



make your own  
**BOOKMARK**



 FERN  
TALES  
BY SVETLANA BELL





# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## What am I doing?

Creating is enjoyable. But before you commit to any project it's great to consider if the end result will be something that you, or someone else, will enjoy as much.

Before you begin, prepare your supplies and find a lovely spot for yourself. May be you've got a basket where you can store your supplies while you're working? It's all about the process and grounding through making.

Make it slowly, source your supplies responsibly, hunt for the bits you need in opshops/ thrift stores. Most importantly, have fun making it!

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Please help spread a word and share your creations on Instagram with **#ferntales\_toys** and tag **@ferntales\_toys**



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**Happy slow stitching and enjoy!**





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# SYMBOLS & NOTIONS

## Legend & Symbols

Throughout the instructions there will be symbols used to make it easier to understand what type of thread to use, its thickness and colour.

TECHNIQUE

whip stitch  
1

stitch type and its reference number in the list of **Stitches** (Page 6)

THREAD

6  
mustard

colour reference in the **Colour Chart** (Page 5)

type of thread

2 strands

number of strands for the embroidery floss

*generally, embroidery floss will have 6 strands, which you can separate*



## Other considerations

### Techniques used in this project

- Embroidery
- Applique
- Knitting
- Eyelet setting (optional)

### Level

You will need some basic knowledge in sewing and knitting or desire to learn and research more.

### Time

This project might take anywhere between 5 hours and a however long you'll choose to complete.

### Ironing

When the instructions call for ironing, iron through a cloth (wet for extra efficiency) at “wool” setting (148°C or two dots ••)



### Simplifications

Feel free to simplify any of the colours, techniques or steps. The most important thing is to enjoy the process.





# TOOLS & MATERIALS



- One piece of cardstock or paper for tracing
- Embroidery floss, one skein of each colour (as per the **Colour Chart Page 5**)
- Sock-weight yarn: light and dark brown
- Knitting needles, 2 3/4 mm
- Felt\* (as per **Colour Chart Page 5**)
- Chalk/ erasable pencil/ erasable texter/ dry soap - anything non-permanent and erasable you have handy to transfer the pattern.
- Scissors/ small scissors for fiddly applique elements
- Pins & a universal sewing needle
- Tapestry needle with a sharp end
- Stuffing (wool, corn fibre, cut offs from felt)

## OPTIONAL ITEMS

- One eyelet (two parts)
- Eyelet setting tools (setter + anvil)
- Mallet
- Hole puncher



### \* **Felt recommendations:**

- Use wool felt since it's more durable
- If felt is sold by sheets (usually 20 x 30 cm), you will need one piece of each colour



# COLOUR CHART

# SIZE

colour	felt size	HOLLANDFELT colour reference	DMC cotton embroidery floss
1 dark blue	13 x 20.5 cm	55	823
2 delft blue			798
3 light blue			3841
4 white			B5200
5 light yellow			727
6 mustard	6.5 x 5 cm	12	3820
7 burnt orange	7 x 5 cm	22	920
8 light brown	8 x 4 cm	73	840
9 dark brown	3 x 2.5 cm	16	938
10 black			310



20  
CM

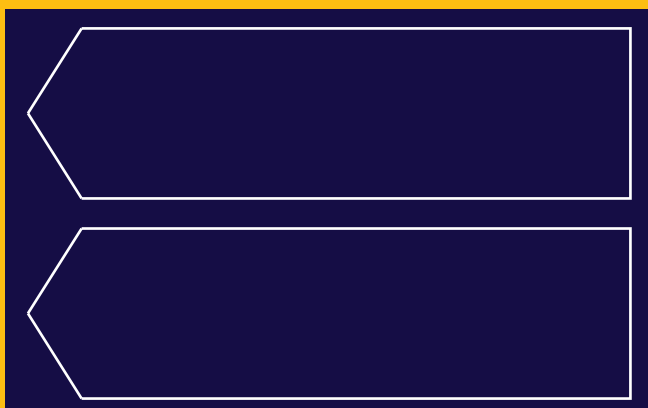
6 CM

You don't need to choose these exact colours. If you already have some thread at hand with similar or close colours, just use it instead.

