

treeling

DIFFICULTY LEVEL : easy FINISHED SIZE 8 inches wide by 11 inches high SEW by machine and hand

Start a softie forest with this turquoise tree, and then design your own softie animals and flowers to inhabit it. A piece of mirrored glass would make a perfect lake. Fake spray snow, anyone?

embroidery stitches

backstitch

whipstitch

Note: When sewing with floss, use 2 strands unless otherwise noted.

materials

FELT: multicolored scraps for the leaves; 1 sheet of turquoise for the treetop; scrap of white for the eyes; 1 sheet of brown for the tree trunk

FLOSS: black; pink

THREAD: blue; brown

TOPSTITCHING THREAD: color that contrasts with leaves

TRIM: 2 black beads for eyes

OTHER: fabric glue

Note: See page 8 for the list of basic supplies needed for all projects.

cut from pattern

FROM FELT

2 turquoise treetops

cut freehand

FROM FELT

19 pointed-oval leaves in various colors, with a mixture of small leaves ($\frac{1}{2}$ by 1 inch) and large leaves ($\frac{3}{4}$ by 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches)

2 white eye circles, each $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in diameter

1 brown tree trunk, 4 by 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches (Fold the felt sheet in half to cut this rectangle, measuring the rectangle with one end of the pattern positioned on the fold. Once you sew the sides of the trunk, the fold will become the bottom of the trunk.)



Softies
Simple Instructions for 25 Plush Pals
By Therese Laskey
chroniclebooks.com

continued

tip

*For a fun effect, cut your treetop ½ inch wider all around. After sewing, trim the seam allowances with pinking shears.

sew

Note: Usually, when sewing by machine, you'll align the pieces and sew them with right sides together, and then turn the finished softier right side out. But for this project the pieces are aligned with wrong sides together, so the ¼-inch seam allowance shows on the right side and serves as a decorative touch. We don't need to turn the projects since it's already right side out.

step 1. attach leaves to the treetop

- a. Position the leaves randomly on the treetop, and lightly glue them in place.
- b. Using a contrasting color of topstitching thread in your machine, stitch down the center of each leaf to define it. Leave long thread tails at the beginning and end of your stitching, and then pull the tails to the other side of the felt and knot off for a clean finish. Alternatively, you can backstitch by hand, using contrasting topstitching thread down the center of the leaf to get the same effect.

step 2. sew the treetop

- a. Place the two halves of the treetop with wrong sides together and the edges aligned, and pin together. Machine stitch around the treetop's edges with a ¼-inch seam, leaving a 4-inch opening at the bottom for inserting the trunk.
- b. Stuff the treetop three-quarters full with fiberfill.

step 3. put a face on the tree trunk

- a. Sew a black bead in the center of each white eye circle.
- b. Position the eyes on the trunk, and lightly glue them in place. Then hand sew straight, rather than slanted, whipstitches around each eye with black floss.
- c. Create the mouth by hand sewing a few long stitches in pink floss.

step 4. sew the tree trunk

- a. Because you cut the trunk on the fold of the fabric, the cut piece, unfolded, will be twice the trunk's length, or 13 inches long. By eliminating a seam on the base of the tree trunk and instead using the fold as the trunk's bottom, the tree will have a smooth, rounded base that does not need to be sewn.
- b. To sew the sides of the cut trunk, refold the felt in half at the midpoint, with the short ends aligned and right sides together, and machine sew a ¼-inch seam down each side, leaving the top of the trunk open.
- c. Turn the trunk right side out, and stuff it with fiberfill.

step 5. put it all together

- a. Insert the top of the trunk into the opened gap at the bottom of the treetop, and hand stitch the pieces together using a backstitch and thread in the same color you used to sew the treetop. Make the size of your hand stitches as consistent as possible, matching the machine sewn stitches in length. As you stitch, fill in any gaps in the stuffing by adding more.

insert leaf graphic

ARTIST BIO

Lynda Lye

LITTLE ODD FOREST
www.forestprints.com

Grew up: Singapore

Creative influences: Lynda grew up doodling and making things with scissors. With a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, she dabbles in everything artistic.

Why she makes what she makes: Lynda is inspired by fairy tales and fantasy, and she loves enchanted forests filled with magical animals and scary monsters. She has a special fondness for her treeling design, which she hopes will make the world a friendlier place.