

Felt Flowers

By Jean Hubsch, Corning Chapter EGA



These are generic flowers, not to represent any particular variety. The color choice is up to you. A black background works well for lighter flowers and a gray or beige for darker flowers. These are done with polyester craft felt available at craft stores in 9"x12" squares. More often the felt is wool but that is more expensive. The thread used for stitching is embroidery floss. Finished size is 6" plus any plate.

Materials:

One 9x12" felt "square" in a neutral for base

One 9x12" felt "square" in flower color, for petals and backing

One 3" x 9" felt in green for leaves

Two skeins of embroidery floss to match leaves & flower petals

Beads for center - #11 or #8 or small buttons

Straight pins

Embroidery needle with a sharp point

The pattern for the leaves & petals is at the end. It is the same shape for both. You need 3 green and twelve flower color petals. There are two ways to cut out the leaves/petals.

1. Pin paper shape to the felt and cut around it, much like dressmaking. It can be re-used.
2. Trace the shape onto freezer paper, one for each one needed. Use the dull side for tracing. Iron onto the felt. Cut out on the line and remove the paper.

For the **base felt**: trace a circle or other shape onto the back of the felt or onto a piece of paper. You can use a bowl or an embroidery hoop for the shape. The example has a 6" circle. Find the center of the circle and mark it. See image #2 for centering. This example used stitching to find the center. **See info on finishing to determine the size of your base circle.**

Place the three **green leaves** about 1" from the center , image #2 and pin in place. Using two strands of floss couch down the leaves. Stitches are about 1/4" apart. This is a simple straight stitch. Some people use a blanket stitch for this. Stitch a stem/outline stitch down the center of the leaf for a vein. An embroidery hoop is NOT used, done in hand.

For more information on stitches see these websites:

www.needlenthread.com go to "How to Videos"

<https://rsnstitchbank.org/> go to "search stitches", put in the name

You Tube—put in the stitch name. The two above are VERY reliable.

Petals: Trace the backing circle before cutting out the petals.

There is enough fabric for both. Use 6 petals for the first layer, spaced evenly and a bit of distance from the center, image #3. Pin in place and then couch using 2 strands of flower color floss.

For layer two have the petals meet in the center, image #4. Couch down only the edge of the inner half of the petal. The other half is free for more dimension.

Center: this covers where the petals meet. Use things in your stash. Use one strand of floss to attach and go through each bead twice. You decide the size and how many. Buttons can also be used.

Vines: Use the green floss, these are just placed randomly; Use stem/outline stitch in green and French knots in petal color.

Backing: this can be the same base size or a bit larger. The example has an 8" backing for the 6" base. Pin in place and go around the base with blanket stitch (also called buttonhole stitch) using 2 strands of flower color floss. Edge the large backing in blanket stitch if you use a larger backing.

Finishing: As a novelty the felt work can be mounted onto a plate, tray or pan. "Think outside the frame" !!! Check out local thrift stores for inexpensive items. The size of the plate center will determine the size of the base felt. Or, it can just be a mat or in a frame, hoop or other.

You can use two sided tape or craft glue to attach. Make sure the glue won't soak through and show. Tape works fine.

My inspiration was a piece I saw at a quilt show & it used a silver tray (ones we got as wedding gifts & now never use). I did a larger piece this way & have asked friends for trays. No one's kids want them !!

