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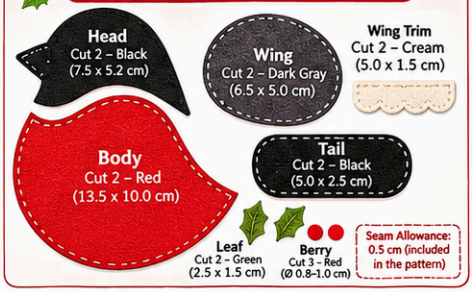
Felt Bird Ornament Sewing Tutorial



Materials

- **Felt (23 cm x 30 cm sheets):**
  - Red (body): 1
  - Black (head, back, tail): 1
  - Dark gray (wing): 1
  - Cream or light gray (wing trim): 1
  - Green (leaves): small piece
- Polyester fiberfill
- Black safety eye or bead (0.8 cm)
- Embroidery floss (black, red, gray, cream/white, green)
- Small red pom-poms or felt balls (0.8–1.0 cm)
- Pearl beads (approx. 0.4 cm)
- Jute cord or ribbon (hanging loop)
- Fabric glue (optional)
- Needle, scissors, pins

Pattern (with Measurements)



Step-by-Step Instructions

1 Cut the Pieces



Use the pattern to cut all the felt pieces. You will have 2 of each main piece (left and right sides).

2 Make the Wing



Sew the cream wing trim to the gray wing with a blanket stitch. Make 2 wings (one for each side).

3 Prepare the Body



Place the red body over the black body (head already attached) of one side and pin. Sew along the curved line with a blanket stitch (red thread).

4 Attach the Wing



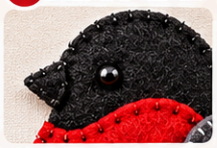
Position the wing on the body and sew it with a blanket stitch (gray thread).

5 Add the Decorative Detail



Sew (or glue) the leaves, red berries, and pearl beads to the front of the body.

6 Add the Eye



Sew a safety eye or bead (0.8 cm) on the head, leaving it centered and secure.

7 Sew the Tail



Place the tail between the body layers at the back and sew to secure.

8 Assemble the Sides



Place the two full sides (right sides out) together and sew around the entire edge with a blanket stitch, leaving a 3–4 cm opening at the bottom.

9 Stuff the Ornament



Fill with polyester fiberfill until firm but still soft. Then continue sewing the opening closed with a blanket stitch.

10 Add the Hanging Loop



Make a loop with jute cord (approx. 10–12 cm). Sew it securely at the top of the head. Your bird ornament is ready!

Sewing Methods (USA)

Running Stitch
- A simple stitch used for basting or gathering.

Backstitch
- A strong stitch for details and decorations.

Blanket Stitch
- A decorative stitch that joins pieces and finishes edges.

Whip Stitch
- A quick stitch to join felt pieces.

