

# Autumn Leaves Fall Centerpiece

**Technique:** Machine Sewing

**Designed By:** Marie Duncan

**Skill Level:** Beginner

**Crafting Time:** Half day

## Featuring Coats Dual Duty XP®

The air is crisp and the leaves are starting to turn pretty colors. Using all the thread, make this pretty Autumn Leaves candle mat to bring a bit of the fall spirit inside!

## Supplies

- Coats Dual Duty XP® All-purpose thread
- Coats® Machine Quilting Thread in solids and multi-colors
- Coats® Hand Quilting Thread
- Boiled or felted wool fabric
- Light weight, clear, water soluble stabilizer
- Aunt Lydia's crochet thread Fashion™ 3 brown, for veins
- 3" (7.62cm) (diameter) x 6" (15.24cm) (high) candle
- Fine point Sharpie marker

## A note about fabric

Our base fabric needs to be sturdy enough to sustain a lot of stitching. You can use boiled wool, wool felt or make boiled wool by machine washing 100% wool fabric in the washer in hot water, and machine drying it several times. The wool will shrink a lot and thicken nicely. If the fabric is already felted, ½ yard (.46m) is required. If you purchase wool to shrink/felt, ¾ yard (.69M) is needed.

## A word about threads

Pull the autumn colors from the existing thread stash then add others to complete the palette. Be sure to include a few of the shiny threads such as the Coats Machine Embroidery threads, and the Coats Machine Quilting Multicolor thread will add fun highlights. Fill in with Coats Dual Duty XP all-purpose thread and thicker Coats Dual Duty Plus Hand Quilting thread for variety.

(threads 1  
threads 2)

## Sewing

1. Thread the machine with any of the threads on top and bobbin. The bobbin thread will show, but it can be a different color than the top thread. Just stay within the autumn color range.
2. Lay out the first piece of fabric. If the fabric is not felted, wash and dry in hot water several times. Cut three pieces approximately 9" x 14" (22.86cm x 35.56cm). I used olive-green wool felt and reddish brown felted wool fabric.

3. Pull the thread ends out as shown.



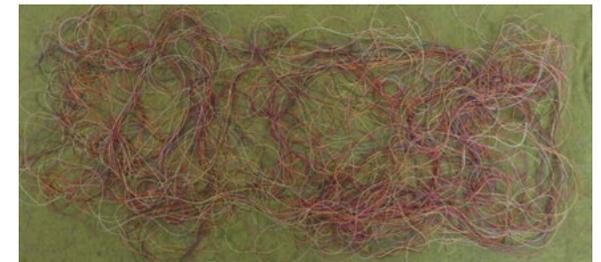
4. If you place the threads in a bowl or basket, they will pull easier and won't "escape" as you're pulling off the lengths.



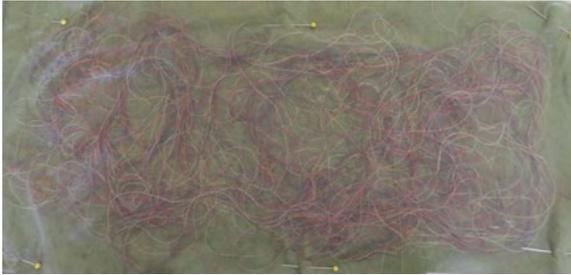
5. **Hint:** when you have pulled enough for the first side, tie a knot in the ends, so they don't "get away".



6. Separate out the threads and arrange them to fill the fabric. I pulled several lengths about 3 to 4 feet (3 to 4 meters).



- Place clear, light weight water soluble stabilizer on top of the threads, and pin in place.



- Begin by stitching around the outside of the fabric to attach the stabilizer. Remove the pins.
- Then, go for it! Just stitch randomly over the fabric. Don't worry if it starts to pucker, or if the stabilizer bunches a bit, it will be just fine! Trust me!



- After you have stitched over the first side a bit, then return to a flat surface and place threads on the other side of the fabric, as you did the first side.

- Pin the stabilizer in place on the second side, and stitch as you did before.



- Once you have stitched a bit on both sides, start changing out the colors, and stitch some more until you have good coverage. You want the gap between the stitches to be about 1/4" (.635cm) apart, to hold the threads in place.
- Repeat with the remaining fabric piece.
- Using the patterns given, cut out the leaves. I found it easier to trace the leaf onto the fabric with a permanent, fine point, sharpie marker first, then cut it out. I used 8 leaves, but you could do more or less as desired.