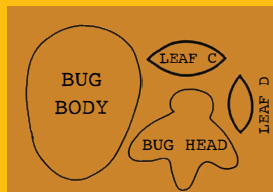
These colours and brands are for the reference only since they represent the most common varieties available in craft stores.

# CUTTING LAYOUT

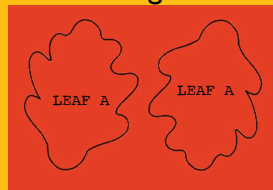
dark blue



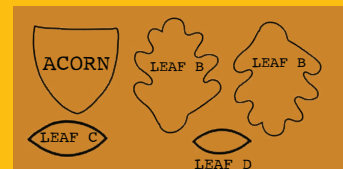
mustard



burnt orange



light brown



dark brown



No seam allowances required.

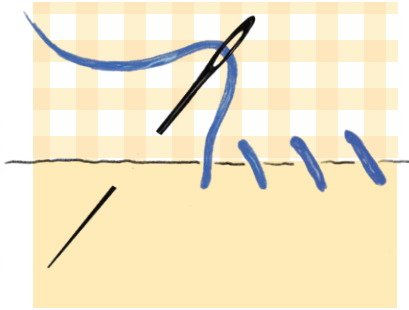
Make sure to use smaller scissors to cut smaller parts out - to give them enough definition.



# STITCHES

## 1 whip stitch

Make small stitches over the edge of your applique to attach it to the main fabric.



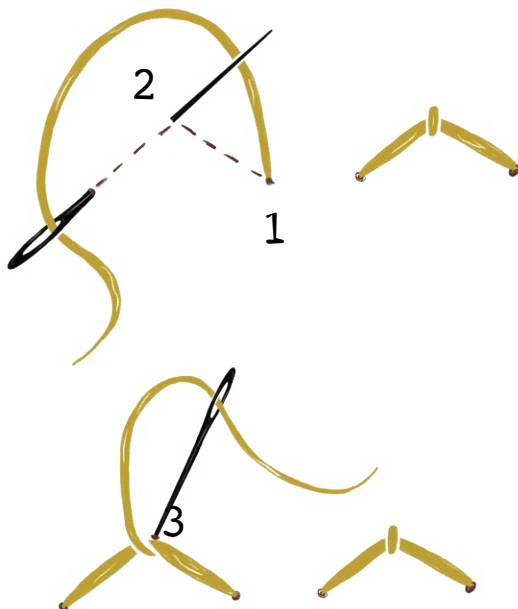
## 2 split stitch

Start by making a single stitch, then split it with a needle by stitching through it from the bottom. Create a series of small stitches that form a solid line.



## 3 lazy daisy

Wrap your thread around the needle and then anchor it with a small stitch on top of the loop.



