

# Alutiiq Stitching

Developed by Susan Malutin



Use these instructions to create a small felt pouch and practice Alutiiq stitching techniques. Watch these videos for a demonstration by Susan Malutin:

<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/learn/the-alutiiq-sugpiaq-people/cultural-arts/skin-sewing>



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## SUPPLIES

Felt  
Embroidery Thread—6 strands (number 8)  
3 Needles—Fabric, Tapestry, Tapestry Round Point  
Needle Threader  
Pencil  
Pins  
Scissors  
Pouch Pattern



## DIRECTIONS

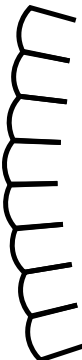
1. Cut felt to create pieces for a small pouch.

You will make a back piece (large oval) and a pocket piece (half oval).


- Cut out the paper templates on the next pages.
- Lay them over a piece of felt and secure them with pins.
- Cut out the felt around the edge of the patterns to create the two pattern pieces.
- Lay the small pocket piece on one end of the large, oval, back piece. Align the edges carefully and pin together.

2. Sew the pieces of felt together with the following stitches.


### **Blanket Stitch**—for edging, curved lines, or round stitching

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- The diagram shows a series of connected loops, resembling a chain, which represents the blanket stitch. Each loop is formed by the thread passing over the edge of the fabric and then under itself to create a loop.
- a. Thread a tapestry needle with a length of embroidery thread, using all six strands.
  - b. Make a “momma’s” knot at the end of the thread—moisten our fingers, wrap the string around your finger, and pull the end through the loop of thread.
  - c. Secure your knotted thread by pulling the needle through the back piece of felt. Start just behind the small oval piece of felt, about  $\frac{1}{4}$ ” below the straight edge of the material. Push the needle through the felt, away from you to hide the knot between the two pieces of fabric.
  - d. To stitch, bring the thread over the edge of the fabric and push it through the front of the felt. Then pass the needle through the loop created by the stitch and pull tight.
  - e. Continue sewing. Make each stitch about a  $\frac{1}{4}$ ” apart and about  $\frac{1}{4}$ ” long. Use a pencil to make a fine line around the edge of the pouch  $\frac{1}{4}$ ” from the edge as a guide.
  - f. When you’ve stitched around the pouch, hide a final knot between the two pieces of fabric.

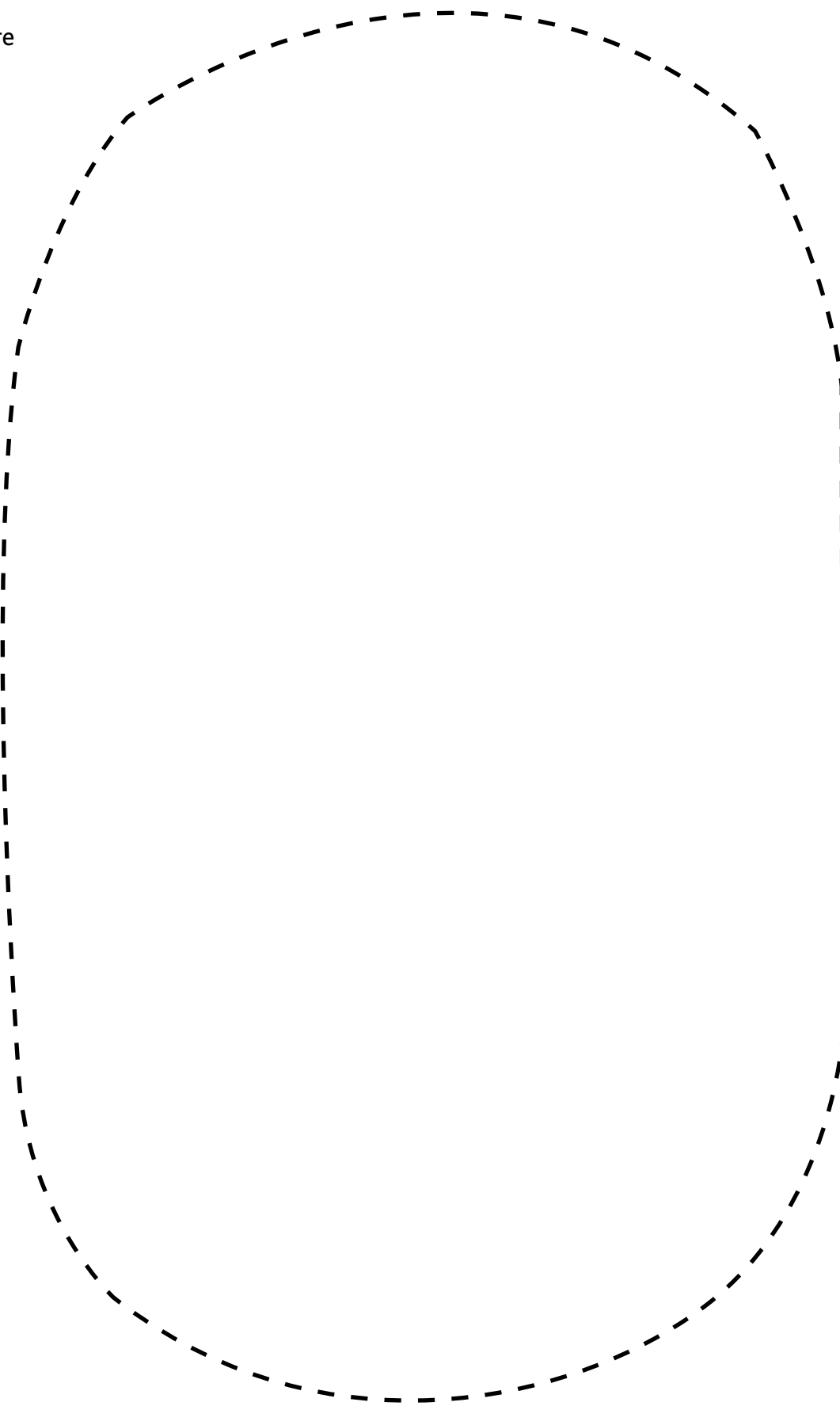
### **Running Stitch**—for outlining straight or curved lines

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- The diagram shows a vertical line with a series of small, evenly spaced vertical dashes or stitches along it, representing the running stitch.
- a. Cut a length of embroidery thread and separate it into strands.
  - b. Thread a fabric needle using one strand of embroidery thread.
  - c. Make a “momma’s” knot at the end of the thread and secure it between the two pieces of felt.
  - d. Start from bottom of the back piece and bring thread through both pieces. Then stitch down through both pieces of fabric working parallel to the edge of the felt.
  - e. The spaces between your stitches should be the same length so you can add a laced running stitch.
  - f. When you’ve stitched around the pouch, hide a final knot between the two pieces of fabric.

### **Laced Running Stitch**—for borders and decorative outlining

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- The diagram shows a vertical line with a series of small, evenly spaced vertical dashes or stitches along it. The thread is shown in two colors, red and blue, and the stitches are formed by the thread passing over and under each other in a laced pattern.
- a. Thread a Tapestry Round Point needle with a length of embroidery thread, using all six strands.
  - b. Make a “momma’s” knot at the end of the thread and secure it between the two pieces of felt.
  - c. Starting from underside of the pocket felt, bring the thread up through the fabric and lace it under each running stitch, working back and forward. Alternate lacing from the right and the left with each stitch.
  - d. When you’ve stitched around the pouch, hide a final knot between the two pieces of fabric.

Pouch Template  
Back



Pouch Template  
Pocket

