

Thread Tails: Gopher Tortoises

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www.creativebug.com/lib/sarasota

Consider viewing the classes *Hand Sew Farm Animal Finger Puppets* and/or *Hand Sew an Easter Chick Softie and Basket* for more hand sewing projects.

Supplies:

- Felt (6x9, minimum)
- Embroidery/crewel needle (Size 5)
- Embroidery floss or Sachiko thread
- Scissors (not included)

Cut out the pattern pieces from felt. If desired, trace the pattern pieces on a new piece of paper to keep this instruction sheet in tact.

- 1 shell belly
- 1 shell top, Cut triangles wedges as marked
- 1 head piece (Recommended: hides backside of eye stitches between layers)
- 2 front legs (optional, for more thickness)
- 2 back legs (optional, for more thickness)

Let's Sew!

- Darts (notches) in the top shell, with a close stitch along the edge. Remember to knot or hide the starting and ending thread tails.
 - Fold the cutout wedges so the straight edges are together and the shell edge points match. Jamie recommends a whipstitch.
- Sew eyes onto separate head felt. Use a 6-strand floss.
 - Knot the thread.
 - Start from the bottom of the head at desired eye point. Sew a tiny x.
 - Without cutting floss, start at desired second eye point. Sew a tiny x.
 - Secure with a knot. Trim excess thread.
- Sew head onto belly. Optional: sew legs onto body.
 - Align pieces to the matching parts of the belly.
 - Use a Blanket stitch. (Knot/hide the thread tails.)
 - Optional: Add a tiny amount of stuffing to provide a little loft. Gently push into place.
- Sew top onto belly.
 - Align the shell edges and center the dart seams on each leg.
 - Use a blanket stitch. (Knot/hide the thread tails)
 - Use a clip to hold the next leg in place to help 'ease' the excess felt as you sew. The seam may look a tiny bit scrunched/wavy.
 - Leave a small gap for stuffing.
 - If necessary/desired, unthread the needle, pick out the stitches and re-thread the needle to try again.



