

MAKE
Your own
HAPPY

SEA URCHIN PINCUSHION



A nature inspired felt appliqué pattern.

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SEA URCHIN PINCUSHION

A spiky sea urchin pincushion using felt appliqué and embroidery.

What will you need?

- felt
- embroidery thread
- needle
- scissors
- erasable method of marking on fabric (I use a Pilot Frixion pen)
- glue (I use Sewline Fabric Glue Pen but a glue stick will do)
- thin card
- stuffing e.g. toy filler or fabric scraps



Optional:

- freezer paper
- iron
- metallic thread

Pattern notes:

- unless otherwise stated I use 3 strands of embroidery thread when stitching
- I used 3 colours of felt for my pincushion: light blue, teal and lilac
- I used 4 colours of embroidery thread: light blue, lilac, mustard yellow and dark purple, as well as gold metallic thread



Need help?

I have tried to make this pattern simple to follow, however I am only human! If you find something confusing, then please contact me via email or social media. A full tutorial taking you through all the steps needed to complete this pincushion is available on my website and YouTube channel

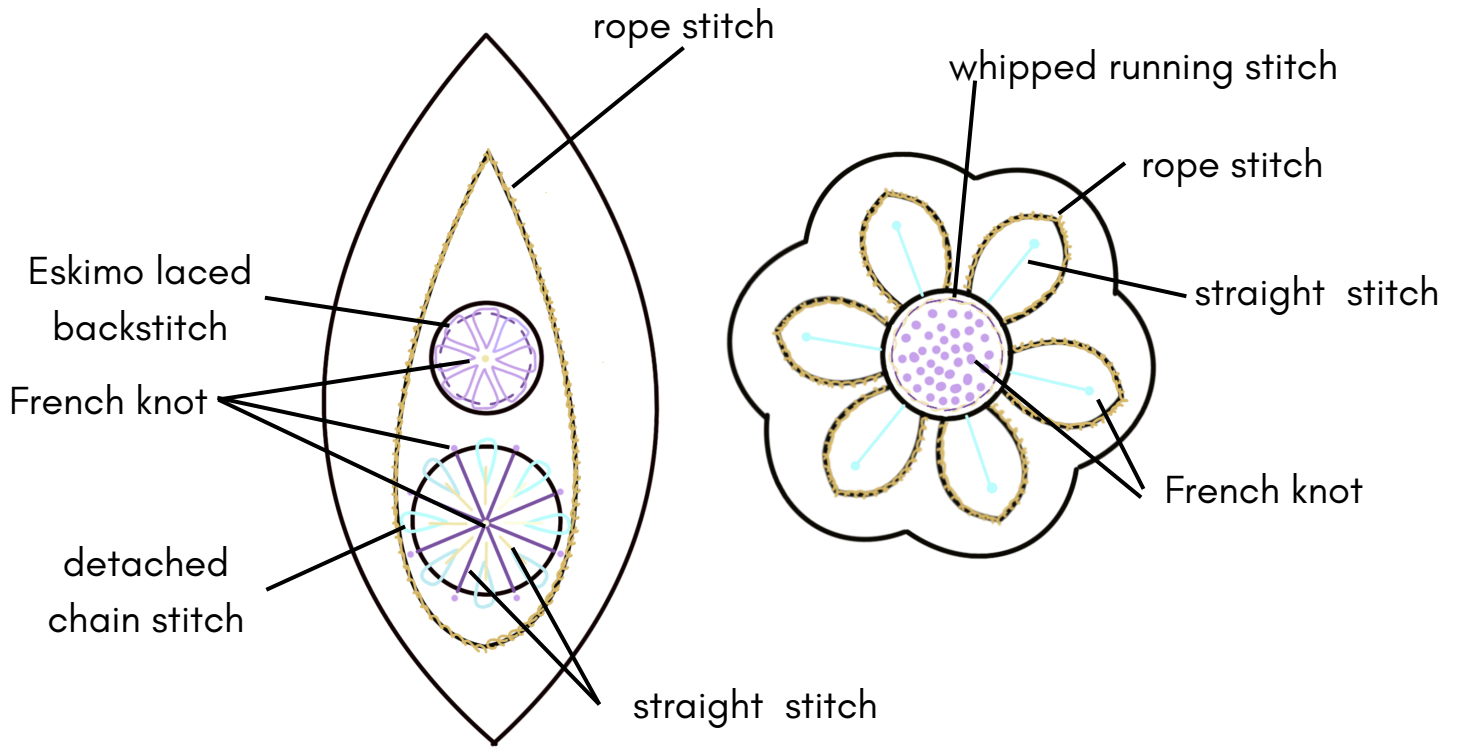
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STITCH GUIDE

You can find helpful videos of the stitches you need on my website.



Purple



Light purple



Light blue



Mustard yellow



Gold

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Cutting the pattern pieces

There are several ways that you can transfer the pattern pieces on to your chosen felt. One of the easiest ways is to stick the paper pattern onto some card to make templates. You can then simply draw around the templates and cut out. I use a Pilot Frixion pen as you can then remove the pen marks with an iron.