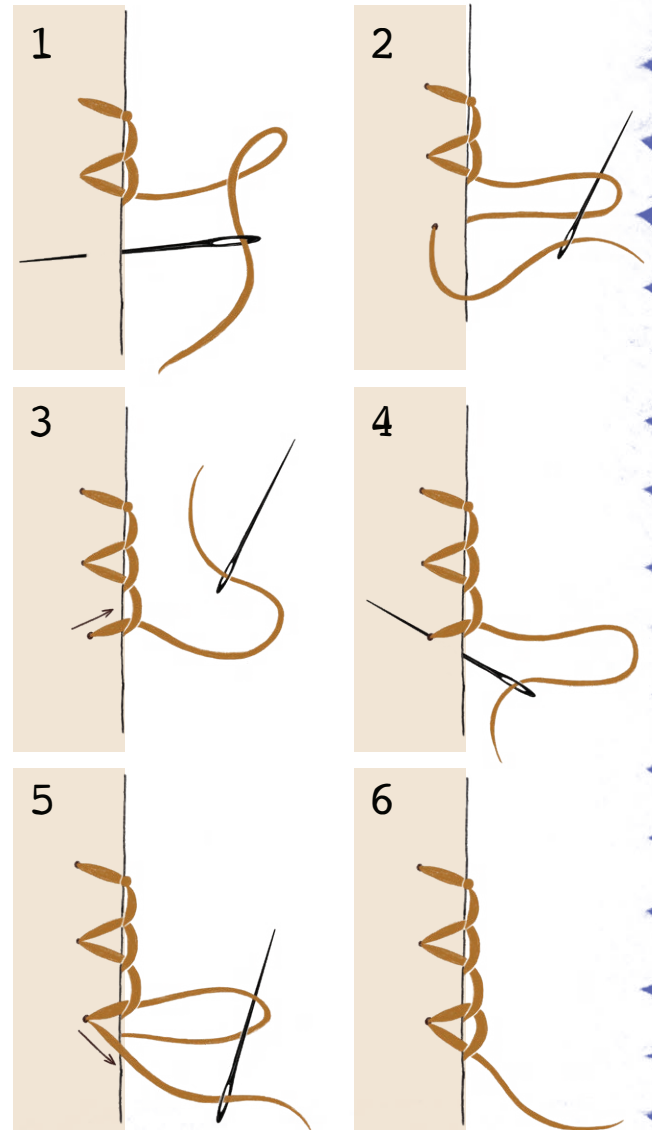
## 4 running stitch

Bring the needle up through the fabric, inserting it back down. Repeat the process in a line to create a series of evenly spaced stitches.



## 5 closed blanket stitch

Bring the needle up (1), pull it through the loop (2) forming a lean towards one side (3). Bring the needle up again through the same hole (4), pulling it through the loop forming a lean towards opposite side (5) to form a "V".

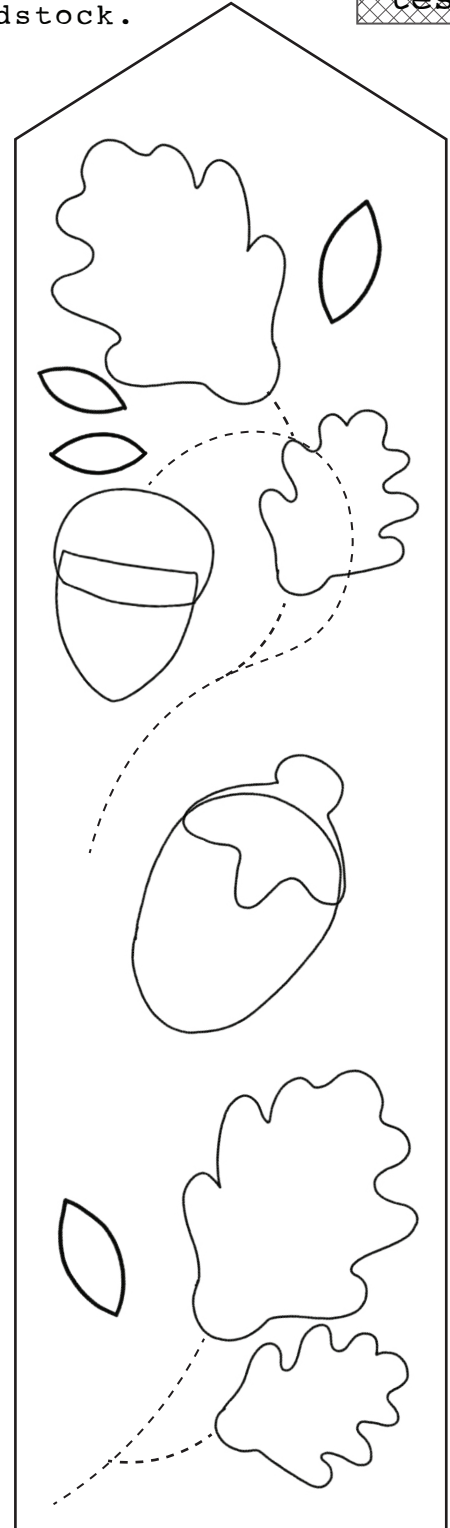
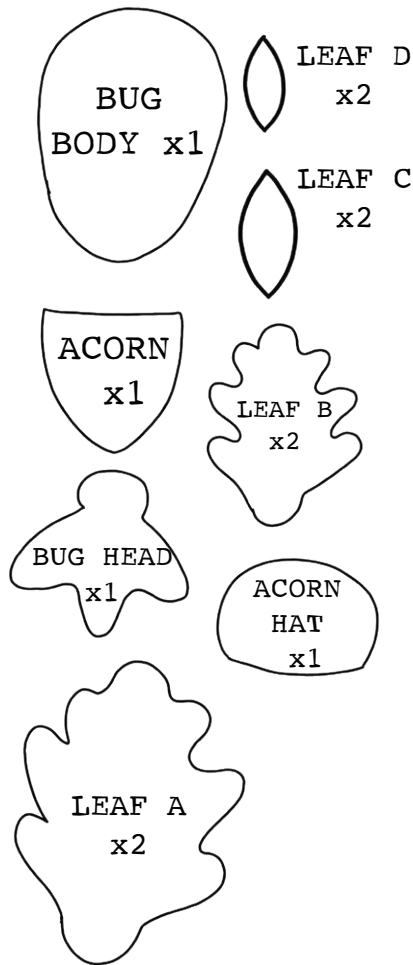
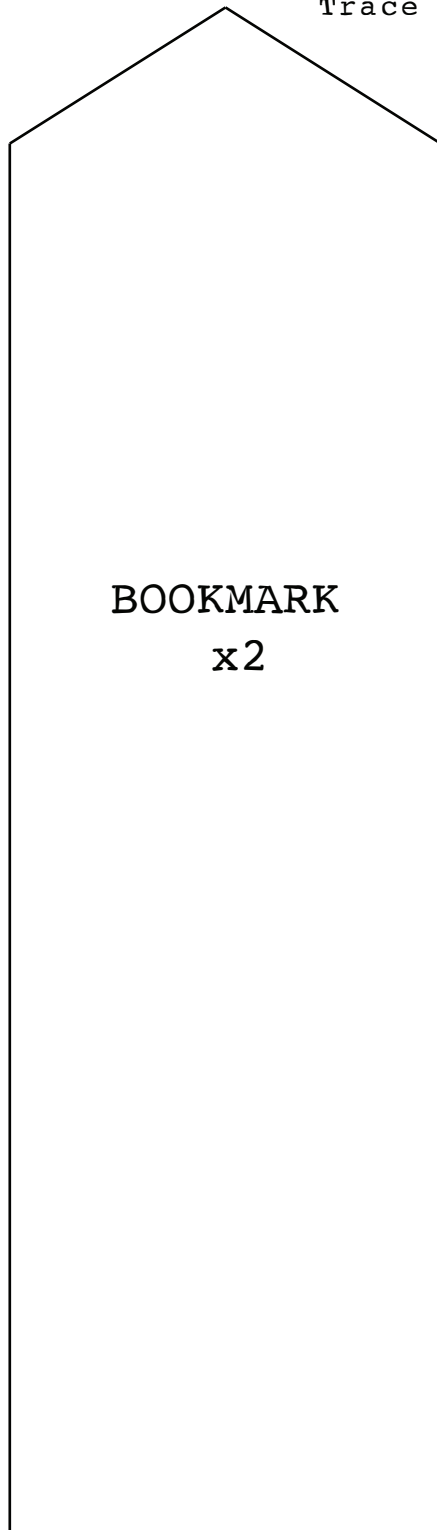




