

Tomayto, Tomahto—Finishing Tutorial

Supply list *(you will need your usual stitching supplies and leftover project threads)*

Tomayto Tray

- 8" x 8" - red wool & 8" x 8" - beige plaid wool
- 2 pieces paper backed Fusible
- Weeks Dye Works Red Rocks floss (or DMC to match)
- Sharp or chenille needle

Tomayto Tray insert

- 5" x 5" piece of matboard
- 2 pieces of batting—I use Warm & Natural
- Magnet—small round strong magnet (we will need 1 for tray & 1 for tomahto)

Tomahto

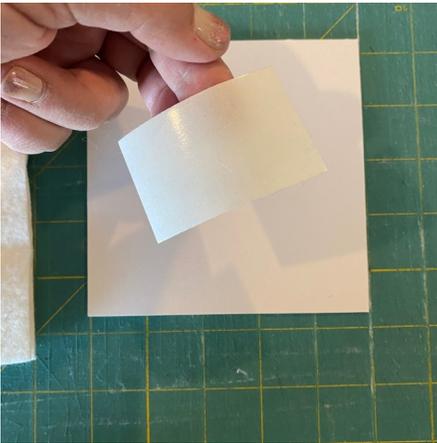
- 5" x 5" - green wool - this will be for the tomahto crown, stem & base
- Magnet (to match the one in the tray)
- A few ball end pins for décor, a woolfelt ball for a 'strawberry' is fun



Finishing—Tomayto Tray

Let's begin finishing your Tomayto Tray insert! Grab your stitching, 5 x 5 mat board, batting, & magnet. You will also need some scissors, lacing thread (I use 1 strand of upholstery weight thread), a marker & a small amount of double sided acid free stitchery tape. A cutting mat, ruler & rotary cutter are also helpful.

You will not need to make any accommodations to the Tomayto Tray finishing if you are using aida.



1. Cut a piece of double sided (DS) tape and attach to the center of the mat board.



2. Stack the 2 pieces of batting. Remove the paper backing from the DS tape. Place mat board, tape side down onto the batting. Trim excess batting with scissors or rotary cutter. (I like to leave a scant bit showing beyond the edge of the mat board.)



3. Center the stitching by holding linen & batting covered mat board up to the light. I find it helps to fold edges of the linen to the back to gauge how centered the stitching is.



4. Turn linen & batting covered mat board face down onto cutting mat. (keep stitched image centered). Use ruler & rotary cutter to trim linen to 1 1/2" from the edge of the mat board.



5. This picture shows what your linen will look like when it is all trimmed.



6. A magnet will be placed between the 2 layers of batting in the center of the large tomayto (where my finger is pointing).



7. I found it helpful to mark a dot on the bottom layer of batting where I will place the magnet.

- Fold the linen & top piece of batting back to where your finger is, mark lightly with a pen or marker.
- Magnets: Mark the outside of **both** magnets with a permanent marker. The marked side will be attached to the batting (and then later to the linen of the Tomahto) - this helps to ensure that the magnets will 'stick' to each other.





8. Separate the magnets & put one aside for now. Cut a small piece of DS tape and attach to marked side of the magnet.



9. Remove paper backing of DS tape & place tape side down onto the spot that you marked earlier in step 7.



10. Check to make sure that your stitching is still centered. Run your fingers over the large tomayto to make sure that the magnet is in the correct spot (centered under tomayto).



11. Once again, lay the linen, stitched side down, onto the cutting mat to prepare to lace.

- Thread up a needle with a long length of lacing thread. Knot the end.



12. Fold opposite sides of linen over the matboard. Anchor your thread on the top right corner of the linen. Take a 2nd stitch close to the 1st stitch—note that my needle & thread are running parallel to the edge of the linen.



13. Lace across to the other side of the linen using the same 'scooping' motion that you did in the 1st stitch. The needle should always run parallel to the edge of the linen about 1/2" away from the inside edge.



14. Scoop back and forth across the linen—pull the thread evenly tight with each stitch.

- Scoop & lace across the linen to the opposite side. Make a knot to secure your 1st side of lacing stitches.
- Check the front again and adjust as necessary before the opposite side is laced & locks the stitching in place.





15. Fold the remaining side of linen over the matboard.

- The linen naturally pulls in at the corners from lacing the previous side.



16. Secure the corner with a few tacking stitches to get a crisp looking corner on the front side (refer to photos in steps 15 & 16).



