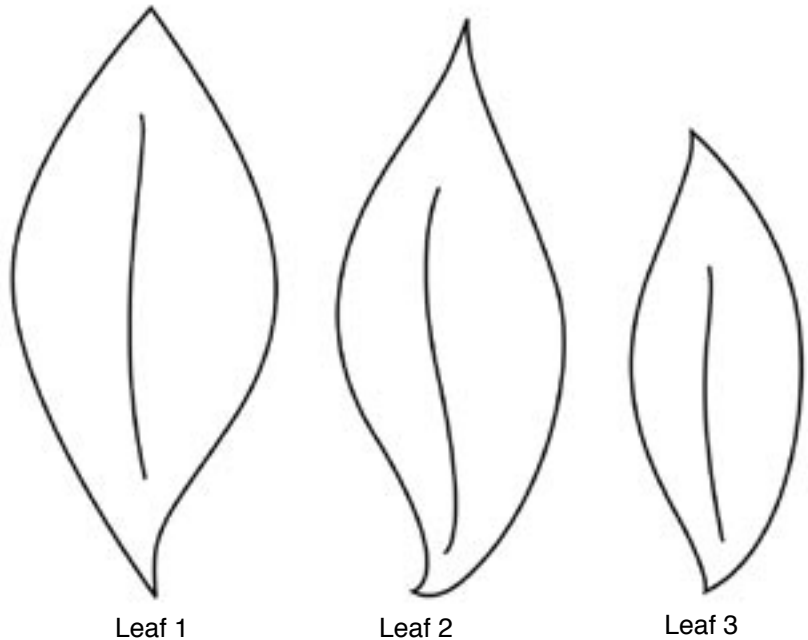


How to make fabric leaves

Search out red, gold and russet fabric scraps to make your own mini autumn leaves. A whole sprig should take less than an hour to make.

Materials

- Fabric scraps in small prints
- Matching embroidery thread
- Lightweight interfacing
- Wadding
- Coloured craft wire (DMC Desire Memory Thread)
- Needle



Cutting out the pieces

1. Iron lightweight interfacing on to the back of your fabric scraps. Use the templates shown above to cut out your leaves – you'll need two of leaf 1, four of leaf 2 and four of leaf 3.
2. Cut the front and back of each leaf at the same time. Fold over your fabric – right side out – to cut out two shapes at once so that they match perfectly. Cut a piece of wadding to the same shape but trim it so that it is slightly smaller than the template.

Stitching your leaves

3. Take a length of wire, around 15cm long to make a stalk.
4. Layer up your leaf so that you make a sandwich of back, wadding and front fabric and tuck the wire stem in too.
5. Thread your needle with two strands of embroidery thread. Start stitching by securing your thread inside the leaf with a knot and then make a couple of stitches through all the layers at the top to secure the stem. Now use a chunky running stitch all around the outside edge.
6. When you have finished the outline, stitch a single line along the centre for the vein detail.
7. Continue until you have five leaves.

Assembling a sprig

8. Hold the stem of leaf 1 in your hand and position one of leaf 2 at each side, around 2cm lower. Twist all three stems together tightly.
9. Position one of leaf 3 at either side of your sprig, again around 2cm lower than the last pair. Twist all five stems together and keep twisting until you have a main stem around 5cm below the lowest pair of leaves. A tight knot makes a good finish. Trim the ends at a slight angle.

Tip

Cut the fronts and backs of the leaves from different fabrics to give a contrasting look when you turn your spring of leaves over.