Key Tips for a Perfect Result

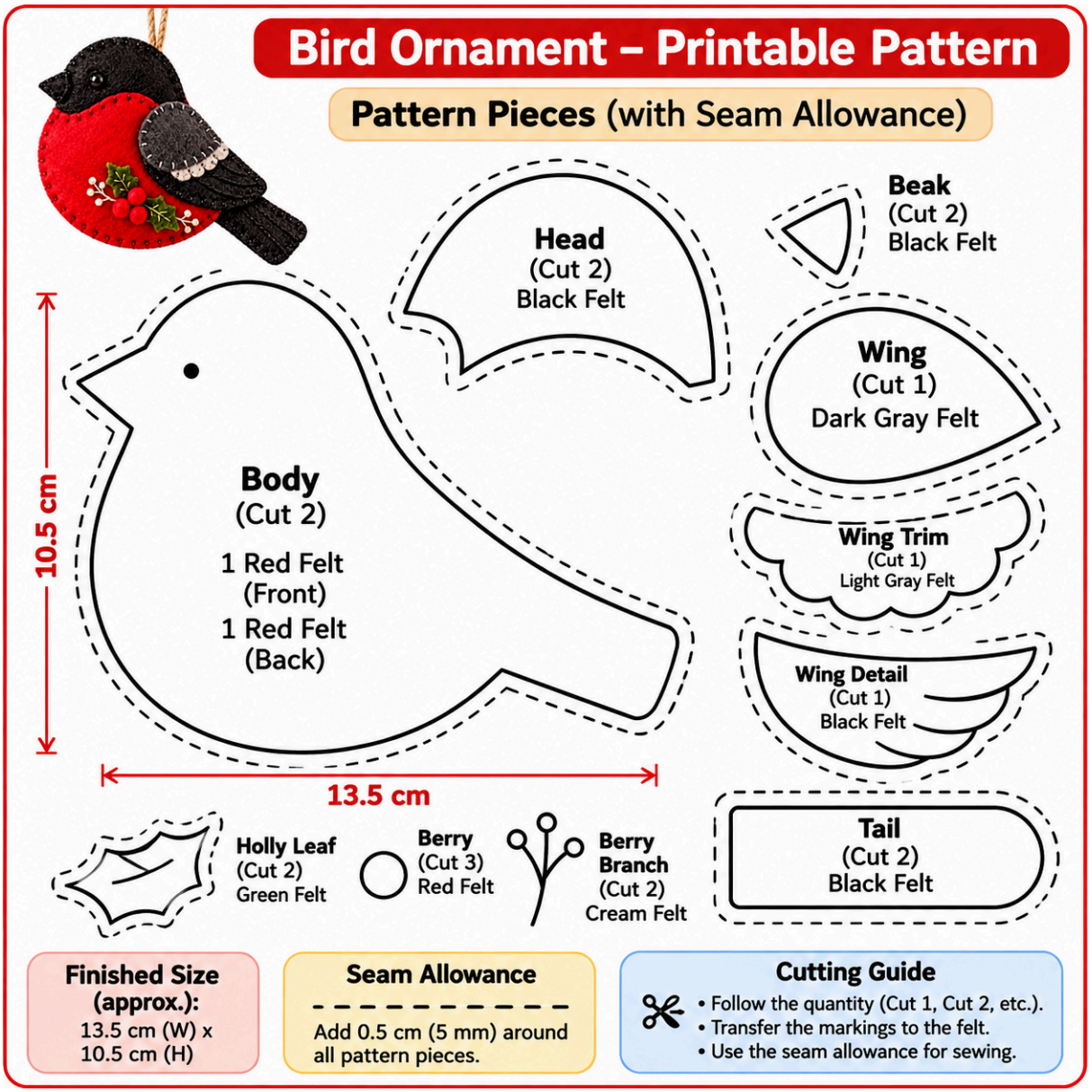
- ✔ Use felt (wool blend or craft felt) for a clean and durable finish.
- ✔ Keep a 0.5 cm seam allowance (included in the pattern).
- ✔ Use contrasting thread for a handcrafted look.
- ✔ Stuff evenly for a smooth and plump shape.
- ✔ Fabric glue can be used for small details, but sewing makes the ornament more durable.

Finished Size



Approx.:
13.5 cm (Length)
x
11.5 cm (Height)
(5.3 in x 4.5 in)

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Felt Bird Ornament Sewing Tutorial – Complete Step-by-Step Guide

Creating a Felt Bird Ornament is a delightful sewing project that combines colorful felt, decorative embroidery, and charming Christmas-inspired details. This handmade bird features a bright red body, a black head and tail, a dark gray wing with cream-colored trim, and beautiful holly leaves with red berries. Its soft, stuffed construction makes it an excellent

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decoration for Christmas trees, wreaths, holiday garlands, or handmade gifts.

This Felt Bird Ornament Sewing Tutorial follows the design and measurements shown in the reference pattern. The instructions use sewing techniques commonly practiced in the United States, including the blanket stitch, running stitch, backstitch, and whip stitch. All measurements are provided in centimeters (cm), and the project can be completed primarily by hand, without a sewing machine.

