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# HAND SEWN WATERLESS CACTUS

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Another cool item for the 'Me Made' life!



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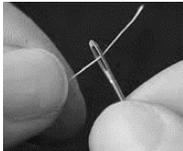
# How to make the Waterless Cactus Garden

You will need:

- One piece of felt 9"x12"
- A tiny scrap of felt for the flower
- Embroidery Floss or Craft Cord
- Embroidery Needle
- Regular Needle and Thread
- Scissors
- Polyfil Stuffing (or plastic shopping bags like the ones from Walmart or Target)

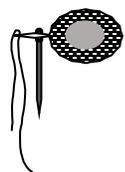
You'll need to thread a needle and sew the Running Stitch and the Back Stitch to make this Project:

## Threading Your Needle



This very first step in sewing can be a little intimidating - the eye of the needle looks so small! But it's easy, especially if you begin with a needle with an elongated eye like an embroidery or chenille needle. Make sure you have good light. Use black all-purpose thread and a piece of white paper to act as a background. Cut a piece of thread that is about as long as your arm. Remove any frayed thread by snipping a fresh tip on the end. Dampen the tip of the thread with water or saliva to seal and stiffen as you guide it into the eye of the needle. Now, hold the thread between your forefinger and thumb with about 1/2 inch of thread showing. Hold the needle in your other hand near the eye. Then, gently push the thread through the eye of the needle. It may take a couple of tries. Once the thread goes through, pull it so that you have two equal lengths of thread.

## How to Use a Needle Threader



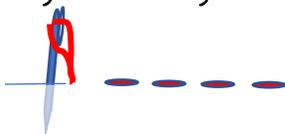
The needle threader is a cool little tool. Just push the flexible wire loop through the eye of the needle. This is very easy to do because the wire and the holder give you plenty of stability. Put your thread through the wire loop and pull it back through the eye of the needle and presto! Your needle is threaded

## How to Make a Knot



To secure your hand stitching just make a simple knot at the end of one or two strands of thread by making a loop around your index finger and bring the thread ends through the loop and pull gently to form the knot.

## Sewing the Running Stitch



You may already know this stitch even if you don't know it by name.

Make a Stitch Practice Line: Draw a straight line on a piece of paper with the pencil and ruler. On top of that line, draw about 10 dashes that are  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch long and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch apart. Thread your needle. Push the needle from underneath the paper and pull gently until the knot catches beneath. Push the needle down at the end of the dash and pull again until the stitch is nice and flat. Continue for the remaining dashes.

### Knotting Off - How to Finish a line of Hand Sewing

When you are just beginning, always make sure you have at least 5 inches of thread on your needle as you sew. This will make it easy to secure your sewing with a knot at the end of your stitches. To make the knot, take a tiny stitch and pull slowly until you have a small loop. Feed the needle through the loop and pull gently to create the knot. Make a second knot over the first one for extra security.

Try making stitches on a small piece of fabric just like you did on paper. Now you are ready to sew by hand!

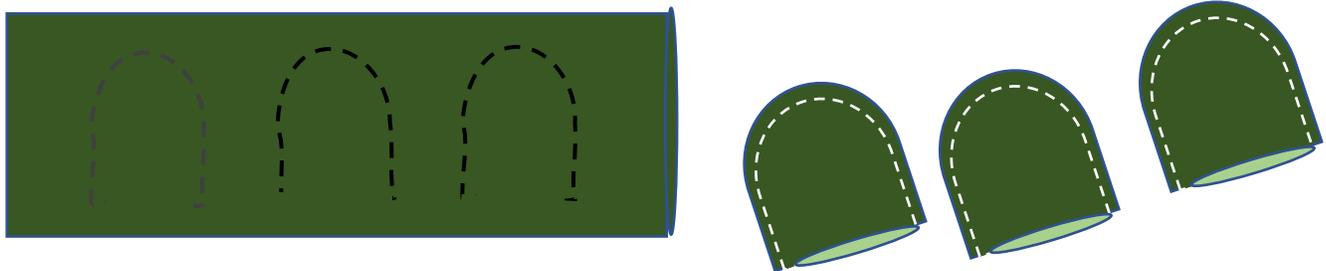
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### Let's get started!

