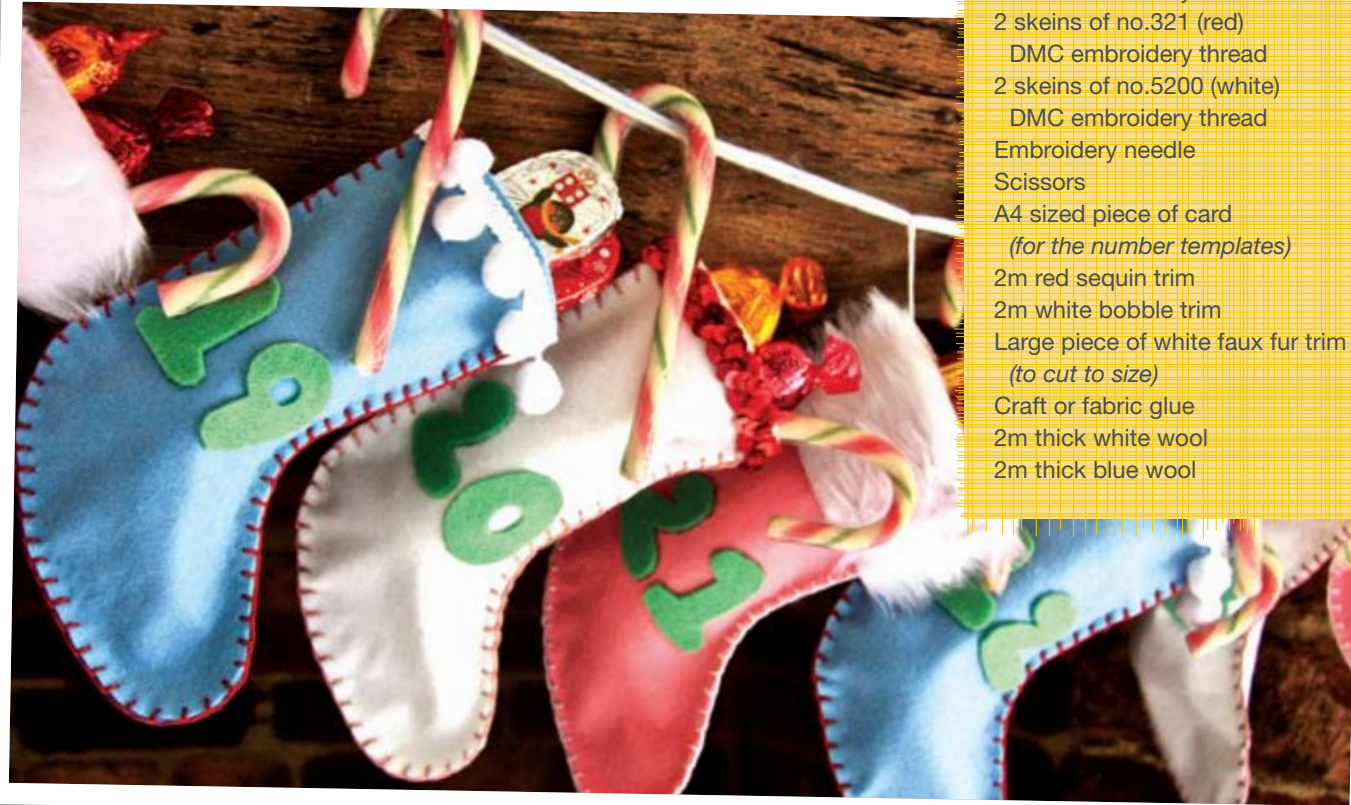


Christmas countdown

You will need:
 2 x 45cm squares of blue felt
 2 x 45cm squares of pink felt
 2 x 45cm squares of white felt
 1 x 45cm square of green felt
(for the numbers)
 2 skeins of no.152 (pink)
 DMC embroidery thread
 2 skeins of no.321 (red)
 DMC embroidery thread
 2 skeins of no.5200 (white)
 DMC embroidery thread
 Embroidery needle
 Scissors
 A4 sized piece of card
(for the number templates)
 2m red sequin trim
 2m white bobble trim
 Large piece of white faux fur trim
(to cut to size)
 Craft or fabric glue
 2m thick white wool
 2m thick blue wool



Count down to Christmas with a fun advent calendar. By Cherry Menlove

cherry menlove

I wanted my stocking advent calendar to be an heirloom craft; a project that would stand the test of time and a craft that I could bring out year after year, perhaps even becoming a decoration that I pass down to my children. This project is almost solely made out of felt, a fabric that I really enjoy working with as it is so easy to cut and stitch. This particular craft will take time to complete, but once it is complete, I guarantee that you will be happy with your efforts and enjoy them for many years to come!

1. Print out your stocking template (p84) onto A4 paper and cut it out.
2. Based on the felt size pieces given, you will be able to draw out four complete stocking templates (front and back) on each piece of felt (image 1).
3. Draw around the stocking template and cut out the shapes (image 2). You should end up with 48 felt stocking pieces in total; 16 blue, 16 pink and 16 white.
4. To stitch the stockings together I used a pink thread on the white stockings, bright red thread on the blue and white thread on the pink (images 3 and 5).
5. I used blanket stitch all the way around the sides, leaving the top of the stocking open (image 4).
6. To hang each of the stockings I used a 3.8cm length of the same coloured embroidery thread used to stitch them together. I threaded it through the top left hand side of the stocking, so the toe is pointing to the bottom right when you look at it from the front. I then tied the thread into a loop and secured it with a knot (image 6).
7. To decorate the stockings I used a very Christmassy sparkly red trim for the top of the white stockings, securing the trim using some fabric glue. To decorate the blue stockings I used some white bobble trim. For the pink I kept it traditional and used a white faux fur trim (image 7).
8. Draw out the numbers from 0-9 onto a piece of card and cut them out. Then draw around the cardboard number templates onto the green felt from 1-24, cut them out.



9. When all the numbers are cut, stick them onto the stockings with some craft glue (image 8). I alternated the colours of the stockings as I glued the numbers on.
10. To make the stockings into a hanging garland, I twisted two pieces of thick wool together to ensure that when the stockings were full of treats, the wool would be strong enough to support all 24 of them.
11. The stockings were then threaded onto the wool in numerical order and the ends of the wool were tied in place onto hooks at either side of the fireplace.
12. I then filled the stockings with delicious treats for the 24 days of advent, including sweets, chocolates, candy canes etc.

Making notes

Tips

The length of wool used for this garland was the correct size for my fireplace; you may decide to make yours longer or shorter depending on where you are going to hang your stocking advent garland.

Resources

[To be added! None provided]
 [To be added! None provided]