# PATTERN

2X2  
CM  
test

Trace or print out on A4 cardstock.



## PIECES:

- Bookmark X 2 in **dark blue**
- Bug Body X 1 in **mustard**
- Bug Head X 1 in **mustard**
- Leaf C X 1 + Leaf D X 1 in **mustard**
- Leaf C X 1 + Leaf D X 1 in **light brown**
- Acorn Leaf B X 2 in **light brown**
- Acorn X 1 in **light brown**
- Acorn Hat X 1 in **dark brown**
- Acorn Leaf A X 2 in **burnt orange**

Print this layout guide to use in aligning all pieces.



# Preparations & Cutting

## PATTERN

Print out your pattern either on cardstock or regular paper. Cut out as marked.

## FELT PIECES

Using the **Cutting Out Layout (Page 5)** cut out the following pieces:

- Bookmark X 2 in **dark blue**
- Bug Body X 1 in **mustard**
- Bug Head X 1 in **mustard**
- Leaf C X 1 + Leaf D X 1 in **mustard**
- Leaf C X 1 + Leaf D X 1 in **light brown**
- Acorn Leaf B X 2 in **light brown**
- Acorn X 1 in **light brown**
- Acorn Hat X 1 in **dark brown**
- Acorn Leaf A X 2 in **burnt orange**

Use chalk or non-permanent pencil to transfer pattern to felt and fabric.



