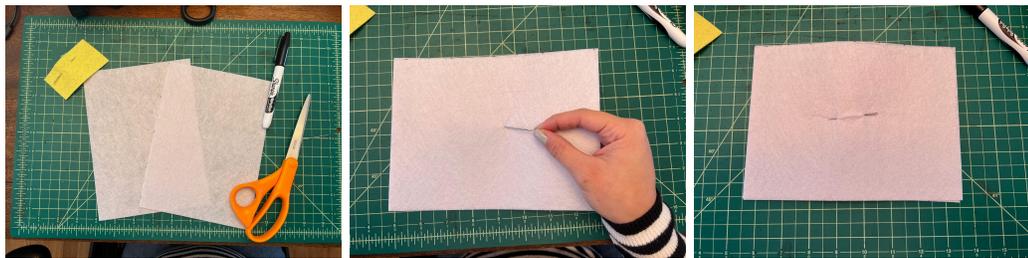


# MAKER SKILLS LIBRARY

## Maker Skill: Whip Stitch

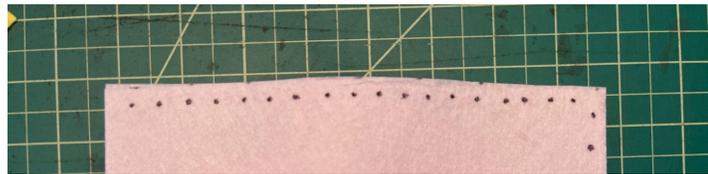
A whip stitch is a great skill for beginners and can be used to easily attach two pieces of fabric together around their edges.

1. Begin by cutting out and aligning the two pieces of fabric you want to sew together. To ensure the fabric pieces stay aligned, insert one or more pins to hold them together.



2. Optionally, use a fabric marker or disappearing ink marker to make dots on one of the pieces of fabric around the edges you plan to sew. Only do this on one side of the fabric, and keep this side facing up towards you as you sew. This is a very handy trick for beginners and younger sewers, but may not be necessary as you get more comfortable with the whip stitch.

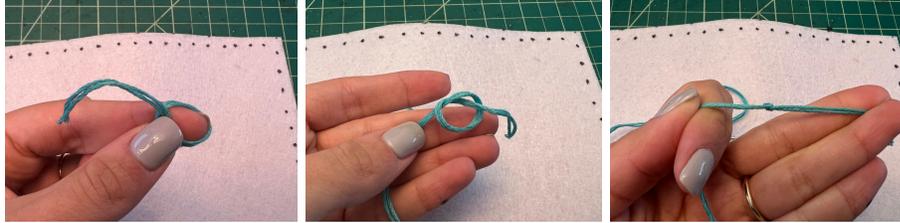
*Note: The distance between the dots will determine the length of your stitches. More dots means more stitches, which will create a stronger seam but take more time to complete. The dots in the example photos are about half an inch apart, and about a quarter inch away from the edge of the fabric.*



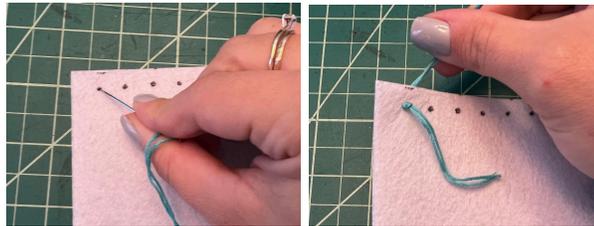
3. Cut a piece of thread or embroidery floss about the length of your arm. Thread one end through the eye of your needle, then pull that end through until the needle rests about halfway down the thread.



4. Align the two ends of the thread and tie a knot by looping both ends together around one finger, then tucking the ends into the loop and pulling through. Holding the thread at the knot, pull the needle as far as your can to ensure it is in the middle of the thread.



5. Begin stitching by poking the needle through both pieces of fabric at one of the dots. Pull the needle until all of the thread passes through the fabric and the knot reaches the fabric. The needle will now be on the opposite side of the fabric (without dots).



6. Bring the needle back over the edge of the fabric to the dotted side of the fabric, and repeat Step 5 at the next dot. Continue stitching by repeating Step 5 at each subsequent dot.



7. When you're nearing the end of your thread or you reach your last stitch, create a knot by inserting the needle through the same hole as the most recent stitch. Before pulling the needle all the way through, insert it through the loop created by the stitch, then pull through to create a knot. For an even stronger hold, repeat this step again on the same stitch.



*Tip for younger sewers:*

*It can be difficult for younger sewers to hold the fabric up in the air and poke the needle through at the same time. To help, cut a piece of thick foam, like a pool noodle, and tape it to the work surface. Lie the fabric down directly on top of the foam and poke the needle through into the foam for each stitch. Then raise the fabric, remove the needle from the foam, and pull the needle to move the thread the rest of the way through the fabric.*