The finished bird measures approximately 13.5 cm long and 11.5 cm high, excluding the hanging cord. With careful cutting, even stitching, and a small amount of polyester stuffing, you can create a beautiful three-dimensional ornament with a professional handmade appearance.

Step 1: Gather Your Materials and Sewing Supplies

Before beginning your handmade felt bird ornament, organize your materials on a clean, well-lit work surface. Having everything prepared will make the sewing process easier and help maintain consistent measurements throughout the project.

Materials Needed

Felt fabric:

Use felt sheets measuring approximately 23 × 30 cm in the following colors:

- **Red felt – for the rounded body.**
- **Black felt – for the head, back, beak, and tail.**
- **Dark gray felt – for the decorative wings.**
- **Cream or light gray felt – for the scalloped wing trim.**
- **Green felt – for the holly leaves.**

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Additional supplies:

- **Polyester fiberfill for stuffing.**
- **One black safety eye or bead, approximately 0.8 cm in diameter.**
- **Embroidery floss in black, red, gray, cream or white, and green.**
- **Three small red pom-poms or felt balls, approximately 0.8–1.0 cm in diameter.**
- **Small pearl beads, approximately 0.4 cm in diameter.**
- **Jute cord or decorative ribbon for hanging.**
- **Hand-sewing needle.**
- **Sharp fabric scissors.**
- **Sewing pins or fabric clips.**
- **Fabric glue (optional).**
- **Fabric marker or tailor's chalk.**
- **Paper for tracing the pattern.**

Important safety note: Small beads, pom-poms, and detachable decorations can present choking hazards. If children may handle the ornament, use securely embroidered details instead. A safety eye should be installed with its locking washer before the ornament is stuffed; a regular bead must be sewn on securely.

Understanding the Finished Ornament

The finished bird has a rounded red breast, a curved black head, and a slightly pointed beak. The black tail extends from the rear of the body, while the layered gray wing adds dimension and texture.

The front of the bird is decorated with green holly leaves, red berries, and small pearl accents arranged like winter branches.

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The visible blanket stitches around the edges are an important part of the design. They hold the felt layers together while creating a decorative handmade border.

Step 2: Prepare and Cut the Felt Pattern Pieces

Accurate cutting is essential for achieving the correct shape and proportions of your felt bird sewing pattern.

The pattern shown in the reference tutorial includes a 0.5 cm seam allowance, so do not add another allowance when using those pattern outlines.

Pattern Measurements

Pattern piece	Quantity	Dimensions
Red body	Cut 2	13.5 × 10.0 cm
Black head	Cut 2	7.5 × 5.2 cm
Dark gray wing	Cut 2	6.5 × 5.0 cm
Cream wing trim	Cut 2	5.0 × 1.5 cm
Black tail	Cut 2	5.0 × 2.5 cm

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Green holly leaf	Cut 2	2.5 × 1.5 cm
Red berries	Cut 3	0.8–1.0 cm diameter

These dimensions represent the approximate maximum width and height of each piece, rather than rectangular cutting shapes. Trace the curved outlines from the reference pattern to reproduce the bird's silhouette.

Cutting Instructions

1. Place the pattern paper on the appropriate felt color.
2. Trace each shape using a fabric marker.
3. Cut carefully along the outline with sharp scissors.
4. Keep the scissors perpendicular to the felt to avoid uneven edges.
5. Arrange the pieces on your work surface to check their proportions.
6. Separate the front and back pieces before sewing.

You should have two main body assemblies, two wings, two cream trims, and two tail pieces.

The reference design shows the bird facing left. If you want a finished appearance on both sides, prepare mirrored arrangements for the two sides.

Helpful tip: Avoid stretching the felt while cutting. Felt can become distorted when pulled, particularly around curved areas such as the bird's breast and head.

