

SEWING PROJECTS

POSEY PINS

CS0061

By Ginny L. Lang

Choose a used knit sweater or top – or perhaps a couple so that you have different colors. You can make a Posey Pin from your own old sweaters or pick up some inexpensive ones at a thrift shop. You can make several Posey Pins from just one sweater.

SUPPLIES:

- *Coats Dual Duty XP All Purpose Thread* or *Coats Dual Duty Plus Hand Quilting Thread*: colors to match or blend with fabrics
- *Sweaters or sweater knits*: a wool knit is very forgiving and good choice for first posey
- *Pin back*: 1 1/4"

PREPARE FABRIC:

Laundry sweaters—even throw wool knits and silk knits into a gentle cycle with cool water. Dry and cut out the usable areas (front, back, sleeves) minus the cuffs, neckline and seams.

STEPS:

1. Make leaf petal patterns from cardboard (Illus. #1). Use just one shape or a variety. Mix and match for a unique Posey Pin every time.



Illus. #1

2. Cut 2 pieces for every leaf. Your Posey Pin should have least 5-9 leaf petals. These instructions are for a 1 layer, 5-leaf pin. Pay particular attention to the direction of the knit before you cut. (*Designer note: I prefer to have the knit pattern go from the bottom to the top of the leaf petal rather than cross ways*).
3. Determine which side of knit you would like to be the “right” side. Thread machine with all-purpose thread. (*Designer note: The thread does not have to match exactly; you just want it to blend in. For instance, grey can be used for some blues and purples shades. Off white will blend well with pale yellows, gold’s, etc. Brown can be used with many shades of reds.*) With the right sides, using a 1/8" seam allowance, sew around leaf edges, leaving bottom open. (*Designer note: You can hand sew*



this seam by stitching about 1/8" from the edge and sew twice. I sew one continuous seam from one side around to the other and back.) Turn right side out. Thread hand needle with quilting thread. Sew the bottom of the leaf petal closed with a running stitch. Pull tightly to gather leaf, then knot. Once you have all 5 leaf petals, sew them together at the gathered base to form a circle of petals (Illus. #2). One side will show more stitching than the other – don't worry – it will be hidden with the center button. Choose a vintage button to use as the center of your Posey Pin.



Illus. #2

(Designer note: I use a shank type button rather than a 2 or 4 hole type as it works much better as the center of a flower. Also, I prefer an interesting metal one with a design or pattern if I can find it. Again, check out your thrift shops. I find some on thrift shop sweaters and jackets.)

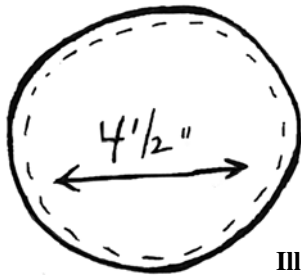


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4. Hand sew “Posey” to pin back.

Additional information from the designer:

For the spring/summer Posey Pins I use a circle pattern (Illus. #3). As if sewing a yoyo, sew a running stitch $\frac{1}{8}$ ” from the edge around the then pull it to gather and form the yoyo. I then sometimes sew running stitches from the outside to the inside of the circle to give the illusion of petals, but it is not necessary. Prepare 2 or three leaf petals and sew your yoyo flower to the petals with the gathered side down. I sew between the top yoyo flower and the petals to conceal the sewing. Add your center button and pin back to complete.



Illus. #3

Once you try one, you can get creative and try variations. Using the basic patterns you can make many combinations or layers to create many variations. The photo illustrates the many varieties you can create. For a winter/fall Posey Pin, I choose 100% recycled wool or cashmere. For spring/summer Posey Pins I use silk knit (not woven) and cotton. You can also use blends, but I prefer natural fibers.

The different types of knit you are working with will dictate the type of Posey Pin you make. Have fun and recycle your old sweaters and tops. —Ginny L. Lang