17. Repeat the tacking stitches for the opposite corner.



18. Scoop & lace across the linen to the opposite side. Repeat the tacking stitches for the opposite corners. Secure with a knot through the linen.

- Picture shows what your completed lacing will look like.



19. Gather the 2 squares of wool, 2 pieces of Paper Backed Fusible, 2nd skein of Weeks Dye Works Red Rocks floss, and your laced Tomayto Tray insert.



20. Take a moment & read through the information sheets about using paper backed fusible interfacing if you have not used this type of product before.



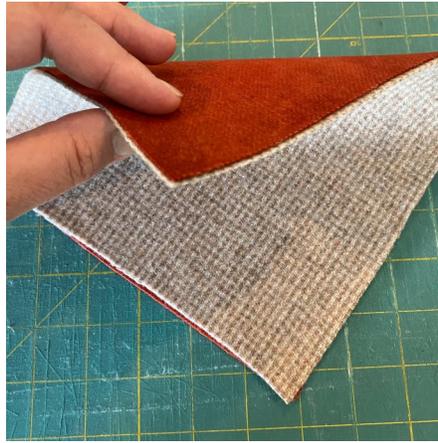
21. Cut 2 pieces of paper backed fusible just slightly smaller than the wool squares. (see photo in step 20.)

- Adhere the fusible to the wool then remove paper backing. You may need to *remove the paper backing from the inside per instruction. I had a good adherence so I was OK pulling the corner as in the photo.*





22. Stack the 2 pieces of wool with the fused sides together. Press again following the instructions. I did find that this took a little longer than applying the fusible in the 1st steps. Steam helped.



23. This is what your 2 pieces will look like once they are fused together.



24. Square up your fused wool on a cutting mat & trim the 8 x 8" square to a final 7 x 7" square. Make sure that you are trimming off the little bit of edge where there is no fusible between the layers.



25. Thread up the chenille needle with 3 long strands of Red Rocks floss. I marked a line 1/4" away from the edge with a Frixion marker to use as a stitch guide. The marker will disappear with a little heat from the iron.

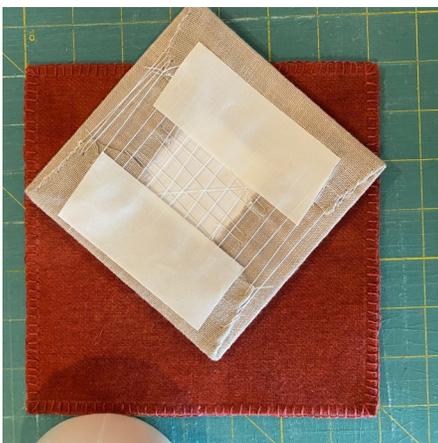


26. Follow the Blanket Stitch direction on the Basic Applique Instructions page in your kit. Try to make your stitches evenly spaced & deep.

- Hint: I started with my knotted end on the red wool side so that the red knot would disappear into the red wool.



27. Decide which side of the wool you would like to have as the inside of your tray.



28. Cover the back of your laced square with DS tape. (It's not my favorite, but you can use fabric glue or hot glue here as well.)

- Remove the paper backing of the DS tape & center the laced stitching on the wool.





29. Line up the edges of the wool at a corner to help form the sides of your tray. I folded 3/4" to 1" of the corner sides together.



30. Thread up the chenille needle with 6 strands of Red Rocks. Run the chenille needle from side to side about 1/4" away from the top of the wool (in line with the blanket stitches).



31. Tie the 2 ends of the 6-strand floss in a square knot. Pull tight to bring each of the sides together.



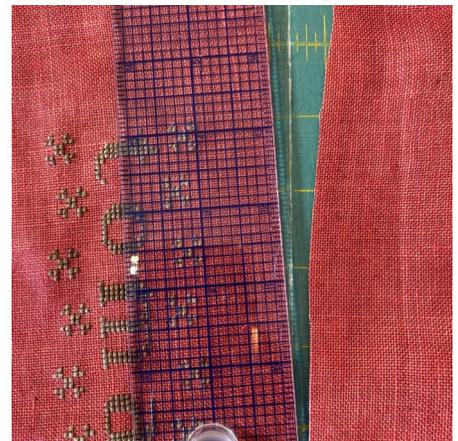
32. Trim the ends of the floss (I left about a 3/8" tail). Repeat for the remaining corners.

Your Tomayto Tray is complete!



33. Let's get your Tomahto pincushion finished! The linen & aida should be cut to a final size of 8" wide & 4" tall for finishing.

Linen stitchers: measure 1" above & below your stitching—this plus the stitched image should equal 4" .