Step 3: Make the Decorative Gray Wings

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The gray wings are among the most distinctive elements of this Christmas felt bird ornament.

Each wing is rounded toward the front and tapers slightly toward the back, creating the appearance of folded feathers.

Attach the Cream Wing Trim

1. Take one dark gray wing piece.
2. Position a cream scalloped trim along its lower curved edge.
3. Allow the decorative scallops to extend slightly beyond the gray felt.
4. Thread a needle with cream or light gray embroidery floss.
5. Sew the trim to the wing using small whip stitches.
6. Secure the thread on the reverse side.

Repeat the process for the second wing, making sure the trim is positioned correctly for the opposite side of the bird.

Add the Decorative Wing Stitching

Thread your needle with contrasting cream embroidery floss.

Work a blanket stitch around the visible outer edge of the gray wing, keeping the stitches approximately 0.4–0.5 cm apart.

For each blanket stitch, insert the needle through the felt near the edge, bring the thread under the needle, and pull gently to form a loop along the border.

Continue around the wing until the decorative stitching is complete.

The contrast between the gray felt and light embroidery thread creates the charming handcrafted appearance shown in the reference image.

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Set both completed wings aside until the body has been prepared.

Step 4: Prepare the Red Body and Black Head

The next stage is to assemble the main silhouette of the felt bird ornament.

The red body forms the rounded breast and lower portion of the bird, while the black felt creates the head and upper back.

Position the Felt Layers

1. **Place one black head piece on your work surface.**
2. **Position one red body piece over its lower section.**
3. **Align the upper curved edge of the red felt with the lower portion of the black head.**
4. **Adjust the placement so that the beak and upper head remain visible.**
5. **Pin or clip the felt layers together.**

The red body should overlap the black head section, creating the distinctive curved boundary visible in the original ornament.

Sew the Body to the Head

Thread your needle with red embroidery floss.

Beginning near the front of the bird, sew along the curved upper edge of the red body using a blanket stitch.

Maintain a consistent distance of approximately 0.5 cm from the edge.

Continue stitching toward the rear of the bird, keeping the red felt flat against the black layer.

Secure the thread on the reverse side.

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Repeat the same process for the second body assembly, mirroring the placement so the pieces will align when joined.

Sewing tip: Do not pull the embroidery floss too tightly. Excessive tension can cause the felt to wrinkle and distort the bird's rounded shape.

Step 5: Attach the Gray Wings to the Bird

Now that the body sections are prepared, attach the decorative wings.

The wing should sit over the upper rear portion of the red breast, with the cream trim visible along the lower edge.

Wing Placement

1. Lay the prepared front body assembly flat.
2. Position the gray wing near the center-right portion of the bird.
3. Angle the wing slightly downward toward the tail.
4. Make sure the cream scalloped trim remains visible.
5. Secure the wing temporarily with a pin.

Thread your needle with gray embroidery floss.

Using a blanket stitch, sew the wing to the bird along its upper and outer edges.

Keep the stitches small and evenly spaced. The cream trim should remain visible and should not become trapped beneath the wing.

Repeat on the reverse body assembly using the second wing.

When both wings are attached, inspect their positions to ensure that they appear balanced and follow the natural shape of the bird.

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Step 6: Add the Holly Leaves, Red Berries, and Pearl Details

The holly arrangement gives this DIY felt Christmas ornament its festive character.

The reference design includes green leaves, three red berries, and delicate white pearl accents arranged across the lower front of the bird.

Prepare the Holly Leaves

Take the two green felt leaves, each measuring approximately 2.5 × 1.5 cm.

If desired, add decorative leaf veins using green or yellow-green embroidery floss.

Use a simple backstitch to create a central vein, followed by a few short diagonal stitches.

Position the leaves near the lower middle of the red body.

Angle them outward so that they form a natural arrangement around the berries.

Attach the Red Berries

Arrange three small red pom-poms or felt balls over the center of the holly leaves.

Place the berries close together in a triangular cluster.

