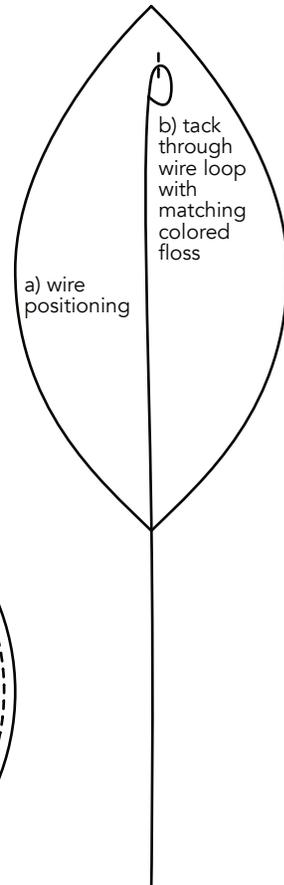
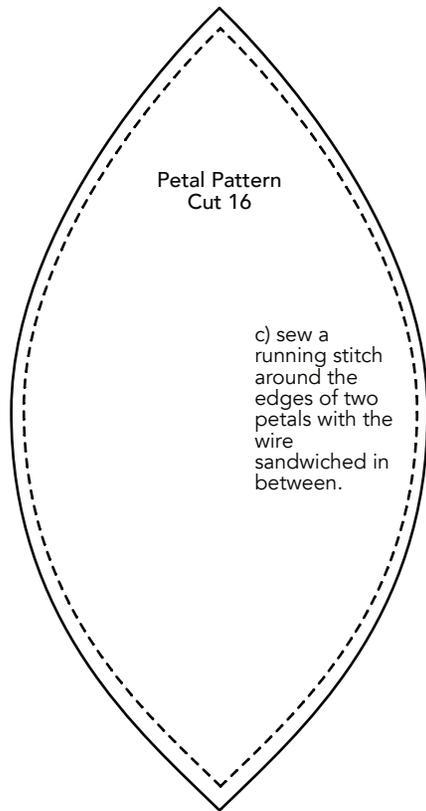


Downeast Thunder Farm Christmas Flower

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Note: Use three strands of matching colored floss throughout.

1. Cut out 16 of the petals from your choice of felt color; you'll need two pieces of petal felt for each of the finished petals. You can fit ten petals on one sheet of 9"x12" felt, so you'll need two 9"x12" felt sheets or one 12"x18" felt sheet.
2. Cut eight lengths of wire 10" long. I use 18 gauge aluminum wire. On one end of the wire, create a small loop. Position the wire with the loop at the top of the petal (figure a). Tack the loop to the felt with a few stitches just enough to hold the wire in place. Try not to let your stitches go entirely through the felt (figure b).
3. Position another petal over the petal that has the wire attached; pin to hold the wire in place. Sew a running stitch around the edge about 1/4" in from the edge (figure c). Trim up the edges where necessary with your scissors. I did this by hand, but you could absolutely use a sewing machine to sew the edges of the petals together. Repeat to create the remaining seven petals.
4. When all of your petals are complete, gather them up into a bundle - wire side down. Holding the flower petal in one hand, twist the eight wires together a few times to hold the bundle secure. Carefully fold the petals back, arranging them for display.
5. Cut out the circle. If you like, sew some seed beads or French knots to the middle of your flower ovary. Sew a loose running stitch around the edge 1/4" in from the edge (figure d), but do not tie off the end of your floss - leave a long tail. Gather up both ends of the floss and gently pull, cinching the felt and drawing the edges together. Pause to stuff a bit of fiberfill into the flower center before tightly pulling the floss together and tying off.
6. Carefully sew the flower ovary into the center of the flower.
7. If desired, spray with a light coat of adhesive spray (or Glue for Glitter) to the flower and sprinkle with glitter. Shake the excess glitter off the flower and allow it to dry.