- When all the leaves are cut, it is time to sew on the veins.
- Thread machine with brown Coats Dual Duty XP® all-purpose on top and in the bobbin.
- Snap on an open toe foot if you have one, or any foot that gives you good vision.
- Select a small zig zag stitch about 3 mm length and 2 mm width. Test on a scrap, it should just cover the cord as the needle swings left to right, and not be too dense, you want the cord to show.
- Follow the lines on the patterns, but don't worry about them being exact. Just use the pattern for the general idea. Stitch over the cord (crochet thread), beginning at the stem end, and ending neat at the tip of the leaf.



20. Then start with a new cord end and add the remaining veins, branching off the main vein.



When all the veins are sewn, go to the kitchen sink, and let the water run until it is comfortably hot. Hold the leaves under the running water until the stabilizer "melts". You don't want to wash out all the stabilizer, we want to leave some so that the leaves hold their shape. Just wash it for a minute or so, then shape the leaves and put them on a cutting board or other washable surface. Some stabilizer will be left behind, so you want a surface that won't be damaged, and that can be washed, when you are done.



21. Cut out two of the base pattern from left over felted wool.  
22. Arrange four of the larger leaves on top of the base, being sure that the veins are up. Pin in place. They should overlap in the center by quite a bit as shown.



23. Select an open zig zag stitch, about a 4 mm width and 3 mm length.  
24. With the pins on the base side, and the base side up, stitch around close to the edge of the circle.  
25. Trim out the stem ends in the center of the circle, as shown.