Using a Layout Guide on **Page 5** lay all pieces on the bookmark and mark their positions and leaf stalks with chalk.



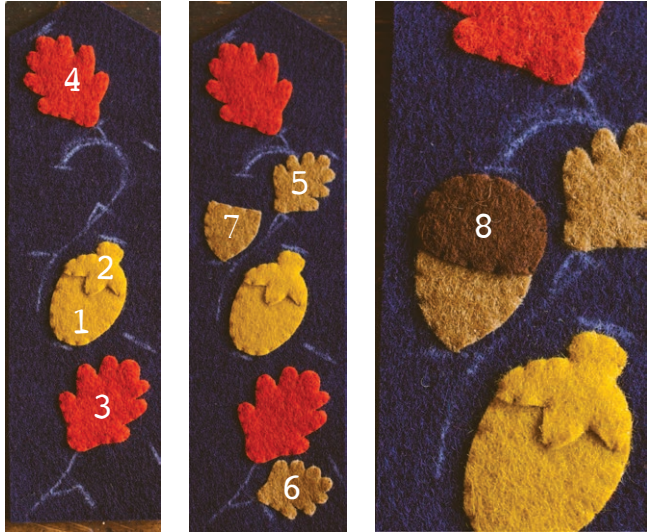
# Bookmark

Attach all pieces with a matching thread to their designated positions, using **one strand** of the embroidery floss and a **Whip Stitch (1)**.



Here and later refer to the **Legend (Page 3)** symbols for stitches and threads

Use the following sequence when attaching:



Attach smaller leaves with three stitches, as shown below.



Embroider all stems using a **Split Stitch (2)**.



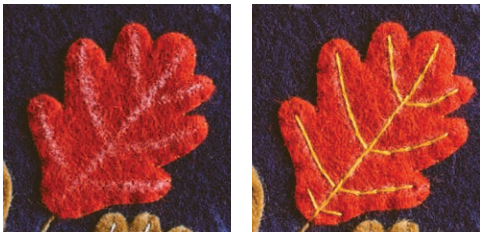
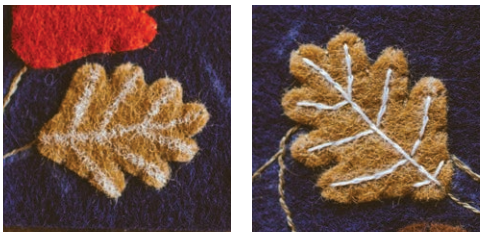
**2 strands** for main stems.



**1 strand** for minor stems.



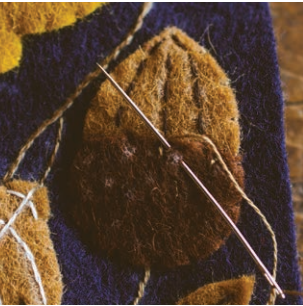
Mark all leaf veins with chalk, embroider with a **Split Stitch (2)**.



Mark acorn elements in chalk, as shown below.



Embroider the nut first making dashed lines to show its texture.



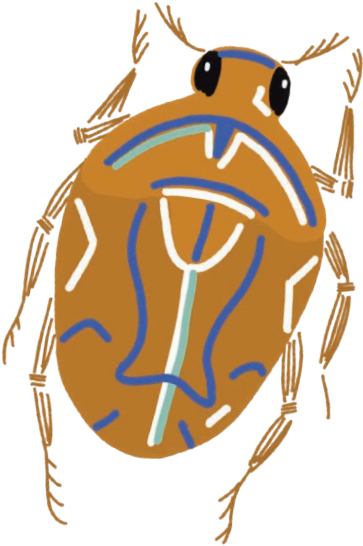
Then embroider the acorn hat with tiny “scales”. Refer to the technique on **Page 6**.



Add a little highlight to the nut to show its shape.



Embroider bug's eyes on either side by making short stitches across the eye area.



Use this diagram in the next steps for embroidery of the bug's body, legs and antennae. Note the colours.

*This bug is modeled on the Fiddler Beetle. If you look closely, the pattern on its back resembles a violin. Super-doooper amazing!*



Start by marking the pattern on the body with chalk.

Using the **Split Stitch (2)**, embroider lines in the sequence shown further.