Secure them using strong hand stitches through the pom-poms or felt balls. Fabric glue may be used for extra support, but stitching provides greater durability.

Add the Pearl Accents

Thread a needle with cream or white embroidery floss.

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Create several short branching lines extending outward from the berry cluster.

Use small backstitches or straight stitches to form delicate stems.

Sew small pearl beads at the ends of selected branches, resembling decorative winter berries.

Keep the embellishments concentrated on the front of the red breast, as shown in the tutorial.

Design tip: Arrange all decorative pieces before attaching them permanently. This allows you to adjust their placement without leaving unnecessary needle holes in the felt.

Step 7: Attach the Black Eye

The bird's small black eye adds expression and brings the design to life.

In the reference image, the eye is positioned on the black head, slightly above the red body and behind the beak.

Eye Placement and Attachment

1. Lay the front body assembly on your work surface.
2. Identify the correct eye position.
3. Mark the spot lightly with tailor's chalk.
4. Attach the black bead or safety eye.
5. Make sure the eye sits flat against the felt.

If using a bead, sew it securely with several passes of strong thread and knot the thread on the reverse side.

If using a safety eye, make a small opening in the felt, insert the post, and attach the locking washer on the reverse side before assembling the ornament.

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The reference uses an eye approximately 0.8 cm in diameter.

For a fully reversible ornament, add a matching eye to the other side.

Alternative: You can embroider a small black eye with satin stitches if you prefer not to use plastic eyes or beads.

Step 8: Sew and Attach the Black Tail

The tail extends from the back of the bird and provides the characteristic silhouette of the finished ornament.

According to the pattern, each tail piece measures approximately 5.0 × 2.5 cm.

Prepare the Tail

Place the two black tail pieces together, aligning their edges.

Thread your needle with black embroidery floss.

Sew around the visible sides using small blanket stitches, leaving the base open where it will connect to the body.

To reproduce the feather-like texture in the reference, add several parallel lines of black backstitching along the length of the tail.

You may also use short, slightly curved stitches to suggest overlapping feathers.

Attach the Tail

Position the prepared tail at the rear of the bird, underneath the wing area.

Insert its open base between the front and back body assemblies.

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Adjust the tail so that it extends outward naturally from the lower back of the bird.

Secure the base with several small stitches before closing the main body.

The tail should be firmly attached because it will experience some movement whenever the ornament is handled or hung.

Step 9: Assemble the Front and Back of the Bird

At this stage, the two decorated body assemblies are ready to be joined.

Unlike many traditional sewing projects, this ornament is constructed with the right sides facing outward.

This allows the blanket stitches to remain visible around the finished edges.

Join the Body Layers

1. **Place the front and back bird assemblies together with their decorated sides facing outward.**
2. **Align the black head sections and red body edges.**
3. **Check that the tail is positioned correctly between the layers.**
4. **Secure the pieces with sewing clips or pins.**
5. **Thread your needle with embroidery floss matching the felt section being sewn.**

Begin sewing near the upper head.

Work a blanket stitch around the outer edge, using black floss for the black sections and red floss for the red body.

When you reach the tail, stitch carefully through the layered felt to secure its base.

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Continue around the curved body, maintaining a consistent seam allowance of approximately 0.5 cm.

Leave a 3–4 cm opening at the bottom for inserting the stuffing.

Do not close this opening yet.

Check the Alignment

Before adding the stuffing, inspect the bird from both sides.

Make sure the head, body, and tail edges are aligned and that no decorative pieces have become caught in the outer seam.

Adjust any uneven areas while the opening remains accessible.

Step 10: Stuff the Felt Bird Ornament

Polyester fiberfill gives the bird its soft, slightly rounded appearance.

The goal is to create gentle volume without stretching the felt or distorting the decorative stitches.

Add the Fiberfill

Take small amounts of polyester fiberfill and insert them through the opening at the bottom.

Use your fingers or the blunt end of a wooden tool to distribute the stuffing.

