

Felt Nativity Ornament Step by Step Tutorial



Finished Size

12 cm
12 cm

Materials

- Felt in the colors shown
- Embroidery thread
- Metal ring (optional)
- Hot glue (optional)
- Stuffing (optional – for 3D bow)
- Scissors
- Hand sewing needle
- Pencil or fabric marker
- Rope or cord (for outer edge)
- Ribbon for hanging



Step by Step

1



Cut all the pieces using the templates.

2



Place the frame on the front base and stitch with a running stitch.

3



Sew Mary's hair and body together using blanket stitch.

4



Sew Joseph's hair and body together.

5



Add the faces and the baby wrap. Use small stitches.

6



Position and sew Mary, Joseph and the baby onto the frame.

7



Sew the star at the top using gold embroidery thread or metallic felt.

8



Glue or sew a gold cord around the frame (optional).

9



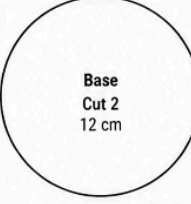
Place the back piece behind and stitch around the circle, leaving a small opening (optional for stuffing).

10

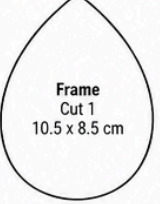


Close the opening and finish the edge. Your base is ready!

Templates (with 0.5 cm seam allowance)



Base
Cut 2
12 cm



Frame
Cut 1
10.5 x 8.5 cm



Star
Cut 1
4.5 cm



Mary Hair
Cut 1
3.5 x 4.5 cm



Joseph Hair
Cut 1
3.5 x 5 cm



Face
Cut 2
2.5 x 2 cm



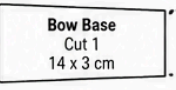
Staff
Cut 1
4 x 1.5 cm



Baby Wrap
Cut 1
3 x 2 cm



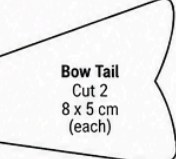
Body
Cut 1
5 x 4.5 cm



Bow Base
Cut 1
14 x 3 cm



Bow Center
Cut 1
2.5 x 3 cm



Bow Tail
Cut 2
8 x 5 cm (each)

Sewing Stitch Guide



Running Stitch
(used to hold pieces)



Back Stitch
(for details)



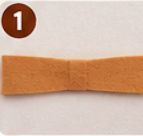
Blanket Stitch
(used on edges)



French Knot
(optional for details)

How to Make the Felt Bow

1



Fold the bow base in the center.

2



Sew or glue the center with the small strip.

3



Add the bow tails behind the bow.

