

TWO SIZES OF FOLK CAT ~ 4" and 3"

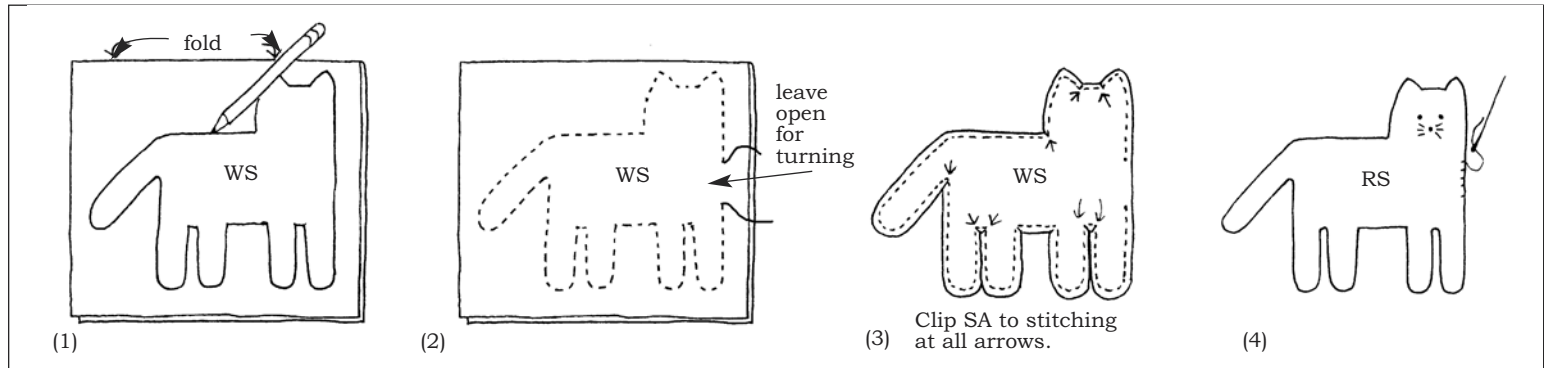
Intended as accessories for dolls

by Gail Wilson ©

This small cat is easy and can be done in a relatively short period of time. You may enjoy doing it so much (and people are really attracted to it, simple as it is) that you may wish to make lots of them for gifts or even ornaments. They can be done in plain colors as well as prints and flannels are good too.

The reason this cat was included because I have a picture of one Izannah with a folk cat very similar to this and have seen two other pictures with cats as accessories. In addition, it is a nod to the idea that Izannah Walker drew her painting style for her dolls' faces from itinerant portrait painters of the day who have left us a legacy of serious-faced early American children, many of whom posed with a favorite toy just like these folk cats.

- (1) With fabric folded in half (the fold is not important - just that it is double fabric layers) and WS out, draw around the cat pattern, noting where to leave opening.
- (2) Sew the cat on the drawn line reinforcing on either side of opening. When you get to a corner, try to end your sewing with the sewing machine needle down in the cloth right at the corner, then lift the presser foot and turn to continue sewing. This gives a nice crisp corner. A lot of newer sewing machines have a down stop needle position that is great for this, but even before I had such a luxury, this was the best thing to do.
- (3) Cut out leaving a $\frac{1}{8}$ " SA outside stitching. Clip the SA right up to the stitching at all arrows. When clipping seam allowances, you must get right up to the stitching or you will not get a good crisp corner.



- (4) Now turn cat RS out, pointing ears and fully turning all legs and tail. I use hemostats to go into each leg and tail, grab a good amount of cloth (so teeth of hemostats do not tear as they may if you grab just a few threads), and then pull RS out. Watch out not to stress the fabric at the opening where the stitches end. I recommend stuffing using hemostats and a non-slippery poly until cat is *fully* stuffed and puffy but not very firm. Once you have it stuffed, check the ears, toes and tail end to make sure there is stuffing all the way in there. If not, work in a small stuffing fork if you have one (or the tips of hemostats) to work some nearby stuffing done into those areas. If there are creases at the leg tops, it is because of space in the stuffing and you need to work some from the body of the cat into the crease area to blend the two together. Some creasing will disappear with the ironing in the next step. Now to get the vintage flat look, iron cat with a hot iron. One of the hardest things to do in doll-making is stuff something well and at the same time flat and smooth. It is easier to get this flat look with ironing than with just plain stuffing technique, but you must be using a poly type stuffing as what you will be doing in ironing, is actually melting some of the poly. The idea is to stuff full and puffy, then iron flat. If you had the stuffing too thin and now the cat feels too skimpy, you may add more stuffing and repeat. Try to get all the stuffing even for best results. Hand sew opening closed with a single thread. With two strands of embroidery floss embroider the cat's simple face as shown on the pattern. Or, you can use buttons for eyes like the photo above of a real Izannah with her cat.

CAT FACE EMBROIDERY

