

Start Here: your felt birthday crown

Crown & Thimble · Print, Trace, Stitch

Welcome. This kit gives you three crown shapes, three sizes, four appliqué themes and a step-by-step guide to turn them into a felt birthday crown in one afternoon. No sewing machine is needed: simple hand stitches work well, and a machine works too.

What is in your kit

- This Start Here guide (materials, shopping checklist, 5 illustrated steps, sizing math)
- Crown patterns: Classic Points, Scallop and Tiara Peak, each in Baby, Kid and Teen / Adult sizes
- Appliqué themes: Rainbow, Little Dino, Wildflower and Under the Sea, with numbered layers and felt color suggestions
- Files for A4 and US Letter paper (file names end in -a4 or -letter)

Choose your size

Size	Head circumference	Felt piece (L x H)	Elastic to cut
Baby 0-2	44-48 cm / 17.3-18.9 in	26 x 8 cm	17.5 cm
Kid 3-8	49-53 cm / 19.3-20.9 in	32 x 10 cm	16.5 cm
Teen / Adult	54-58 cm / 21.3-22.8 in	38 x 11 cm	16 cm

Measure the head with a soft tape just above the eyebrows and ears. If it falls between two sizes, choose the larger: the elastic is adjustable and the fit math on page 6 shows you how.

How it works: Print, Trace, Stitch

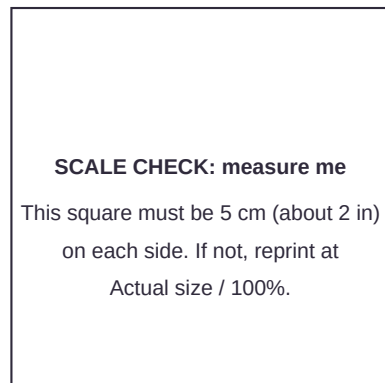
1 PRINT the pattern at Actual size / 100% and check the scale square. 2 TRACE the paper shapes on felt. 3 STITCH layers in numbered order and finish with the elastic band.

Supplies (felt, thread, elastic, interfacing) are not included; the shopping checklist is on page 3. This kit is digital: nothing is shipped.

Step 0: print check

Do this once before printing any pattern

Open the PDF and choose Actual size or 100% in the print dialog. Do not choose "Fit to page" or "Shrink to printable area". Print this page, then measure the square below with a ruler. It must be 5 cm (about 2 in) on every side, and the line under it exactly 10 cm.



This line is exactly 10 cm.

If it measures short or long:

- Choose "Actual size" or "100%" in your viewer print dialog.
- In your printer settings turn off "scale to fit", "borderless" and "ink saver" resizing.
- Check that the paper size is set to A4 or US Letter, matching the file name.
- Print again and measure.

Materials and shopping checklist

Supplies are not included · for one crown

☐ **Felt (main crown color)**

One piece of craft felt at least 40 x 15 cm (16 x 6 in): a 12 x 18 in (30 x 45 cm) sheet works for every size, or cut from felt by the meter / yard. Wool-blend felt is sturdier; acrylic felt is cheaper.

☐ **Backing felt**

Same size as the crown piece, in the same or a matching color. Gives a tidy inside and hides the stitches.

☐ **Appliqué felt scraps**

9 x 12 in (23 x 30 cm) sheets or small squares in the colors listed on your theme page.

☐ **Iron-on interfacing (fusible stabilizer)**

Medium-weight, heat-activated, about 40 x 15 cm. Makes the crown stand tall. Alternative: cardstock hidden between the felt layers (not washable).

☐ **Thread or embroidery floss**

Thread in a matching color, or 6-strand embroidery floss in a contrast color if you want visible stitches.

☐ **Flat elastic, 12 mm (1/2 in) wide**

About 20 cm (8 in) is enough for any size; the exact cut length for each size is on page 6. Alternative: soft knit elastic or a hair-tie band.

☐ **Needle and small scissors**

Embroidery needle with a medium eye; sharp small scissors for felt.

☐ **Chalk or washable pen, pins, iron**

To trace, hold layers together and fuse the interfacing.

☐ **Optional: fabric glue or felt glue dots**

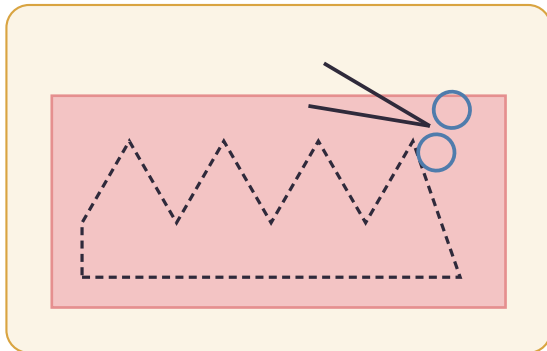
To hold small pieces in place before stitching. Not required.

☐ **Optional: sewing machine**

A straight stitch is enough. Everything in this kit can also be done by hand.