Mark with chalk legs and antennae, and using the diagram on the previous page, embroider with long stitches. Each leg section - three stitches or so.



Using a white thread embroider highlights on each section of each leg, and then eyes



Mark with chalk locations for small star embroidery. Make it random to fill gaps in composition.



Iron flat, remove chalk markings and the main thing -

**admire your creation!**

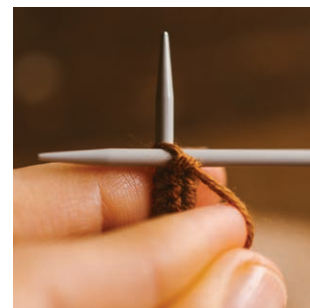
It's looking lovely, by the way!



## Acorn Charm

To make the acorn nut, cast on 18 stitches, using the **light brown** yarn.

Slip purlwise (SLP) every first stitch of each row.



Knit in stockinette for 16 rows altogether.

### Knitting summary:

**Row 1:** YB (yarn back) SLP, knit all

**Row 2:** YF (yarn front) SLP, purl all

Repeat rows 1 & 2 seven (7) more times (16 rows altogether).



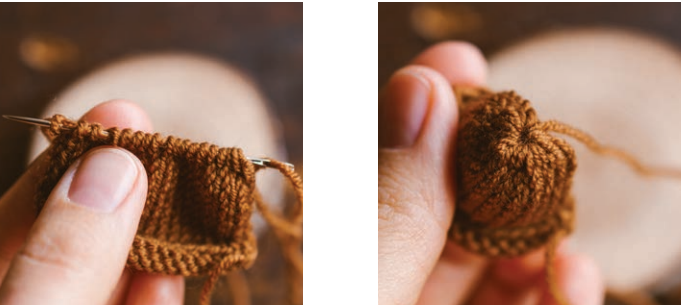


Cut the yarn leaving about 30-40 cm. Thread a tapestry needle with its end.

Transfer all the stitches on to the tapestry needle, pull the yarn through, do not tighten yet.



Make another pass with the needle through the stitches. Tighten and secure at the top with a stitch.



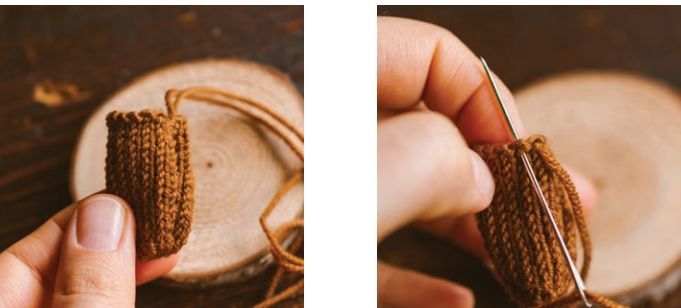
Turn the piece to the wrong side (right sides together), align the edges. You will see there are chain stitches formed thanks to all the slipping off we did. Align corresponding stitches and sew together as shown below only using the inner side of each loop.



Turn inside out. Make sure the top edges also match. If needed, make an extra stitch to close off the side seam.

With the needle still threaded, make running stitches along the edge. This edge will be tightened later.

Don't worry too much about making it super neat, this top will be hiding under the acorn hat.



✳ Fill the acorn with the fibre of your choice. Tighten up the yarn, secure the ends.



Almost like a real one!



To make the acorn hat, cast on 23 stitches. It needs to be an odd number, since we'll be working in moss stitch.



**Knitting summary:**

**Row :**YB (yarn back) SLP (slip 1 purlwise), K1P1 (knit one, purl one) until the end of the row.  
Repeat for another 9 (nine) rows, making 10 rows altogether.





Continue on with tightening the top and stitching the side in the same way as with the nut previously. **Do not cut off the yarn** just yet.



Set the hat on top of the acorn, align the seams. Attach the hat to the nut by the edge of the hat - make small stitch to secure the hat on. Secure the yarn, cut it off.



And here is your acorn, brown and sweet!



## \* The strings attached (or not yet)

Now, it's time to decide if you're using an **eyelet**. Follow the relevant section down below.



For the string you can use a piece of the dark brown yarn cut to 70 cm. I usually go with a stronger, cotton yarn.