Alternatively, you can trace the pattern pieces onto freezer paper. Cut around the pieces roughly and then iron onto your felt pieces. Using freezer paper makes it much easier to cut out the felt pieces and can be reused.



Cut out the following:

Light blue - 6 large teardrops and 1 small circle

Teal - 6 backing segments, 1 flower shape and 1 large circle

Lilac - 6 small circles, 6 large circles and 6 small teardrop shapes

Marking out guidelines

On 6 of the big circles, and on 6 of the small circles, mark out 8 sections. You could use tailor's chalk, a Pilot Frixion Pen or an air/water erasable fabric pen to do this.



Prepping the felt

Next, glue some of the felt pieces together to make it easier when stitching. I use the Sewline Fabric Glue Pen but a small dab from a glue stick will also work.

Glue the circles onto the large teardrops. Then glue the small teardrops onto the flower shape as shown below.



Starting to Stitch

Starting with the large circle, use the marks you have made as guidelines to create long straight stitches. These should anchor your felt circle in place securely. Try not to pull the stitches too tight. If you are finding it tricky to get the stitches to lie neatly in position you could go from the edge into the middle instead of across the whole circle, however this can make it trickier to do your French knot later on.



Using a new thread colour place French knots at the end of each straight stitch.



Change thread and start on the detached chain stitches. Position each stitch in between the 8 straight stitches. Secure the chains beyond the edge of the felt circle.



Finally, make straight stitches from the centre of each detached chain stitch into the centre. Finish with a French knot in the middle.



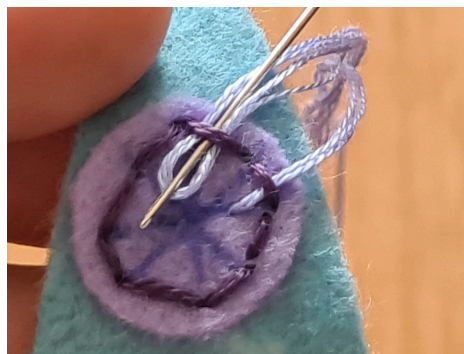
Small circle

Create a circle of backstitches roughly 3mm from the edge of the small felt circle. To make the stitches even you can use the markers. Each stitch should be the width of a segment - 8 backstitches in total.



Change your thread to create the Eskimo lacing. This is a circle of what looks like detached chain stitch, however the loop is created by passing your thread under the backstitches.

1. Bring your needle up about 3 mm below where two of the backstitches meet.
2. Pass your needle underneath the stitch on the right and back down underneath the stitch on the left. **TIP:** *To avoid splitting the stitches pass the needle under the stitches eye first.*
3. Finally, put the needle back down into the fabric in the same space that it came out. Try not to pull the thread too tight in order to keep the curved shaped of the stitch above the line of backstitches.
4. Repeat around the circle - 8 stitches in total.



Finish the small circle with a French knot in the centre.

Attaching the felt teardrops



Once you have finished embroidering the circles you can attach the felt teardrop to the backing felt.

Position the teardrop about 1cm from the top point of the segment. Glue or pin in place.

Use rope stitch to sew the felt in place.

1. Begin by bringing up your thread at the top point of the teardrop shape.
2. Put the needle back down slightly to the right of where the thread comes out of the fabric and then back up again about 5mm in front.
3. Before pulling the needle through take the working yarn from the left of the needle, over the top to the right and back underneath.
4. Pull the needle gently and it will form a twisted stitch.
5. To repeat place your needle back in on the right hand side of where your previous stitch started. Bring the needle up 5mm in front of the previous stitch, wrap and pull.

TIP: Try to position the stitches so that the needle goes into the backing felt and out through the teardrop. This will create a nice rope effect along the edge of the felt piece.



Stitching the Flower

Use the rope stitch to attach the small teardrop pieces (instructions on previous page).

Make a straight stitch along the centre of each petal and complete with a large French knot.



Glue the remaining small circle into the centre of the flower. Make a circle of running stitch just inside the felt circle. Use a second colour of thread and weave under each stitch to create the whipped stitching.



Finish with French knots to complete the centre.



Putting the pincushion together

If you have used a water, or heat, erasable fabric pen for your guidelines, it is a good idea to remove them now before making up the pincushion.

First stitch the segments together using a blanket stitch along the edge. Stitch from the bottom of the teardrop to the top.



Once you have sewn up one pair repeat with the other pairs until you have three sets. Join the sets together until there is only one seam remaining.

Stitch the last seam from the top to the bottom, stopping about half way along to stuff the pincushion. When full, continue stitching the last seam and finish off. There will be a circle left at the bottom which has not been joined together.



Bring your needle up into the felt at the top of the pincushion shape. Position the flower on the top and hold in place.



Make small stitches to secure the flower to the top of the pincushion. These small stitches should be hidden between the small teardrops near the central circle. Once secure knot your thread and take it down into the pincushion to hide.

Place a circle of felt over the bottom and stitch in place.



Thank you for downloading this pattern!

I hope you have enjoyed making your pincushion – please share your make with me using the hashtag #myohpincushion or message me directly.

Happy stitching,

Donna x



1 cm square