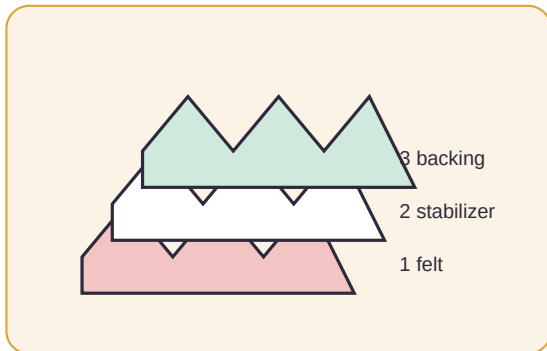
The five steps

Illustrations are simplified drawings, not to scale



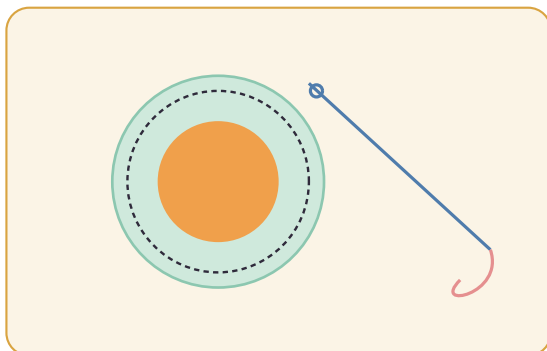
Step 1: Cut

Print your chosen crown pattern at 100% (join tiles if there are any, taping on the back). Cut the paper shape. Pin it to the felt, trace around it with chalk, and cut the felt. Repeat on the backing felt and on the interfacing, cutting the interfacing 3 mm smaller all around so it will not stick to the iron.



Step 2: Stack the layers

Fuse the interfacing to the back of the main felt crown (follow the interfacing instructions: usually a dry iron on medium heat for 10 seconds per area). Cut your appliqué shapes from the theme page and lay them out in numbered order: layer 1 goes on first, layer 2 on top of it, and so on. Pin or dab with glue.

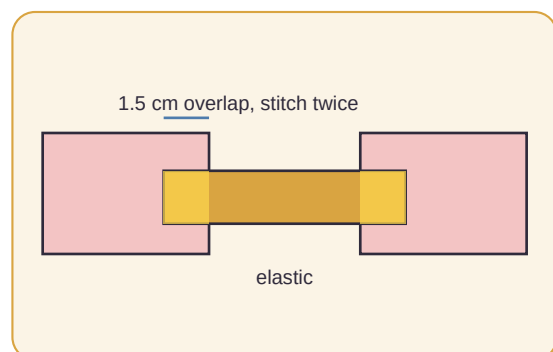


Step 3: Sew the appliques

Using a small running stitch or whip stitch, sew each layer 2-3 mm from its edge, starting with layer 1. Knot at the back. For a machine, use a straight stitch and go slowly around curves. Sew the center-front tick on the crown pattern up to the middle of the appliqué so your design is centered.

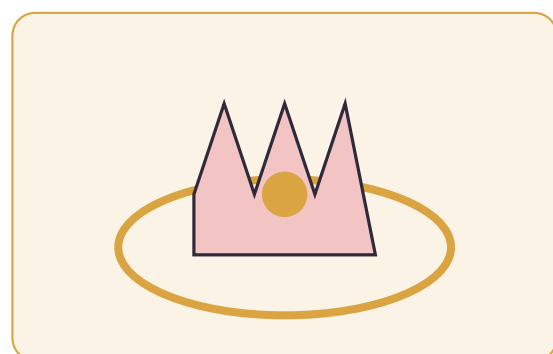
The five steps (continued)

Illustrations are simplified drawings, not to scale



Step 4: Join the elastic band

Cut the elastic to the length listed for your size (page 6). Lay one end 1.5 cm over the back of one felt end, and stitch it down twice (a small square with an X works well). Do the same on the other end. Place the backing felt over the back so the elastic ends are hidden.



Step 5: Finish

Stitch the backing felt to the front around the edge with a blanket stitch or whip stitch. Trim loose threads and press the crown flat with a cloth. Try it on and adjust the elastic stitching if needed. Write the date and year inside the crown with a fabric pen: the Birthday Tradition Printables add a register for this.

Tip: hand stitches look charming and are strong enough for a birthday crown. If you are new to sewing, practice a few stitches on a felt scrap first.

Sizing and elastic math

Why the band fits many heads in each size

The felt crown sits at the front of the head. The elastic closes the gap at the back. Elastic gap = head circumference - felt length. The elastic is cut shorter than the gap, so it stretches to fit; 1.5 cm of elastic is sewn under each felt end.

Baby 0-2: head 44-48 cm (17.3-18.9 in)

Felt length 26 cm (10.2 in) · height 8 cm (3.1 in)

Gap to close with elastic: 18 cm (smallest head) to 22 cm (largest head)

Visible elastic, unstretched: 14.5 cm · plus 2 x 1.5 cm overlap = cut 17.5 cm (6.9 in)

Stretch needed: 1.24x on the smallest head, 1.52x on the largest (flat 12 mm elastic stretches 1.5x or more)

Kid 3-8: head 49-53 cm (19.3-20.9 in)

Felt length 32 cm (12.6 in) · height 10 cm (3.9 in)

Gap to close with elastic: 17 cm (smallest head) to 21 cm (largest head)

Visible elastic, unstretched: 13.5 cm · plus 2 x 1.5 cm overlap = cut 16.5 cm (6.5 in)

Stretch needed: 1.26x on the smallest head, 1.56x on the largest (flat 12 mm elastic stretches 1.5x or more)

Teen / Adult: head 54-58 cm (21.3-22.8 in)

Felt length 38 cm (15.0 in) · height 11 cm (4.3 in)

Gap to close with elastic: 16 cm (smallest head) to 20 cm (largest head)

Visible elastic, unstretched: 13 cm · plus 2 x 1.5 cm overlap = cut 16 cm (6.3 in)

Stretch needed: 1.23x on the smallest head, 1.54x on the largest (flat 12 mm elastic stretches 1.5x or more)

Fit tip: after sewing one end, try the crown on and pin the other end before the final stitches. You can always shorten the elastic. If you sew the elastic with a zigzag, add 1 cm to the cut length.