

A Bit of Stitch

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Felted Autumn Leaf



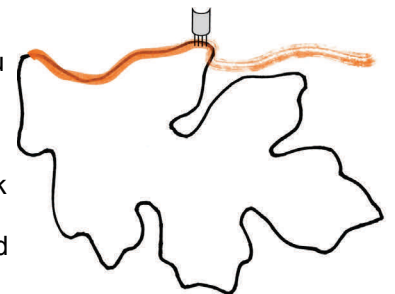
Materials you will need:

- Wool roving in fall colors (look for hand-dyed variegated color roving for the prettiest results)
- Glass 10mm (or larger) beads & tiny beads
- Silk velvet scrap, ribbon yarn or other fancy fibers for the bow
- Skinny white fabric covered florist wire
- Fabric marker in a fall color (to blend with your roving colors)
- Wash-away fabric type (Vilene) stabilizer
- Hand sewing thread in a color that matches the roving
- Sew-on bar brooch pin

Tools you will need:

- Needle felting machine (such as Baby Lock's Embellisher) or hand felting needles and a big, flat sponge to felt on
- Hand sewing needle
- Needle nose pliers
- Printed pattern (found on the last page)

Trace around the leaf pattern on a piece of water-soluble stabilizer using a water-soluble pen. Needle-felt roving completely over the design keeping the edges defined so that you do not lose the shape of the leaf. It is helpful to outline the leaf first using long skinny strips of roving to "trace" around the leaf shape as shown in the illustration on the right.



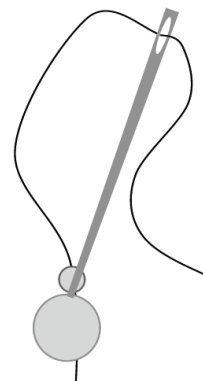
Thoroughly cover the leaf shape. From time to time hold the leaf up to the light and check for thin places. When the leaf is completely filled to your satisfaction, turn the stabilizer over and needle-felt again on the wrong side. (If you wish to have a really sturdy leaf, add more roving.) Note - for a really fast job, use the pattern to cut a leaf shaped piece of 100% wool crepe or flannel in a color that coordinates with the roving. Needle felt the fabric lightly to the stabilizer to secure, then cover with roving. You will need less roving and the process is a lot faster!

Cut away as much of the excess stabilizer as possible. Wet-felt the leaf by gently rubbing it between your hands with a small drop of laundry detergent and very hot water. (Use rubber gloves to protect your hands from the heat.) Rinse in cool water and lay flat to dry.

Color the florist wire with the fabric marker. Cut the wire to fit the length of the leaf. Use needle nose pliers to turn under both ends to form a tiny loop. Couch the wire onto the back of the leaf, taking care not to let your stitches show through on the top. Securely attach both looped ends by sewing through the loops.

Sew on the beads using the tiny beads as stoppers as shown in the illustration on the right. Loop the ribbon into a floppy bow and attach next to the beads. Form the silk velvet scrap or other fancy fabric into a bow for additional decoration.

Sew a brooch pin to the wrong side of the leaf directly under the area where you placed the ribbon bow and beads. Check the placement of the brooch clip before attaching to make sure the leaf will hang in a pleasing way while worn. The wire allows the leaf to be twisted and bent into a realistic autumn leaf curve.



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