4

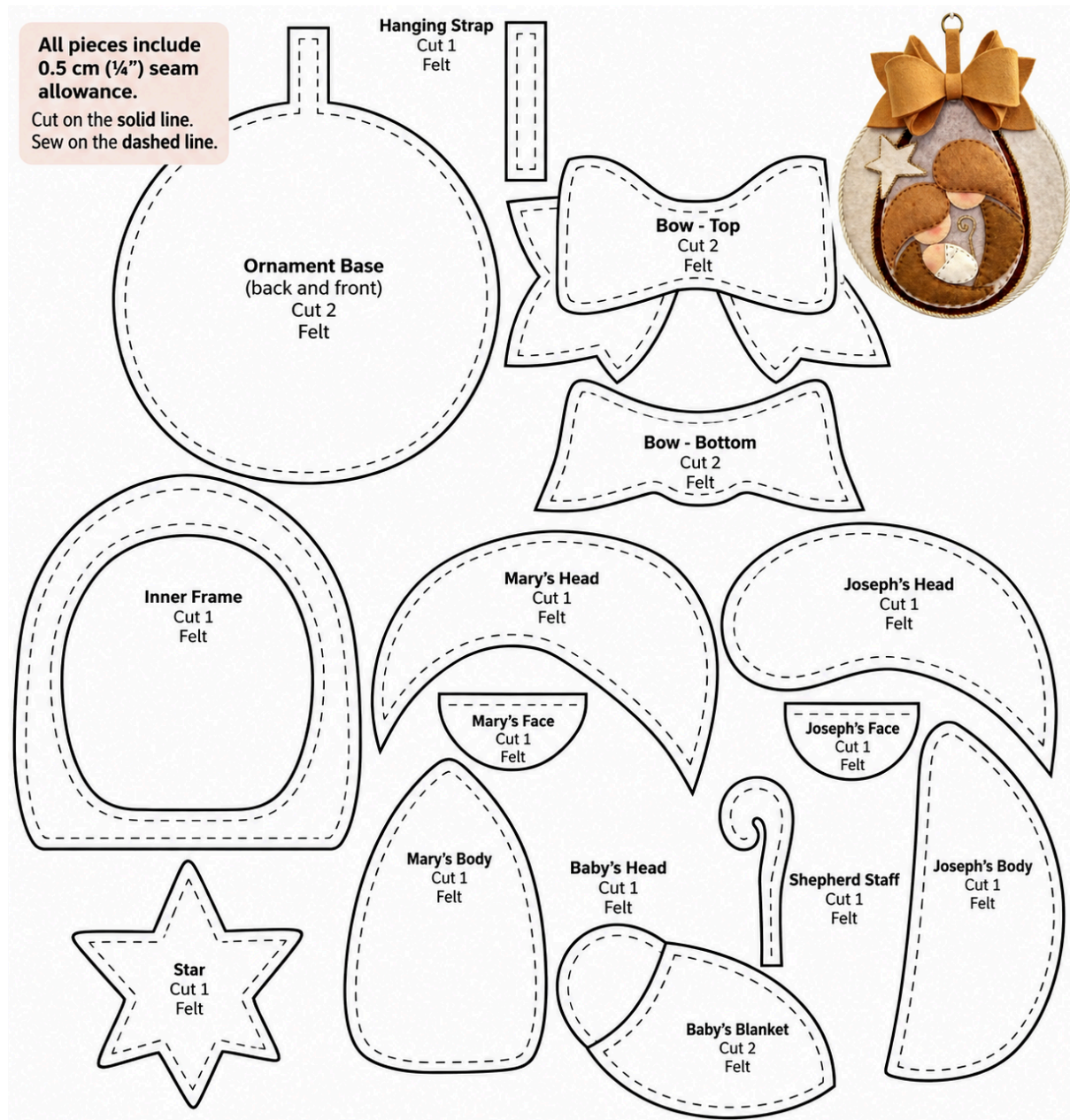


Attach the bow at the top and add a ribbon with a metal ring for hanging.









Felt Nativity Ornament – Complete Step-by-Step Sewing Tutorial

Creating a Felt Nativity Ornament is a beautiful way to celebrate Christmas with a handmade decoration that tells the story of the Holy Family. This charming project features Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus nestled inside a decorative felt frame,

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surrounded by golden details, a small star, and an elegant three-dimensional bow.

This complete tutorial follows the reference pattern and explains how to make the ornament from beginning to end, using American sewing terminology, measurements in centimeters (cm), and beginner-friendly instructions.

The finished ornament measures approximately 12 cm × 12 cm, making it ideal for Christmas trees, holiday wreaths, handmade gifts, and seasonal wall decorations.

Step 1: Gather Your Materials and Prepare Your Workspace

Before starting your felt Christmas Nativity ornament, organize all your materials on a clean, well-lit sewing surface.

Materials Needed

- Cream or ivory felt for the circular base
- Light beige felt for the interior background
- Medium brown felt for Joseph's hair and clothing
- Caramel or tan felt for Mary's hair and the decorative bow
- Dark brown felt for the Nativity frame
- Peach or skin-tone felt for the faces
- White felt for Baby Jesus' blanket
- White or ivory felt for the star
- Brown, cream, white, and gold embroidery thread
- Metallic gold embroidery thread or decorative cord
- Hand-sewing needle
- Sharp fabric scissors
- Pencil or disappearing fabric marker
- Sewing pins or fabric clips
- Polyester stuffing (optional)
- Hot glue or fabric glue (optional)

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- Decorative rope or cord for the outside edge
- Small metal ring for hanging (optional)
- Ribbon or narrow felt strip for the hanger
- Printed paper templates

Recommended tools: A small embroidery needle, fabric clips, and a fine-tip fabric marker will make the detailed pieces easier to assemble.

Choosing Your Felt

For the best results, use felt approximately 1–2 mm thick.

Soft craft felt works well for the faces and clothing, while slightly firmer felt helps the base maintain its circular shape.

Choose complementary shades of brown and beige to recreate the warm, traditional appearance shown in the reference image.

The golden accents provide contrast and make the finished ornament look more festive.

Step 2: Prepare and Cut the Felt Templates

The reference tutorial includes a complete set of templates for the ornament, including the circular base, frame, figures, star, staff, and decorative bow.

The pattern indicates a 0.5 cm seam allowance. Use this allowance on pieces that require a sewn seam, but keep the finished dimensions of small decorative appliqués in mind.