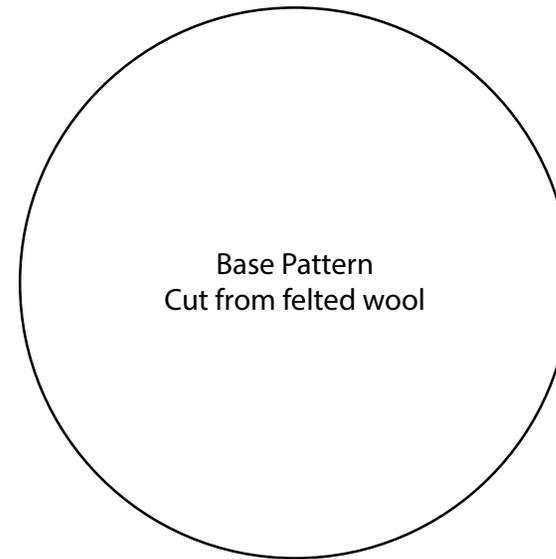


26. Pin the next layer of leaves in place, between the first leaves and stitch over the previous row of stitching.

27. Trim out the stems from the center as you did before.



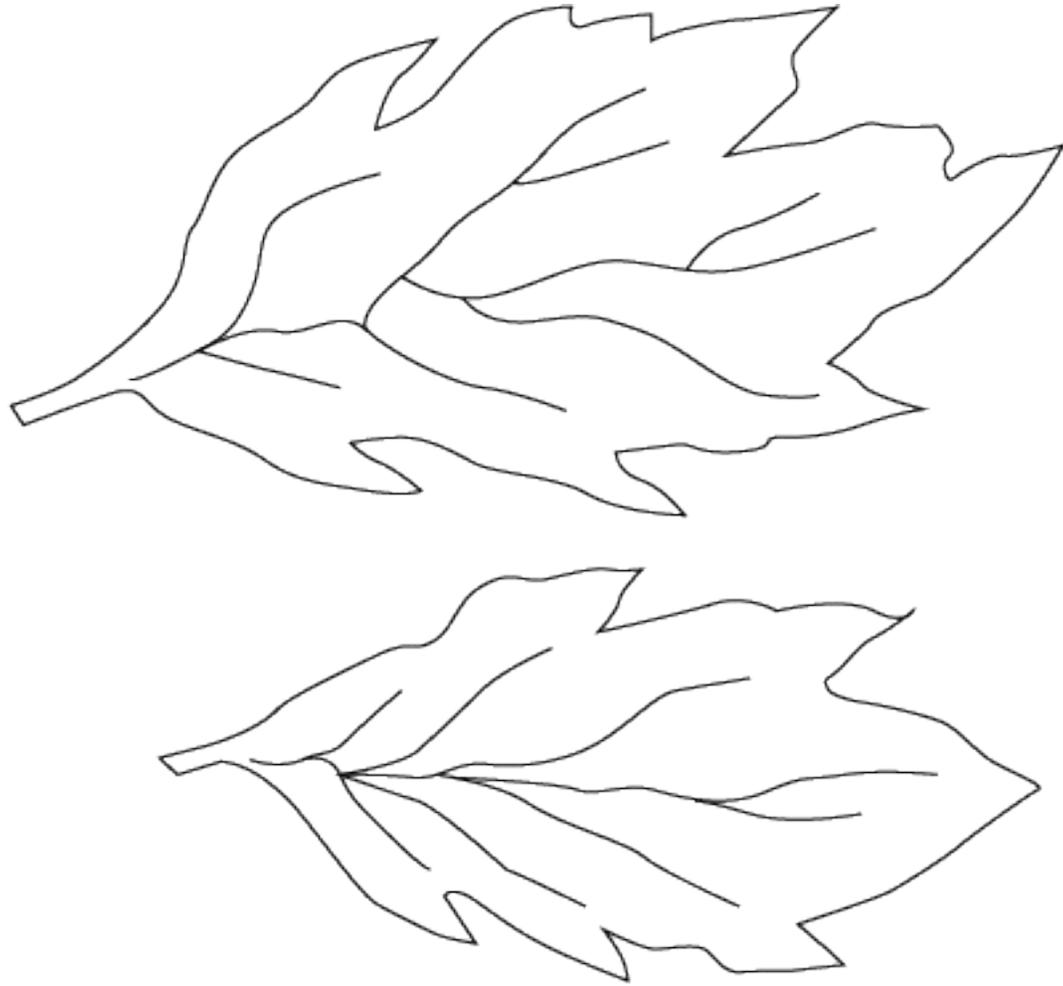
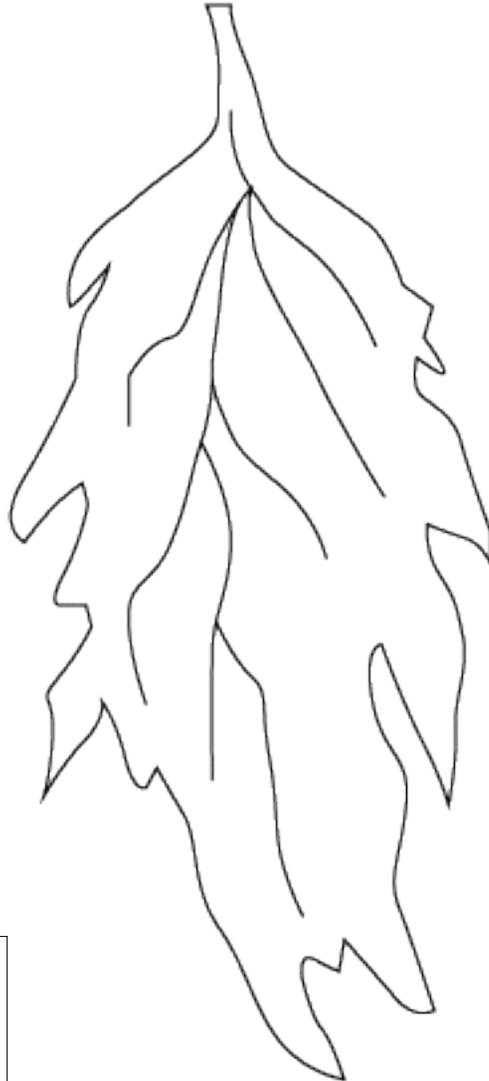
28. Place the remaining base piece on the right side (the veins will be up) and again, stitch around the edge.
29. Place the candle on the pretty autumn leaves, and sit back and admire the work of art!



\*\*\* Measure templates before cutting to confirm printing at 100%\*\*\*

This square should  
measure 1" x 1"  
(2.54cm x 2.54cm)  
when printed.

# Autumn Leaves Fall Centerpiece



This square should  
measure 1" x 1"  
(2.54cm x 2.54cm)  
when printed.

\*\*\* Measure templates before cutting to confirm printing at 100%\*\*\*