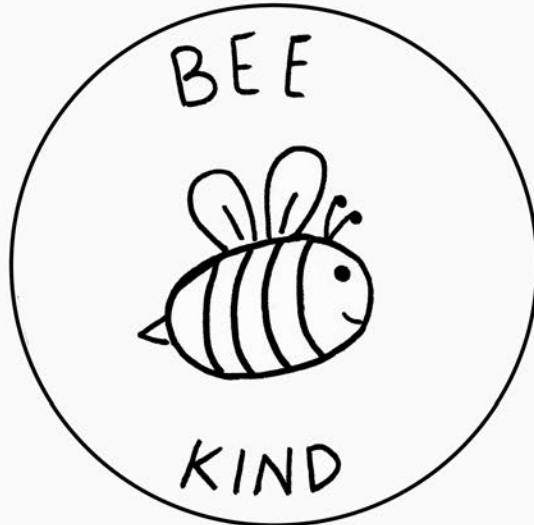


HOW TO MAKE AN EMBROIDERED PATCH

PATCH TEMPLATE



I chose the bee as a motif as it is one of the symbols that is used in the city I live in, Manchester. Born from the city's leading role in the Industrial Revolution, the worker bee represented hard work and in modern day has been used as a sign for power, strength and unity.

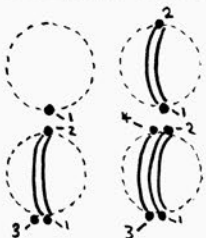


STITCHES

SATIN STITCH

Satin stitch is a good way to fill a block shape using a series of straight stitches. It is best to start in the centre of the area you want to fill.

Come up from underneath the fabric at point 1, entering back in at point 2. Taking the needle back to the other side, come up again at point 3 and enter at point 4. Repeat until the whole shape is full.



BACK STITCH

Back Stitch is a series of straight stitches that work along a line, straight or curved.



Come up from underneath the fabric at point 1, entering back in at point 2. Then come back underneath the fabric at point 3, entering BACK into point 2. The next stitch would start coming up at point 3 and entering at point 4 and so on, taking your stitches back after every one.

FRENCH KNOTS

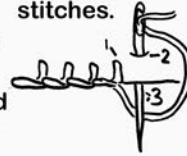
A little stitch that creates a 3D effect, like a small ball on your fabric.

Bring the needle up from underneath the fabric at the point you want the French knot to be. Hold the thread tight around 4cm away from the point it entered the fabric. Wrap the needle around this tread twice, then re-enter the fabric very close to where the needle first came in. Pull down to create the knot.



BLANKET STITCH

Blanket stitch is so called because it is often found on the edge of blankets to finish and stop fabric fraying. It is a series of evenly spaced interlocking stitches.



Start by over stitching on the edge of the fabric, this is point 1, bringing your needle down into the fabric at point 2, making sure the thread passes

UNDERNEATH the needle (see point 3) and pull until the thread sits along the edge of the fabric. Repeat.

What's the point of a patch?

The dictionary definition of a patch is: a small piece of material used to mend a tear or break, to cover a hole, or to strengthen a weak place.

It is something to repair something else, to fix something that is broken, reducing waste, make-do and mend, a necessity for some.

A patch can also be an adornment, something to embellish something you have, a cute motif, the name of your favourite band, something to inject a little life.

For me it is all of the above, but it is also a way speaking, shouting, speaking up, and wearing my beliefs on my sleeve (chest, pocket, tote bag or backpack!)

The patches I own and make are a mixture of wearable art and protest banners, beautiful images mixed with slogans from BLACK LIVES MATTER, SUPPORT MIGRANTS, THIS IS WHAT A WORKING CLASS PERSON LOOKS LIKE to TRANS WOMEN ARE REAL WOMEN.

They create talking points, they help you find like-minded people and they let others know you support them. They look good, they fix a hole and they can show a sense of skill and pride.

What are you proud of? What would you want to wear on your sleeve?

HOW TO MAKE AN EMBROIDERED PATCH



Now is the time more than ever to be kind, to yourself, to friends and family, key workers, vulnerable people and well just everyone! So here is a patch you can make and wear to remind yourself and others to BEE KIND!!

You will need:

- Felt (around 10cm square)
- Embroidery thread (in black, yellow and white)
- Sewing needle
- Scissors
- Pencil/ Pen

OPTIONAL:

- Iron on Bondaweb (for adhering your patch)
- Safety pins (for adhering your patch)
- Sewing thread (for adhering your patch)



STEP 3



STEP 4



STEP 7



STEP 9

1. Using the template as a guide draw the bee design and lettering on to the centre of the felt.
2. The best place to start sewing is with the bee motif. Taking the yellow embroidery thread, cut a length around 50cm, split the 6 strands in to two lots of 3, thread your needle and knot at one end.
3. Start sewing the yellow stripes using **SATIN STITCH**. Once you have finished the yellow stripes, do the same with the black, using **SATIN STITCH** sew the two black stripes and tail.
4. Using the black thread, **BACK STITCH** the mouth and antennae stalks.
5. Keeping with the black thread, to create the eye and antennae ends use a **FRENCH KNOT** stitch.
6. Take the white thread, cut a length around 30cm and separate into strands of 3. Using **BACK STITCH** sew the outlines of the wings and the inner line. Whilst you still have your white thread in the needle, you can do a small stitch on top of the French knot eye.
7. Using 3 strands again, take your yellow thread and using **BACK STITCH** start on the lettering. Some letters, like E are just 4 straight stitches, but some that are curved take more, like B which is 9 stitches.
8. Cut around your patch, using the template or drawing your own circle with a 7cm diameter .
9. Cut some more black thread, around 50cm long, this time using only 2 strands. Sew round the egde of the patch using **BLANKET STITCH**.
10. Your patch is now all ready to wear. You can sew it to your chosen item with some sewing thread instead of embroidery thread, or you could use iron on Bondaweb (often used to turn up hems easily) or you could even pin the patch to your chosen item with safety pins.