34. Once you confirm your 4" height—use a ruler & rotary cutter (or scissors) to trim the linen (1" top & bottom from stitching).



35. Measure 1/2" from either end of the stitching— this plus the stitched image should equal 8". Once you confirm—trim either end. Photo shows that your linen measures 4" x 8" and stitching is 'centered'.

Aida stitchers: follow the previous steps to confirm the 4" x 8" size as well. Your aida might be a slightly larger count (15ct instead of 16ct).

- Adjust the top & bottom measurements as needed. You may need to measure 3/4"-7/8" away from the stitching on the top & bottom edges to **keep the overall height of your aida 4"**.
- If you trim the short ends 1/2" away like the linen stitchers, your tomato will be a little more 'plump' as it will be slightly longer than 8". Trim the aida as close as possible to the 8" width but not so close that your 't' & 'o' are too close when you sew your seam in the next steps. It's OK if your width is 8 1/4"-8 3/8".



36. Fold the linen with short ends together, with stitching on the inside. Sew a seam 1/4" from raw edge. No sewing machine?—thread up 2-strands Red Rocks and stitch over under every 2 linen threads a 1/4" from the raw edge.



37. Thread up 2 strands of Red Rocks, tie a knot in the end (a decent size knot that won't pull through the linen). Stitch a basting stitch on the bottom edge of your tomahto 1/4" from the raw edge.



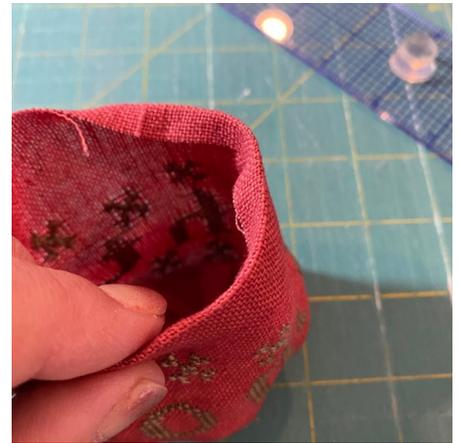
38. Pull tightly on the Red Rocks thread to gather the bottom of the Tomahito. It helps to tie a knot through the linen once you gather the thread.



39. Take several stitches through the linen to secure the basting threads & close up the bottom of the Tomahito. Be sure that the needle or stitches stay in the basting line. Secure with a knot after each stitch—I did 3-4 of these securing stitches.



40. Turn your Tomahito right side out! You will have pleats & puckers—that is OK. (many of those will go away when we stuff the Tomahito!)



41. Finger press the top raw edge of the Tomahito—fold over 1/4" of the linen to the inside of the Tomahito.



42. Picture shows what the top edge of your Tomahito will look like when you finger press the whole top edge. The fold line will act as a guide for the next basting stitch.

- Thread up 2 more strands of Red Rocks with a knot in the end.
- Baste all around the top edge of the Tomahito—the needle & thread should follow the fold line.

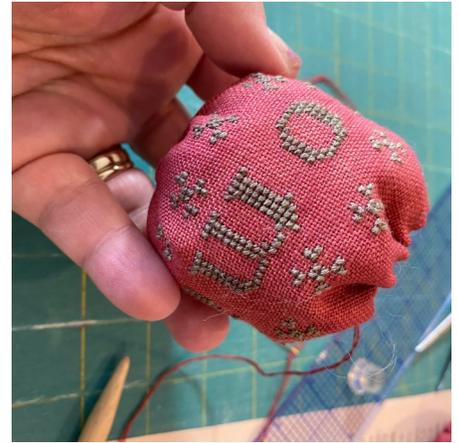




43. Pull the basting thread once you have basted all round the top of the Tomahito. Leave enough of an opening for stuffing—**do not cut your basting thread just yet.**



44. Shred & pull your stuffing apart before you fill the Tomahito. Stuff with small bits of fiber fill, pushing the fill to the bottom 1st. Take your time with this part—use a knitting needle or needlenose pliers to help guide fiberfill.



45. It is amazing how much stuffing can go into one of these small objects. The model is stuffed with wool roving (I get mine at rawfiberartsco.etsy.com).



46. Once you have stuffed your Tomahito, pull on the basting thread to gather the top closed. Take a few more stitches, criss-crossing the opening, to help pull the top closed. Knot after each stitch, make a final knot & trim thread.



47. Grab a Doll Making needle if you have one (or the longest needle you have). Use 2 long strands of Flatfish. Fold to bring 4 ends together with a loop at the other end. Thread 4 ends through needle.