For appliqué pieces sewn with visible blanket stitches, you can cut directly along the intended finished outline rather than adding an allowance that would change their size.

Cutting Measurements

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Pattern piece	Quantity	Measurements
Circular base	2	12 cm diameter
Nativity frame	1	10.5 × 8.5 cm
Star	1	4.5 cm
Mary's hair	1	3.5 × 4.5 cm
Joseph's hair	1	3.5 × 5 cm
Face	2	2.5 × 2 cm
Baby wrap	1	3 × 2 cm
Body	1	5 × 4.5 cm
Shepherd's staff	1	4 × 1.5 cm

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Bow base 1 14 × 3 cm

Bow 1 2.5 × 3 cm
center

Bow tails 2 8 × 5 cm
each

Measurements follow the supplied graphic. The dimensions of the curved templates refer to their approximate overall size, not rectangular cutting shapes. Some figure components are assembled by overlapping the pieces.

How to Prepare the Templates

- 1. Print the template sheet at its intended size.**
- 2. Check that the circular base measures exactly 12 cm across.**
- 3. Carefully cut out each paper template.**
- 4. Place the templates on the corresponding felt colors.**
- 5. Trace around the shapes using a fabric marker.**
- 6. Cut each piece slowly with sharp scissors.**
- 7. Arrange the cut pieces on your work surface before sewing.**

For the curved hair pieces, rotate the felt gently while cutting to create smooth edges.

Important: Do not stretch the felt while cutting. Stretching can distort the shapes and make the appliqué difficult to position.

Step 3: Sew the Circular Felt Base

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The circular base supports the entire ornament and gives it a clean, finished appearance.

Prepare the Two Base Circles

Take the two cream felt circles measuring 12 cm in diameter.

Place one circle on your work surface. This will become the front of the ornament.

Set the second circle aside for the final assembly.

If you want a slightly firmer ornament, you can place a thin circle of lightweight stabilizer between the two felt layers, trimming it slightly smaller than the base.

Mark the Design Placement

Lightly mark the vertical center of the front circle.

Position the dark brown Nativity frame in the center, leaving space at the top for the bow and at the side for the star.

The lower curve of the frame should sit near the bottom of the circular base without extending beyond the edge.

Use temporary pins or small dots of fabric glue to keep the frame in place.

Do not permanently attach the back circle yet.

Step 4: Attach the Nativity Frame

The frame creates the outline surrounding the Holy Family.

It has a pointed, teardrop-like shape with a rounded lower section.

Prepare the Frame

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Cut the dark brown frame using the provided template.

Place it on the front base circle and adjust its position until the design looks balanced.

Thread your needle with matching dark brown embroidery thread.

Sew the Frame

Use a running stitch to attach the frame to the felt background.

Follow these steps:

- 1. Bring the needle from the back of the fabric to the front.**
- 2. Make a small stitch approximately 2–3 mm long.**
- 3. Leave a similar space before making the next stitch.**
- 4. Continue around the frame.**
- 5. Keep the stitches evenly spaced.**
- 6. Secure the thread on the reverse side.**

A running stitch produces the decorative dashed line visible in the reference image.

For extra contrast, use a slightly lighter brown thread.

You may also add a narrow line of metallic gold stitching along the frame's inner edge.

Step 5: Make Mary's Hair, Face, and Body

Mary is one of the central figures in the ornament. Her shape is created using overlapping felt pieces that form a soft, rounded silhouette.

Prepare Mary's Hair

Take the caramel felt hair piece measuring approximately 3.5 × 4.5 cm.

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Its curved outline forms the upper section of Mary's head.

Position the hair above the peach-colored face piece, allowing part of the face to remain visible beneath the hair.

Attach the Face

Use a small amount of fabric glue or a few hidden stitches to secure the face behind the hair.

The peach-colored face should appear as a small rounded section.

If desired, add a subtle blush using a fabric-safe pastel or a tiny amount of pink fabric paint.

Avoid adding excessive details because the original design uses a simple, minimalist style.

Sew Mary's Hair

Thread the needle with brown embroidery floss.

Use a blanket stitch around the visible edge of the hair.

To create this stitch:

- 1. Insert the needle near the edge of the felt.**
- 2. Bring the needle through the fabric.**
- 3. Pass the working thread under the needle before tightening.**
- 4. Pull gently to form a small loop along the edge.**
- 5. Repeat at regular intervals.**

Keep each stitch approximately 2–3 mm apart.

