

# Day of the Dead Table Mat

## Supply list (1 page)

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It is a beautiful tradition to create a memorial altar (called an Offrenda) for Dia de Los Muertos – The Day of the Dead, festival in Mexico. Usually held on November 1 & 2 (All Souls Day), The Day of the Dead is a celebration of life as well as honoring the memory of those beloved who have passed. Depending on region, the festival can start on October 31, and stretch to November 6. These altars are set on a table or shelf, in homes, with offerings of food, drink, and flowers placed upon them. You can create this colorful table mat (sometimes called a Candle Mat) made from appliqued & hand embroidered wool or felt to grace an Offrenda dedicated to your beloved departed, or simply to use as a lovely addition to your fall or Halloween décor.



Please be courteous to others by arriving for class with the correct supplies. Contact me at 503-888-9784 or [helene.m.knott@gmail.com](mailto:helene.m.knott@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

## Tools/Materials:

- **Fabrics:** Look for wool felt (often a blend of Rayon and Wool). Over-dyed or mill dyed wool will work as well, Melton weight is ideal for the background but looser woven wool can be used if stabilized with a product like Form-Flex.
  1. An 8"x 12" piece of white or cream colored wool or felt.
  2. A 20" square of heavy black wool or felt for the background. **Note:** For lighter weight fabric you may need two squares.
  3. Assorted scraps\* of wool or felt in bright colors for the flower petal and circle appliques. \* Note: scraps should measure at least 3" x 6".
- **Stabilizer (optional):** You may or may not need this depending on the stability of the wool or felt you use. It's easier to applique and embroider without a hoop but the material should be stable enough to stitch through hand held. A fusible interfacing will help with lighter weight fabrics, I prefer the woven cotton ones like Form Flex® or Shape Flex®.
- **Lightweight fusible web:** Some appliquers use pins to hold the appliques in place prior to stitching, others prefer a lightweight adhesive like Flexi-Fuse, OESD Soft Web, or Misty Fuse, to tack the appliques in place and facilitate stitching.
- **Template plastic:** One small sheet.
- **Scissors:** A pair of utility scissors for cutting the template plastic, and embroidery/craft scissors, preferably ones with shorter blades to allow for precise cutting of the felt and thread snipping.
- **Fabric marking pen:** Black Frixion pen for light fabrics, and an opaque white gel pen\*\* for dark fabrics.  
\*\* **Note:** white gel pens work great on dark wool and felt but are permanent and cannot be removed.
- **Embroidery floss:** Six strand floss in choice of colors (the more the merrier), pearl cotton, rayon embroidery floss and metallic embroidery threads may also be desirable.

**Beads and sequins of choice:** I prefer my skulls unadorned with glitz but you are welcome to add bling if you want. Keep in mind that projecting beads won't make a good flat surface for a candle holder if you plan to use one.

- **Hand embroidery and fine hand appliqué (or beading) needles:** A package of crewel embroidery needles in assorted sizes will allow you to choose a needle that best suits the floss or thread you are using. For beading, small (size #10) hand appliqué needles work well for most seed beads or you can buy beading needles.
- **Beading thread (optional):** Nymo thread is most commonly used but strong hand quilting thread will also work.