

## Spring Forward

### Cynthia Treen Studio

With warm weather this winter in Providence,

And a shiny new snow blower at rest in the shed,

I have decided to let go of white winter visions,

And look forward to spring precipitation instead!

This little frog prince is ready for spring showers under his snappy new felt umbrella.

To make this felt umbrella follow the step-by-step tutorial below.

Umbrella materials and tools:

Light blue wool felt for umbrella top: approximately 8" by 8" piece,

Gold felt for Spokes and handle: approximately 2" by 8" piece

Red felt for decorative dots: approximately 3" by 5" piece

Embroidery thread: Light blue and gold thread to match felt.

A light weight metal hanger (from a drycleaner) OR thin wooden/bamboo skewers

Fabric glue

Sturdy wire cutters

Scissors

Embroidery needle

Note about Embroidery thread: embroidery thread is made up of 6 strands plied together. Cut thread into 30- to 36-inch lengths (longer threads can easily tangle). Separate each length into two 3-ply strands of thread to stitch this umbrella.

MAKE IT!

### 1. Cut hanger or skewers

Cut the hanger or skewers to length for the handle and the spokes of the umbrella. Use a sturdy pair of wire cutters and hold on to the pieces as you cut them.

Cut handle: 8-inches long

Cut 7 spokes: 1¾-inches long

### 2. Cut felt pieces

Cut felt pattern pieces from downloadable PDF:

7- light blue felt umbrella pieces

7- red felt dots

7- gold felt spoke pieces

1- gold felt handle

Note: The width dimension of the felt pieces needed for the handle and spokes may vary slightly from the pattern depending on the thickness of the hanger or skewers you use.

### 3. Stitch felt to spokes and handle

Using a 3-ply strand of embroidery thread, whip stitch felt around the handle (1 pc) and spokes (7pcs) using a small seam allowance (about 1/16<sup>th</sup> of an inch) so that the felt wraps snugly around the handle and spokes.

### 4. Radiating spokes

Using a 3-ply strand of embroidery thread, whip stitch one end of each spoke to the next (overlapping each end slightly) until you have made a circle of radiating spokes with a hole in the center. Try to keep the hole as small as possible so it will be a snug fit around the handle.

### 5. Handle through spokes

Slip the handle through the hole in the center of the spokes.

### 6. Stitch pieces-glue dots

Using a 3-ply strand of embroidery thread, whipstitch the 7 pieces of light blue felt together for the umbrella with a small seam allowance (about 1/16<sup>th</sup> of an inch). Use fabric glue to attach the red dots to the umbrella in any placement that you like.

#### 7. Connect first and last

Connect the first and last light blue piece of felt to make a full circle. There should be a small hole in the center where the points join.

#### 8. Handle through umbrella

Slip the top of the handle through the hole in the umbrella where the points join and open the spokes so each spoke end is matched with a seam.

#### 9. Stitch handle to umbrella

Stitch the points of the umbrella to the felt wrapped handle leaving about ¼ inch of the handle exposed above the umbrella points.

#### 10. Handle bending

(Optional) If you are using the metal hanger for your handle, use pliers to bend the handle so its end is curved.

#### 11. Turn inside out

Turn the umbrella inside out (like you were caught on a very windy day). Stitch the ends of the spokes to the seams of the umbrella where they fall naturally.

#### 12. Umbrella beauty

Turn the umbrella right side out and get ready for spring!