Prepare the Body

Cut the body piece measuring approximately 5 × 4.5 cm.

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Use the curved shape shown in the template.

Position the body beneath Mary's head, allowing the hair to overlap the upper section.

Secure the layers with small stitches.

The body and hair should form a continuous curved shape, helping create the protective silhouette surrounding Baby Jesus.

Step 6: Make Joseph's Hair, Face, and Body

Joseph appears beside Mary, completing the central family arrangement.

The reference design uses brown felt to create his curved hair and clothing.

Cut Joseph's Hair

Use the Joseph hair template measuring approximately 3.5 × 5 cm.

Cut the piece from medium brown felt.

Its curved outline should complement Mary's shape without looking identical.

Attach Joseph's Face

Take the second peach-colored face piece.

Position it beneath the hair, leaving the lower portion visible.

Use a few small stitches to attach the face to the hair.

Sew the Hair and Body

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Using brown embroidery thread, sew around the visible edges with a blanket stitch.

Keep the stitches consistent with those used for Mary.

Arrange Joseph's pieces so that his silhouette curves inward toward the center of the Nativity scene.

The two adult figures should appear to surround and protect the baby.

Check the Arrangement

Before permanently attaching the figures to the background, place Mary and Joseph inside the frame.

Adjust their positions until the faces are clearly visible.

Their bodies may overlap slightly near the lower center of the ornament.

This overlap is intentional and helps recreate the compact design shown in the reference.

Step 7: Create Baby Jesus and the White Felt Wrap 🧒

Baby Jesus is the smallest figure in the design and sits near the bottom center of the Nativity scene.

The white felt wrap is decorated with visible stitches, giving it a soft, handmade appearance.

Prepare the Baby's Face

Cut a small oval or rounded shape from peach felt, sized to fit behind the upper edge of the wrap.

The reference graphic gives a separate face template for the adult figures, so the baby's smaller face can be proportionally adapted from that shape.

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Position the baby's face behind the white felt wrap.

Only a small section of the face should remain visible.

Cut the White Wrap

Using the template, cut the wrap approximately 3 × 2 cm.

The shape should resemble a small, rounded swaddling blanket.

Add Decorative Stitches

Thread the needle with brown or beige embroidery floss.

Sew several short diagonal running stitches across the white felt.

These stitches imitate the folds and seams of a wrapped blanket.

Keep the stitching light and evenly spaced.

Assemble Baby Jesus

Place the white wrap over the small face piece.

Attach the layers using tiny hand stitches.

If you want a slightly raised appearance, place a very small amount of polyester stuffing beneath the wrap before closing the edges.

The stuffing is optional; the reference design also works beautifully as a flat appliqué.

Step 8: Assemble the Holy Family Inside the Frame

Now that Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus are prepared, you can assemble the main Nativity scene.

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Position the Figures

Place the front base circle on a flat surface.

Arrange the pieces inside the brown frame in the following order:

- 1. Position Mary's body and hair along one side of the frame.**
- 2. Place Joseph's body and hair on the opposite side.**
- 3. Adjust both figures so that their faces point toward the center.**
- 4. Position Baby Jesus near the lower center.**
- 5. Allow the baby's wrap to overlap the adults' bodies slightly.**

Compare the arrangement with the reference image before stitching.

Attach the Pieces

Start with the pieces that sit underneath the others.

Use small hidden stitches or a neat blanket stitch to attach the felt shapes.

Sew around the exposed edges while leaving the overlapping sections concealed.

Attach Baby Jesus last so that the white wrap remains clearly visible.

Add Joseph's Staff

Cut the shepherd's staff from the template measuring approximately 4 × 1.5 cm.

The staff is a slender curved shape with a hooked top.

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You can recreate it with metallic gold embroidery thread, a narrow strip of felt, or decorative cord.

Position the staff between the figures, keeping it visible without covering their faces.

Use small stitches or carefully applied fabric glue to secure it.

Step 9: Create and Attach the Christmas Star ★

The star is one of the most recognizable decorative elements of the ornament.

It appears near the upper-left side of the Nativity scene.

Cut the Star

Using the 4.5 cm star template, cut one piece from white or ivory felt.

Make sure all five points are clearly defined.

Add Gold Embroidery

Thread the needle with metallic gold embroidery floss.

Sew around the outer edge using a decorative outline stitch or small running stitches.

If you want a more pronounced border, use a closely spaced blanket stitch.

The gold thread should follow the star's shape without distorting the points.

Attach the Star

Position the star to the left of the figures, near the upper section of the brown frame.