### NO EYELET



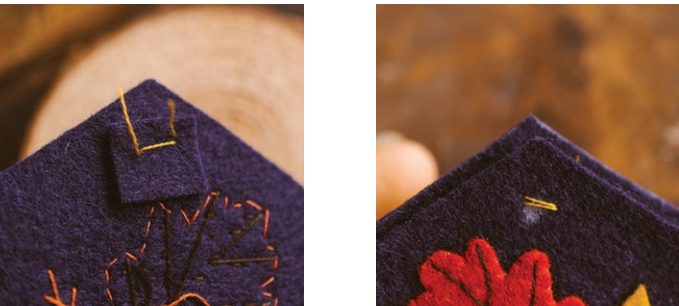
Fold the string in half and pin the formed loop to the wrong side of the embroidered bookmark piece.

Embroider a small star on the face of the bookmark to hold the string in place.



### EYELET

Loosely attach (thread will be removed later) a small piece of felt (to the wrong side) to the point where you'll be inserting your eyelet.





# Edge Finish



Pin two bookmark pieces together as shown. Don't worry that they don't match precisely - you can always trim off excess as you go along stitching the sides together.

You can either use the Dark Blue (1) or Mustard (6) embroidery floss.



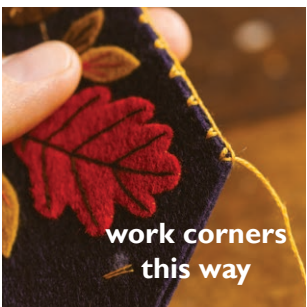
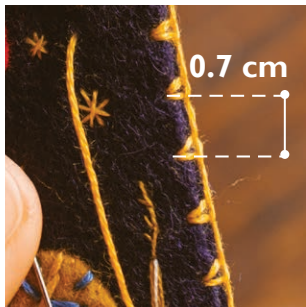
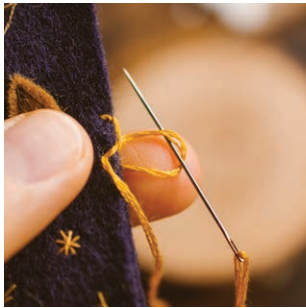
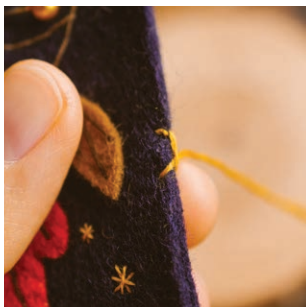
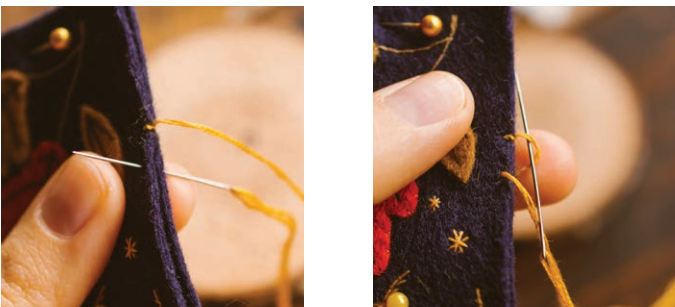
Follow the instructions for the **Closed Blanket Stitch (5)** carefully. It's easy enough once you get a hang of it.

**Start stitching at this point.**

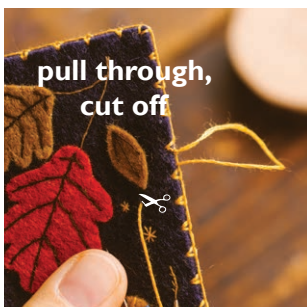
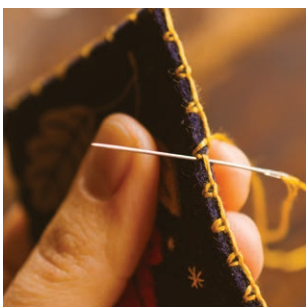
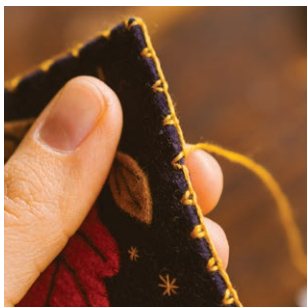
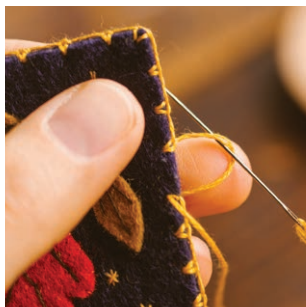
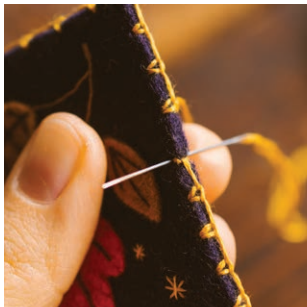
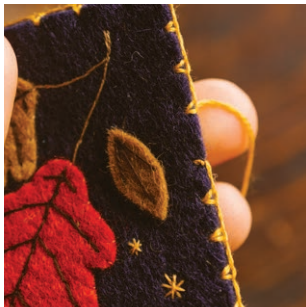
Start by making one overcast stitch with a knot as shown below. You'll come back to it once you've done stitching around the perimeter.