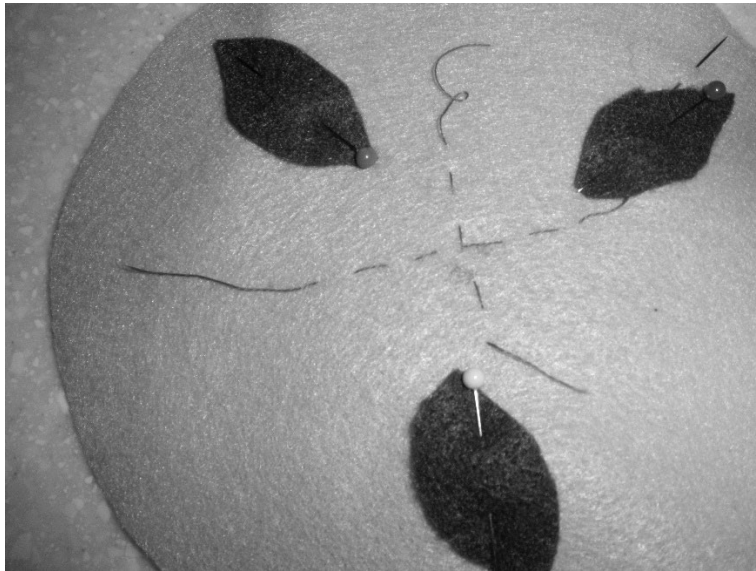
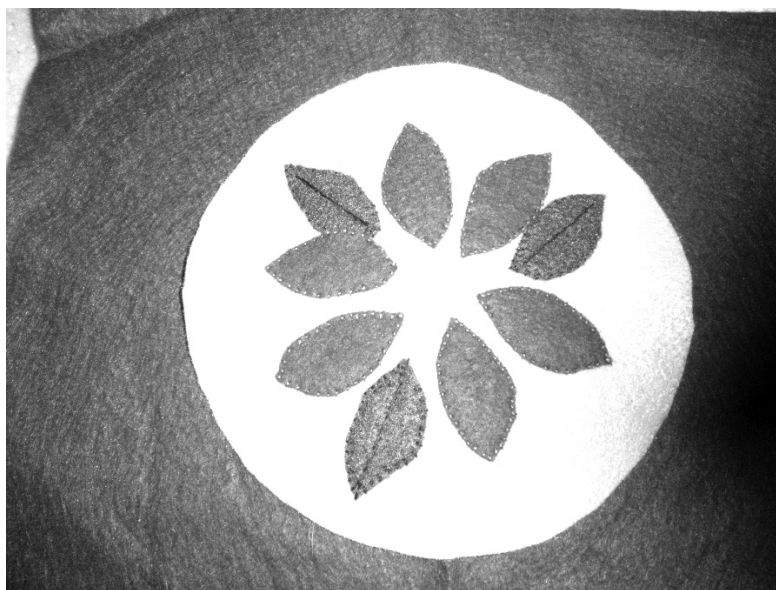


Image 2 Centering and placement of leaves



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Image 3 – First layer of petals.

The leaves have the vein down the center

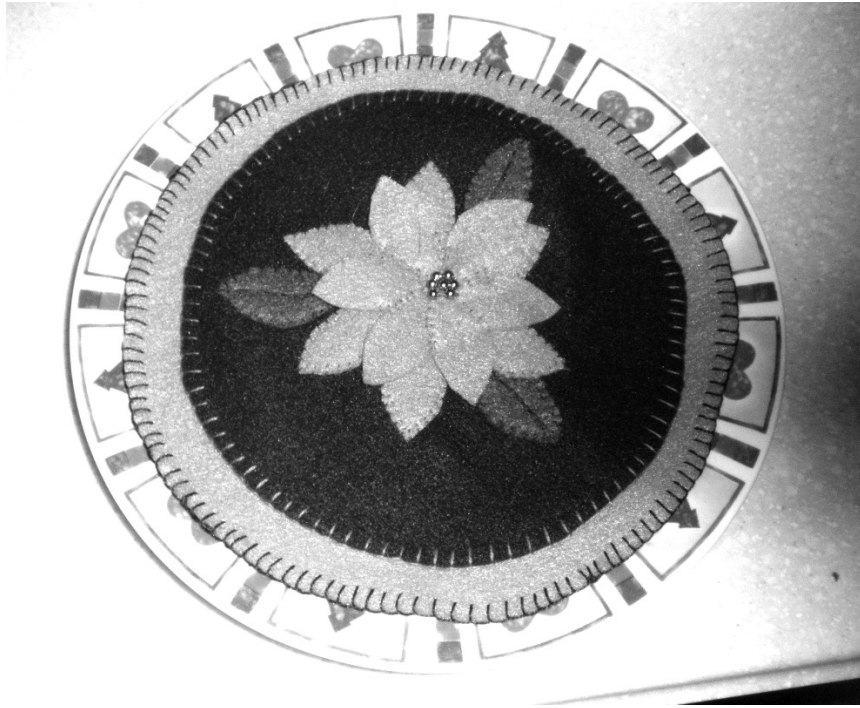


Image 4 final - two layers of petals, bead centers and edging
Plate is also visible