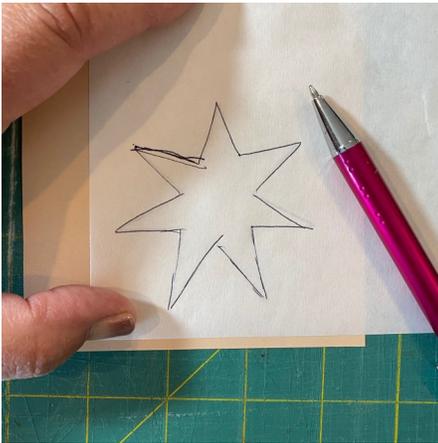


48. Run the needle through the center bottom of the Tomahito to the top center—leave a loop at the bottom end. (You may have to squeeze the Tomahito to help get your needle out).

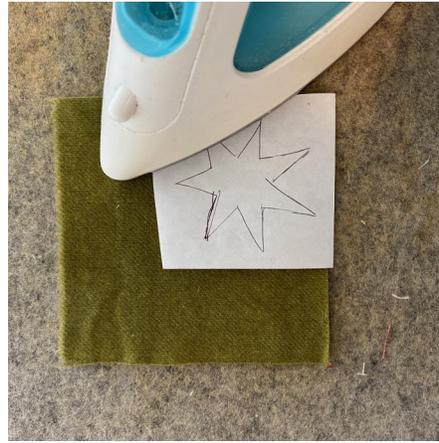


49. Wrap the needle & thread around the outside of the Tomahito. Pull the needle & thread through the loop left at the bottom (photo 48) and pull to create the 1st Tomahito tuft.

- Repeat the needle through the center bottom of the Tomahito to the top center step 4 more times to create 'evenly' spaced tufts all around the Tomahito. Knot at the bottom center after the last tuft is created. Trim.
- As you pull, it will get easier to 'feel' where your needle is—as I said in step 48—you might need to squeeze your Tomahito to guide the needle through—a needlenose pliers also helps to pull the needle through the Tomahito!



50. There are instructions for cutting the Tomahto cap with the pattern but I thought a few photos would help. Lay the freezer paper, shiny side down onto the pattern & trace.



51. Iron, shiny side down, onto the wool. (you don't need to hold the iron down for very long)



52. Cut on the pattern line with sharp scissors & peel back freezer paper.



53. Cut a 1" x 1 1/4" rectangle of green wool for the stem.



54. Roll the green wool on the 1 1/4" side (so stem is 1" tall).

- Thread up 2 strands of Flatfish with a knot on the end.



55. Bury the knot under the edge of the green wool & take several tacking stitches through the stem to secure the edge of the wool—work your way to the opposite end of the stem & knot—do not cut thread.



56. Run the needle through the center of the wool Tomahto cap. Pull thread until the stem rests on the cap.

- Run the needle back through the cap & the stem, in the opposite direction. The needle will come out the top of the stem.





57. Run the needle back through the stem & the cap in the opposite direction. The needle will come out on the bottom of the cap. Start each of these stitches in a slightly different spot so you are not undoing the previous stitch.



58. The needle, still connected to the stem/cap combo now goes through the top center of the Tomahto and comes out the bottom center.



59. Bring the needle & thread back up through the Tomahto center. Needle should come up through the wool cap just next to the base of the stem.



60. Once again, the needle & thread runs down the center of the tomato. The needle should just pierce the bottom edge of the stem for extra security (& a little character). Knot through linen at the bottom center & trim.



61. Grab the remaining magnet & place a piece of DS tape on the marked side.



62. Peel the paper backing from the DS tape & place magnet, tape side down, on the bottom center of the Tomahto.



63. Cut a 1" square piece of green wool to cover the magnet on the bottom of the Tomahto.

- Thread up with 2 strands of Flatfish & tie a knot in the end.
- Secure the thread through the linen under the wool square. Attach wool with small applique stitches.





64. These stitches can get a little fiddly—you will need to push down on the Tomahto so the needle doesn't pierce the excess linen. A needle nose pliers will really assist you in this part to grab the needle.



65. Bury a knot under the wool & trim your thread once you have stitched around the wool square.



66. Your Tomahto pincushion is now ready to sit in your Tomayto Tray!

Oh wait—Add some fun pins & maybe a woolfelt ball Strawberry!

*Tomayto Tomahto...
your gardening is complete!*

Enjoy the stitch & the finish,

Cathy, Hands On Design
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