

Talisman Brooches

To make each brooch you will need:

- Embellisher/Needlefelting machine
- Black Merino wool prefelt 3" x 12"
- White Merino wool prefelt 3" x 18"
- 1 piece of red coloured felt 3" x 3"
- Brooch fastening or safety pin
- Thread for embroidery
- Basic sewing kit (needle and small scissors)

What to do:

1. Fold the 12" strip of black prefelt to form a sandwich of 3 layers each approximately 3" x 4".
2. Pass it back and forth under the needles of the embellisher machine until the layers mesh together and a firm material is created. Turn the felt over and needlepunch from the other side too.
3. Repeat this process with 3 white prefelt layers. The black felt will become the front of the brooch. Note that the white strip is slightly longer because it will be used to make both the back of the brooch and also the shield shape on the front.
4. Cut a brooch sized rectangle from each colour of felt making sure to leave enough white felt for the shield.
5. Cut a small shield shape from the remaining white felt and a slightly smaller shield shape from the red felt.
6. Place the red shape on top of the white one and with the red side facing you, pass them back and forth under the needles of the machine to secure the layers. It is usually a good idea to begin needlepunching from the centre and work out towards the edges.
7. Attach the felted red and white shield to the black rectangle by needlepunching a vertical line down the centre from top to bottom of the rectangle.
8. Now place the black rectangle on top of the white one and needlepunch around 3 sides leaving the top edge open to form a pocket.
9. Trim edges slightly with scissors to neaten if required.
10. Embellish the edges by decorating with blanket stitch worked in a coordinating embroidery thread.
11. Attach a fastening to the back of the brooch, stitching only into the white felt layer.
12. Write out a special message and hide it inside the pocket – your talisman brooch is complete!

Things to try:

How about adding more embroidery? Little random cross stitches work really well as do simple straight stitches used to form columns or bands. Just remember not to sew through the pocket!

This is an opportunity to use up odd beads and buttons from your collection. Natural shell buttons are particularly effective and you'll probably only need 3 or 4.

When you blanket stitch the edge of the brooch, how about adding a small glass bead with every stitch?

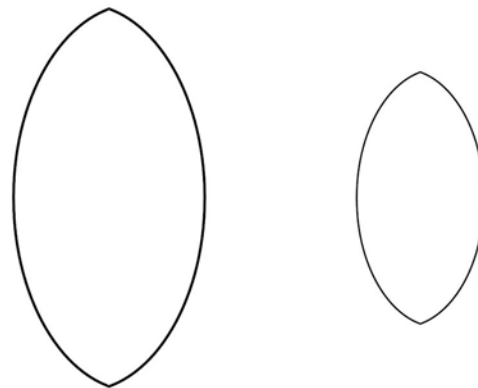
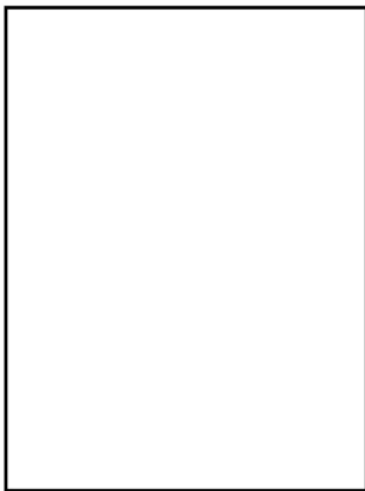
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You can cut your own shapes for the Talisman Brooches or use the pattern pieces below.



The grey shading on the diagram (left) indicates the areas to needle felt. Don't forget, if you want to make your brooch have a secret pocket that you'll need to felt the shield shapes to the black backing piece only, then felt around the edges on three sides to attach to the black piece to the white backing.



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