and the curved hat tip should extend toward the upper right.

Secure the hat with small hand stitches, ensuring that the pom-pom remains visible.

Make and Attach the Boots

Take the black boot pieces and arrange them into a left and right pair.

For padded boots, place each front boot against its matching back piece and sew around the outer edges, leaving a small opening for stuffing.

Add a small amount of fiberfill, then close each opening.

Use white embroidery floss to make decorative cross stitches along the upper part of each boot. These stitches resemble white shoelaces.

To make a cross stitch, bring the needle up through the felt, sew a diagonal stitch, then cross over it with a second diagonal stitch to form an X.

Repeat the process to create a short vertical row of X-shaped stitches.

Position the finished boots beneath Santa's red coat, allowing their rounded toes to extend outward.

Secure the boots to the lower body with strong hand stitches.

Prepare the Back of the Ornament

Take the remaining red body piece and place it behind the assembled Santa.

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Before joining the front and back, decide whether the ornament will be displayed on a wall, door, or Christmas tree.

For a hanging decoration, cut a small length of ribbon and fold it into a loop. Place the ends of the ribbon between the front and back layers near the upper center of the ornament.

Secure the ribbon ends with several strong stitches.

Align the edges of the two red body pieces, making sure the front decorations remain properly positioned.

Sew Around the Edges

Use a blanket stitch with matching thread to join the front and back body layers.

Insert the needle through both layers near the edge, then pass it through the thread loop before tightening. Repeat this technique around the body.

Keep the stitch spacing consistent, approximately 0.5 cm apart, for a neat decorative finish.

Leave a small opening along a less visible section of the body.

Add polyester fiberfill gradually, distributing it evenly throughout the ornament. Use just enough stuffing to create a gentle padded effect without distorting the shape.

Close the remaining opening with blanket stitches.

Final Assembly and Finishing Touches

Check all attached components, including the hat, beard, mittens, Christmas tree, buckle, and boots.

Reinforce any loose stitches, especially around the areas where the tree overlaps Santa's hands.

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Trim excess thread ends and remove any visible fabric marker lines.

Gently shape the ornament with your hands to distribute the stuffing and smooth out the felt layers.

Your handmade Santa Claus holding a Christmas tree is now complete!

Basic U.S. Sewing Stitches Used in This Project

The illustrated pattern includes five important sewing and embroidery techniques.

Stitch	How it is used
Running Stitch	Decorative outlines on the hat, beard, and coat trim
Backstitch	Strong seams and embroidered details
Whip Stitch	Attaching small felt appliqué pieces
Blanket Stitch	Finishing edges and joining stuffed felt layers
Cross Stitch	Creating decorative white laces on Santa's boots

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For best results, use two or three strands of embroidery floss for decorative details, adjusting the thickness to match your felt and desired appearance.

Frequently Asked Questions About This Santa Claus Felt Sewing Pattern

Is this Christmas sewing project suitable for beginners?

Yes. The project uses basic hand-sewing techniques, simple felt shapes, and straightforward layering methods. Beginners may want to practice the blanket stitch and whip stitch on spare felt before assembling the ornament.

Can I make this Santa Claus without a sewing machine?

Absolutely. Every step can be completed using hand-sewing needles and embroidery floss. In fact, hand stitching gives the ornament its traditional handmade appearance.

What is the best fabric for this project?

Felt is the easiest option because it does not fray along the cut edges. Polyester felt is affordable and widely available, while wool-blend felt provides a softer texture and often produces a more refined finish.

How much stuffing should I use?

Use a small amount of polyester fiberfill. The goal is to create a lightly padded ornament rather than a fully rounded stuffed toy. Excess stuffing can distort the facial features and coat shape.

Can I change the colors of Santa's clothing?

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Yes. Although the reference uses traditional Christmas colors, you can customize the design with burgundy, forest green, gold, cream, or other festive shades.

Can I enlarge the pattern?

Yes. Enlarge all template pieces by the same percentage to preserve the proportions. If you change the size, adjust the embroidery spacing, stuffing amount, and hanging loop accordingly.

Can I use fabric glue instead of sewing?

Fabric glue can help position small decorative pieces, but stitching is recommended for structural seams, stuffed components, and areas that need to withstand handling.

How should I clean the finished ornament?

Gently remove dust with a soft brush or lint roller. For small stains, use a slightly damp cloth and mild soap. Avoid soaking the ornament, especially if it contains beads, glue, or stuffing.

Conclusion: Create a Beautiful Handmade Santa Claus Christmas Decoration 🎄

This Santa Claus Holding a Christmas Tree Felt Sewing Pattern is a delightful way to turn simple pieces of fabric into a personalized Christmas decoration. By following the illustrated templates and the step-by-step instructions, you can create a festive Santa with a cheerful face, fluffy white beard, traditional red outfit, embroidered boots, and a beautifully decorated Christmas tree.

The project combines felt appliqué, hand embroidery, decorative stitching, and light stuffing in a design that can be customized with different fabrics, colors, and ornaments. It is

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also a wonderful opportunity to practice essential U.S. hand-sewing techniques while creating something special for the holiday season.

Display your finished Santa on a Christmas wall, hang it on a door, or give it as a thoughtful handmade holiday gift. With careful cutting, even stitching, and a little creativity, your finished ornament can become a treasured part of your Christmas decorations for years to come.