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Secure it with small hidden stitches or fabric glue.

Keep the star slightly separated from the faces so that the Nativity scene remains easy to recognize.

Step 10: Add the Decorative Gold Cord

The reference ornament features an elegant gold accent along the inner edge of the Nativity frame.

This small detail adds brightness and helps define the central design.

Prepare the Cord

Cut a length of thin metallic gold cord slightly longer than the perimeter of the frame.

Test its placement before attaching it.

Attach the Gold Trim

Begin at the lower part of the frame.

Carefully follow the curved outline, positioning the cord near the inner edge.

You can attach it using either small hand stitches or tiny dots of fabric glue.

If using glue, work in short sections to prevent excess adhesive from appearing on the felt.

Continue until the entire visible frame is outlined.

Trim the excess cord and secure the ends.

Tip: Metallic embroidery floss can replace decorative cord if you prefer a flatter finish.

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Step 11: Close and Finish the Circular Base

The ornament is now ready for its backing.

This step hides the reverse-side stitches and creates a neat finished edge.

Prepare the Back Piece

Take the second cream felt circle.

Place it behind the decorated front circle.

Align the edges carefully.

If you plan to use a ribbon hanger, position its lower end between the layers near the top before sewing.

Sew Around the Circle

Thread the needle with cream or ivory embroidery floss.

Use a blanket stitch around the circular edge.

Work slowly and maintain consistent spacing.

If you want a flat ornament, continue stitching until the entire circle is closed.

For a slightly padded ornament, leave a small opening.

Add Optional Stuffing

Insert a small amount of polyester stuffing through the opening.

Distribute it evenly using your fingers.

Avoid overstuffing, as the circular base should remain relatively flat.

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Close the opening with the same blanket stitch.

Add the Outer Rope Border

The finished reference ornament has a cream-colored rope trim around its circular edge.

To recreate this feature, measure the circumference of the finished circle and cut a matching length of decorative cord, allowing a little extra for joining.

Position the cord around the outer edge.

Attach it with small hidden stitches or fabric glue.

Bring the ends together neatly near the top, where they can be concealed by the bow.

Step 12: Make the Three-Dimensional Felt Bow

The large caramel bow is one of the most distinctive elements of the ornament.

It consists of a folded center section, two decorative tails, and a narrow felt strip wrapped around the middle.

Prepare the Bow Pieces

Cut the following pieces from caramel felt:

- One bow base measuring 14 × 3 cm
- One bow center measuring 2.5 × 3 cm
- Two bow tails measuring 8 × 5 cm each

The bow tails should follow the curved template shape shown in the reference image.

Fold the Bow Base

Take the 14 × 3 cm felt strip.

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Bring both short ends toward the center so they overlap slightly.

Secure them with a few stitches or a small amount of glue.

Pinch the middle of the folded strip to create the characteristic bow shape.

Adjust the folds until both loops look balanced.

Secure the Bow Center

Take the 2.5 × 3 cm center strip.

Wrap it around the pinched middle of the bow.

Pull it snugly enough to hold the folds in place, but not so tightly that the bow becomes flattened.

Secure the ends at the back using stitches or glue.

Add the Bow Tails

Position the two curved felt tails behind the bow.

Angle them outward so they remain visible around the upper sides.

Attach the tails to the back of the bow using several small stitches.

Adjust the layers to create a full, dimensional appearance.

Shape the Finished Bow

Gently lift and arrange the felt loops.

The final bow should have soft curves and a prominent center.

You can add a tiny amount of stuffing inside the loops for extra volume, although this is optional.

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Step 13: Attach the Bow and Hanging Ring

The final assembly step is to attach the bow to the top of the circular ornament.

Make the Hanging Loop

Cut a narrow strip of caramel felt or use a matching ribbon.

Fold it into a loop.

If using a metal ring, pass the felt strip through the ring before folding it.

Secure the lower ends together with a few strong stitches.

Position the Hanger

Place the hanging loop at the top center of the circular ornament.

Attach it securely to the back of the base.

For greater durability, stitch through both layers of felt rather than relying only on glue.

Attach the Bow

Position the finished bow over the lower section of the hanging loop.

Center it at the top of the Nativity scene.

Sew the bow in place with several small stitches through its center.

Make sure the attachment is strong enough to support the weight of the ornament.

The bow should cover the lower part of the hanger while leaving the metal ring visible.

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Step 14: Learn the Essential Hand-Sewing Stitches

The reference tutorial uses several basic hand-sewing techniques. Understanding these stitches will help you achieve a neat, professional finish.