Begin by filling the head area, then move toward the rounded red breast.

Pay special attention to the upper body and the area behind the wing.

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Continue adding small amounts of stuffing until the ornament feels comfortably firm but remains flexible.

Avoid overstuffing, as this can pull the blanket stitches apart or make the bird appear excessively rounded.

Close the Opening

Once the stuffing is evenly distributed, fold the opening edges into alignment.

Thread your needle with red embroidery floss.

Continue the blanket stitch along the remaining 3–4 cm opening.

Match the stitch size and spacing used around the rest of the body.

Secure the final stitch with a small knot and hide the thread end between the felt layers.

Gently shape the ornament with your fingers to distribute the stuffing and smooth any uneven areas.

Step 11: Add the Hanging Loop

The final construction step is to attach the hanging cord.

The reference tutorial uses natural jute cord, which complements the rustic appearance of the felt ornament.

Make the Hanging Loop

1. Cut a piece of jute cord approximately 10–12 cm long.
2. Fold it in half to create a loop.
3. Position the two loose ends at the top center of the black head.
4. Thread your needle with strong black embroidery floss.

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5. Sew the cord ends securely to the top of the ornament.
6. Reinforce the attachment with several additional stitches.

Make sure the loop is centered so that the bird hangs naturally without tilting excessively forward or backward.

If you prefer a softer appearance, replace the jute cord with satin ribbon or cotton twine.

A narrow red, cream, or gold ribbon can also create a beautiful Christmas-themed finish.

Step 12: Understand the Main Sewing Stitches Used

The Felt Bird Ornament Sewing Tutorial uses four basic hand-sewing techniques commonly taught in the United States.

Blanket Stitch

The blanket stitch is the primary stitch used to join and decorate the felt pieces.

Insert the needle approximately 0.5 cm from the felt edge. Bring the needle through the fabric and pass the working thread under the needle before pulling it tight.

This creates a small loop along the edge.

Repeat at regular intervals to form an even decorative border.

Use this stitch around the body, wings, head, and tail.

Running Stitch

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

Insert the needle through the felt, bring it back to the surface a short distance away, and continue the same motion.

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Running stitches are useful for temporary positioning, simple outlines, and decorative accents.

Backstitch

The backstitch creates a strong, continuous embroidered line.

Bring the needle up through the felt, move backward to complete the previous stitch, and bring the needle up again farther along the design.

This stitch is particularly useful for the feather details on the tail and the veins of the holly leaves.

Whip Stitch

The whip stitch is a simple method for joining two felt layers or attaching decorative trim.

Pass the needle diagonally through the edge of the fabric layers, then repeat at even intervals.

Use this stitch to attach the cream scalloped trim to the gray wings.

Step 13: Final Inspection and Finishing Touches

Once the hanging loop is attached, examine your completed hand-sewn felt bird ornament carefully.

Check that all decorative elements are securely attached and that the stuffing is evenly distributed.

Pay special attention to the following finishing details:

- **The blanket stitches should be evenly spaced.**
- **The red breast should have a smooth, rounded shape.**
- **The black head should remain clearly visible above the body.**

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- The gray wing should be firmly attached, with the cream trim showing.
- The black tail should extend naturally from the rear.
- The holly leaves, berries, and pearls should form a balanced decorative cluster.
- The hanging cord should support the ornament securely.

Trim any visible thread ends with small embroidery scissors.

If the felt has become slightly flattened during construction, gently reshape it with your fingers.

Avoid using a hot iron directly on synthetic felt, as excessive heat may melt or permanently damage the fibers.

Finished Ornament Measurements

Felt Bullfinch, Felt Bird, Christmas Ornaments, Christmas Birds, Christmas Tree Decor, Bird Ornaments, Bird Decoration, Christmas Decoration - Etsy

APPROXIMATE FINISHED SIZE

13.5 × 11.5 cm

Length × height

Approximately 5.3 × 4.5 inches, excluding the hanging loop.

