



midnight crows

Crows have been an important part of our family's life for a while now. They are strong and loud members of our neighborhood, and very connected to their families. We watch them all season from our yard as they raise their young, hold meetings in the neighbor's tallest trees, and harvest walnuts with the squirrels.

Last year, as we started to celebrate the holidays with a tree, my mom suggested a few simple, black felt crows. Perfect I thought, and the project was on its way.

materials

1 sheet of card stock (to print the pattern on)
fabric chalk (sidewalk chalk works too!)
scissors
2 sheets of felt (this will make about 4 crows)
embroidery thread & needle
polyester stuffing

instructions



step 3.



step 4.

remember, these are just guidelines. please, play and find your own way...

1. print the crow pattern, page 3, onto a piece of card stock
2. using scissors cut out the crow bodies and wings from the paper
3. place the crow body you would like to make on the felt and using a piece of chalk trace or rub the edge of the paper to make a chalk line onto the felt (I found it helpful to trace all the crows I could on one piece, then cut them all out)
4. cut out all the crow pieces from the felt, stacking them in piles of two
5. once you have two bodies and two wings of the same size, you can begin sewing them together
6. cut a piece of embroidery thread (approx. lengths are written on the crow pattern you are making) and split it into two strands, 3-threads each
7. thread the needle with one 3-ply strand of thread then tie a knot at the other end
8. stack the two crow bodies together and, if needed, trim any excess

instructions



step 13.

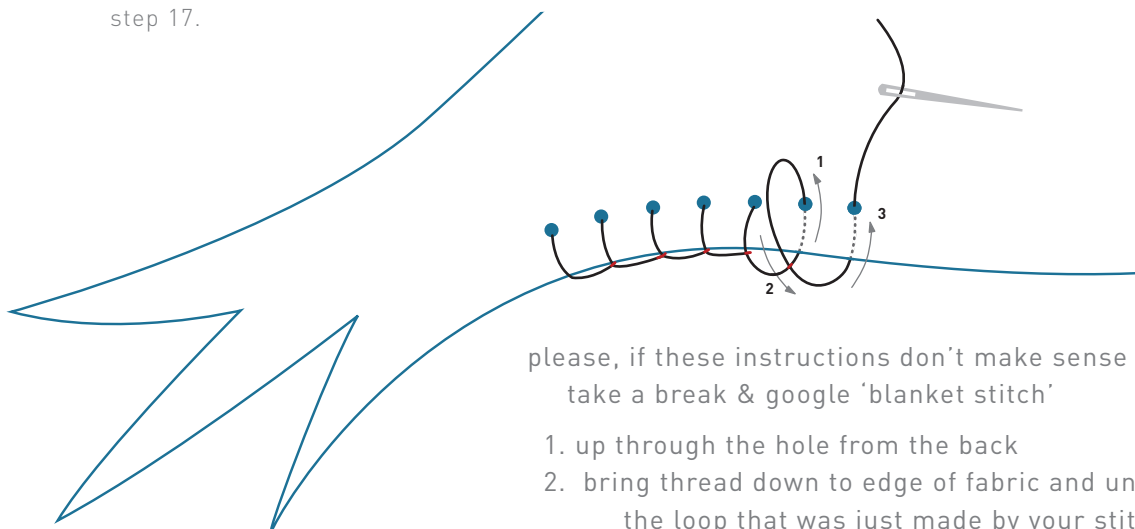


step 16.



step 17.

9. overhang from either of the felt pieces (a little bit of overhang is fine, just take care of any big differences between the two)
10. beginning at the tail (where an 'x' is marked on the pattern) slide the needle through the back-side of one piece of felt, in between the wrong sides of felt, to hide the knot
11. bring the needle out on the right side of the felt about 1/8-inch from the bottom edge to begin the blanket stitch (peek below for illustration)
12. continue the blanket stitch all the way around the crow — stitch carefully around the beak. as you round the head, take a moment to gently stuff the beak and head
13. finish stitching the crow until you reach the tail again. remove the needle and leave the tail of thread to tie off later
14. fill your crow as plump as you wish with stuffing (I used the eraser-side of a pencil to push stuffing in the crow). then re-thread your needle and make a few straight stitches to close up the tail. tie off your thread and trim any excess strings
15. thread the needle again with a small piece of thread then knot the other side. put one wing on the needle and draw it down to the knot
16. place knot side of the wing against the crow in a good spot, then position the other wing on the opposite side.
17. holding the wings in place, make a small line of tightly pulled stitches just along the wing as indicated on the pattern (when the stitches are sewn tight, it pokes the wings out slightly)
18. finish off the wings by tying off the thread under one of the wings to hide the knot
19. a loop of yarn or thread can be attached at the top of your crow for hanging



please, if these instructions don't make sense to you, take a break & google 'blanket stitch'

1. up through the hole from the back
2. bring thread down to edge of fabric and under the loop that was just made by your stitch
3. then back through the hole from the back.

:: do a couple of stitches before deciding if you are on the right track ::



use approx.
48" of 3-ply
embroidery thread

use approx.
68" of 3-ply
embroidery thread