Running Stitch

The running stitch consists of small, evenly spaced stitches that pass in and out of the fabric.

It is used to attach the frame and create decorative outlines.

For this ornament, stitches approximately 2–3 mm long work well.

Backstitch

The backstitch creates a continuous line of stitching.

It is useful for small details and areas that need a stronger seam.

To make a backstitch, bring the needle up through the fabric, insert it backward into the end of the previous stitch, and bring it forward again.

Blanket Stitch

The blanket stitch creates a decorative looped border along the edge of felt.

It is especially useful for Mary's hair, Joseph's clothing, and the circular base.

Maintain even spacing and avoid pulling the thread too tightly.

French Knot

The French knot creates a small raised dot.

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Although optional in this design, it can be used for tiny decorative details.

Bring the needle through the felt, wrap the thread around the needle once or twice, and insert the needle back into the fabric close to the original hole.

Hold the thread gently while pulling the needle through to form the knot.

Step 15: Inspect and Finish Your Ornament

Before displaying your handmade felt Nativity ornament, check all the decorative elements.

Examine the frame, figures, star, gold cord, bow, and hanging loop.

Make sure all pieces are securely attached.

Trim any loose threads with small embroidery scissors.

Remove visible fabric marker lines according to the marker manufacturer's instructions.

If the felt appears wrinkled, gently smooth it with your fingers.

Avoid pressing directly over the raised bow, metallic trim, or glued decorations with a hot iron.

Final Quality Checklist

Final inspection

0 of 7 complete

The circular base measures approximately 12 cm across.

Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus are securely attached.

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The star and gold trim are neatly positioned.

The outer circular edge is completely finished.

The felt bow is centered and properly shaped.

The hanging loop and metal ring are firmly attached.

All loose threads and visible glue marks have been removed.

Step 16: Decorating and Displaying Your Finished Nativity Ornament

Your handmade felt Nativity ornament is now complete!

The warm brown felt, cream-colored background, gold embroidery, and dimensional bow create a traditional Christmas decoration with a soft, handcrafted appearance.

You can hang the ornament on a Christmas tree, display it on a holiday wreath, or attach it to a wrapped gift.

For a coordinated Christmas collection, consider making several ornaments using the same templates but changing the felt colors.

For example, ivory and gold create an elegant appearance, while burgundy and forest green provide a more traditional Christmas palette.

You can also personalize the back of the ornament by embroidering the year, a short holiday message, or the recipient's initials.

If you plan to give the ornament as a gift, place it in a small protective box with tissue paper to prevent the bow from becoming flattened.

Frequently Asked Questions

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Is this felt Nativity ornament suitable for beginners?

Yes. The project uses basic hand-sewing techniques such as running stitch, blanket stitch, and backstitch. Beginners can complete it by working carefully through each step.

Do I need a sewing machine?

No. The entire ornament can be made by hand using a needle and embroidery thread.

What type of felt works best?

Felt approximately 1–2 mm thick is a practical choice. It is easy to cut, holds its shape, and works well for layered appliqué.

Can I make the ornament without glue?

Yes. Every piece can be attached with hand stitches. Glue is optional and is mainly useful for securing decorative trim or holding small pieces temporarily.

Can I enlarge the pattern?

Yes. Enlarge all the templates by the same percentage to maintain the proportions. Remember that the finished dimensions and required materials will increase accordingly.

How long does the project take?

Most beginners should allow approximately 3–5 hours, depending on their sewing experience and the amount of decorative embroidery.

Can I wash the finished ornament?

Spot cleaning is preferable. Use a slightly damp cloth and avoid soaking the ornament, especially if it contains glue, metallic cord, or stuffing.

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Is this ornament suitable for children to make?

Older children may enjoy making the project with adult supervision. Needles, scissors, hot glue, and small metal components require appropriate care.

Conclusion: A Handmade Christmas Decoration to Treasure

The Felt Nativity Ornament is a meaningful sewing project that combines traditional Christmas imagery with simple felt appliqué techniques.

By following the cutting templates, assembling the Holy Family, adding the gold-trimmed star, finishing the circular base, and creating the decorative bow, you can reproduce the charming ornament shown in the reference tutorial.

The finished 12 cm × 12 cm felt ornament makes a lovely handmade Christmas decoration, a thoughtful seasonal gift, or a special addition to a collection of holiday crafts.

With patience, careful stitching, and attention to the small details, you will create a beautiful keepsake that can be enjoyed for many Christmas seasons to come.