Step 14: Tips for Achieving a Professional Handmade Finish

Choosing quality felt is one of the easiest ways to improve the appearance and durability of your ornament. Wool-blend felt is especially suitable because it holds its shape well and generally provides a smooth surface for decorative stitching.

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Use contrasting embroidery floss to emphasize the handmade details. The original design combines red stitching on the breast, black stitching around the head, and cream stitching on the gray wings.

Maintain a consistent 0.5 cm seam allowance throughout the project. This helps prevent the felt layers from separating and keeps the edges visually balanced.

Stuff the ornament gradually rather than inserting one large amount of fiberfill. Small portions are easier to distribute and produce a smoother finished shape.

Use fabric glue only for small decorative details when necessary. Hand stitching is generally more durable, especially for ornaments that will be stored and reused each Christmas.

Finally, store the finished ornament in a clean, dry container when it is not being displayed. Avoid crushing the wings or tail beneath heavier decorations.

Frequently Asked Questions About the Felt Bird Ornament

Is this felt bird ornament suitable for beginners?

Yes. This project is suitable for beginners who have basic familiarity with hand sewing. The blanket stitch is the most important technique, and it can be practiced on scrap felt before beginning the ornament.

Do I need a sewing machine?

No. The entire ornament can be completed by hand using a needle, embroidery floss, and basic sewing supplies.

What type of felt is best?

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Wool-blend felt is a good choice for durability and appearance. Craft felt can also be used, particularly for practice projects and inexpensive holiday decorations.

Can I make the ornament without polyester stuffing?

Yes. You can create a flatter version by sewing the felt layers together without stuffing. However, the ornament will not have the same soft, dimensional appearance as the reference design.

Can I change the colors?

Absolutely. Although the original pattern features a red body, black head, gray wing, and green holly leaves, you can experiment with other combinations. Blue and white, cream and gold, or traditional red and green are attractive alternatives.

How can I make the bird larger?

Enlarge all pattern pieces by the same percentage. For example, increasing the pattern to 150% will create a bird approximately 20.25 cm long and 17.25 cm high before accounting for small variations in sewing and stuffing.

Remember to enlarge the decorative elements proportionally.

How long does the ornament take to make?

A beginner may need approximately 2–4 hours, depending on sewing experience and the amount of decorative embroidery. More experienced crafters may complete the project more quickly.

Can I wash the finished ornament?

Spot cleaning is recommended. Gently dab the felt with a slightly damp cloth and allow it to air-dry completely. Avoid

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machine washing, especially when the ornament includes beads, glued decorations, or natural jute cord.

Can I use this pattern to make Christmas gifts?

Yes. Handmade felt birds make thoughtful gifts for friends, family members, teachers, and craft enthusiasts. You can personalize them with different colors, embroidery, or decorative hanging ribbons.

How do I keep the stitches even?

Mark small guide dots approximately 0.4–0.5 cm apart along the edge of the felt before sewing. Follow these marks as you work the blanket stitch, and maintain gentle, consistent thread tension.

Conclusion

The Felt Bird Ornament Sewing Tutorial is a wonderful way to create a festive decoration using simple materials and traditional American hand-sewing techniques. By following the pattern measurements and assembling each component carefully, you can reproduce the charming bird shown in the reference design.

From cutting the red felt body and preparing the black head to sewing the decorative gray wings, attaching the holly berries, stuffing the ornament, and adding the hanging loop, every step contributes to the finished piece.

The combination of blanket stitching, layered felt, decorative embroidery, and Christmas embellishments makes this ornament both visually appealing and enjoyable to create.

Once you have completed your first bird, you can use the same felt bird sewing pattern to make an entire collection of handmade ornaments in different colors. Display them on your

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Christmas tree, attach them to wrapped gifts, or combine several birds into a festive holiday garland.

With a little patience and attention to detail, this handmade felt bird can become a beautiful keepsake to enjoy for many holiday seasons.