

Maintenance- free houseplants: non- prickly cacti

Materials: craft felt,polyester filling,strong sewing thread,
stranded cotton.

Cushion cactus



Run long length of strong thread around edge of felt circle.



Place ball of polyester filling in circle and gather edge.



Add more filling to fill out sphere before tightening and securing with a stitch.



Take thread up through stuffing to centre top, around the outside, and back up through centre pulling tight.



Repeat, wrapping thread around opposite side to bisect the felt ball.



Repeat at right angles to divide the ball into quarters.



Repeat 4 more times, taking thread around the outside bisecting the quarters and creating 8 equal segments.





Take thread back down through centre and secure with a stitch.



Stitch small circle to cover opening.

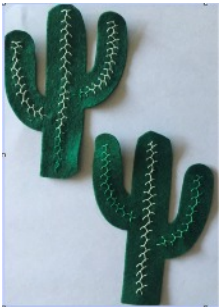


With contrasting thread decorate each segment with a line of stitches down the centre.
Suggested stitches: chain stitches, feather stitch- anything to create a raised line.

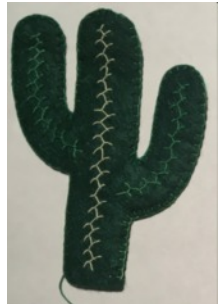


Finish off with a flower using a looped stitch trimmed to size.

Branch cactus.



Decorate the felt pieces as mirror images with suitable stitches in contrasting colours.
(Alternatively this may be done after stitching and stuffing the shape)



Place pieces with wrong sides together and stitch around the edges, leaving bottom open.



Stuff firmly with small amounts of polyester filling using a blunt pusher- I use a bamboo chopstick.

Join bottom edge, inserting a cocktail stick in the stuffing if you wish to secure it in a base to stand upright- polystyrene, plasticene etc.