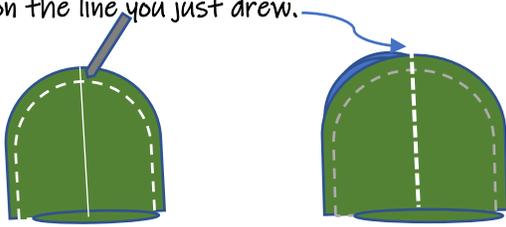
1. Choose the size cactus you'd like to make. Cut out the pattern piece for the cactus you'd like to stitch. Fold your felt in half and trace the pattern piece three times.



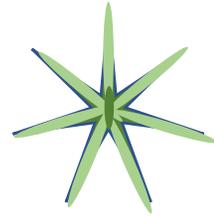
2. Sew along the line with the running stitch. Leave the bottom open. Carefully cut out the pieces.



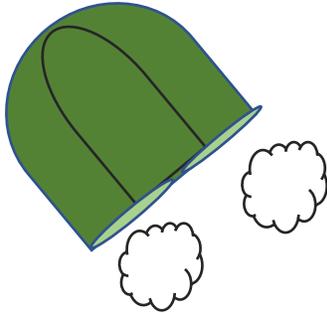
3. Draw a line down the center of one of the pairs of cactus pieces. Stack all three pairs with the one with the line on top. Sew the three sets together using the running stitch sewing on the line you just drew.



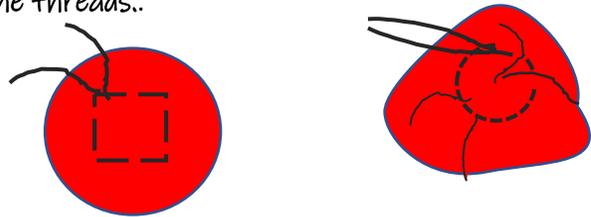
4. Spread out the Cactus segments to stuff through the bottom openings. This is what it will look like on the bottom.



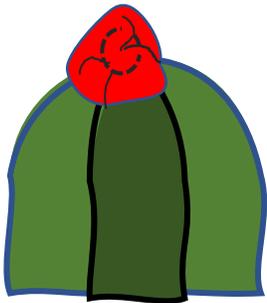
5. Stuff each section of the Cactus until you like how it looks. Close the bottom of each section with the running stitch on each section.



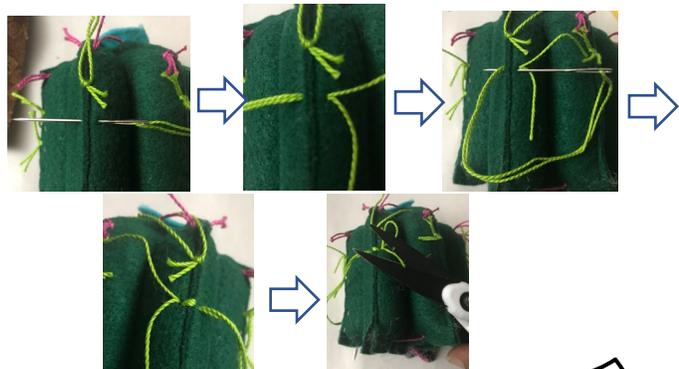
6. Make the Flower. Sew a small square of long stitches in the center of the flower leaving a long tail of thread. Pull the thread gently to form the flower. When you can't pull any further, make your knot. Clip the threads..



7. Sew Flower to the Cactus.



8. Add Prickles following the video.



That's It! Put your cactus in a small pot, a jar, a lid, a cupcake tin, a bottle cap or anything else that fits!!

Waterless  
Cactus