Move on with the Closed Blanket stitch, keeping stitches apart from each other at **0.7 cm**.



When you come back to the starting point, you'll need to close off the first stitch by creating the left leaning stitch and then secure the thread with a knot.





# Eyelet Fans

If you didn't opt in for an eyelet, you can totally skip this section.

Now you, sweet eyelet setters, I'll need a bit of your attention here.

You'll need to gather your equipment, and make a couple of quick moves.

First, remove the temporary stitch holding the felt piece.

Then: Punch a hole



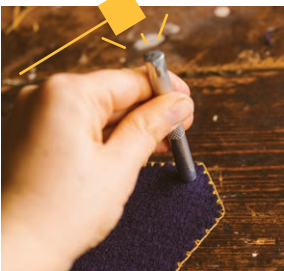
Insert the "face" eyelet



Rest the bookmark on the anvil, top with the "back" eyelet



Press the eyelet with the setter, use the power of Mjölñir the mallet to set the eyelet in.



Grab a string or a piece of yarn, as described in the step about strings, thread it through the eyelet, as shown below.



Now, eyelet or not, we're on the same page here.



# Final Touch

Tie a knot on the string about 5-6 cm from the book-mark top edge. Thread a tapestry needle through the string's end.

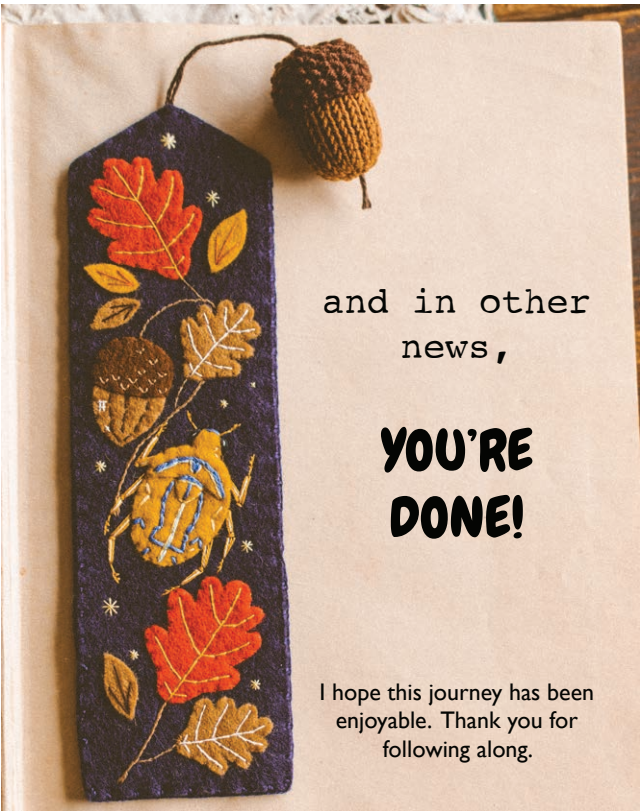


Pull the needle with the string through the acorn. Make sure the acorn can't move past the top knot. If it does, you might need to double-knot.

Tie another knot in the bottom as well, making it big enough so the acorn won't slip off.

If you're concerned that it might, just make a few stitches to hold it in place.

Cut off the excess string.



and in other news,

**YOU'RE DONE!**

I hope this journey has been enjoyable. Thank you for following along.

