



Reusable Hand Warmers

Supplies

- 100% cotton fleece fabric - make sure it doesn't contain any metals such as metallic string or other decoration
- Uncooked white rice (about 1 cup)
- Needle and thread or sewing machine
- Scissors
- Funnel (optional) or a piece of paper
- Other optional supplies: measuring tape, thimble, pins, needle threader

Instructions

1. Cut two pieces of fabric, about 3x4 inches, but feel free to do other shapes or sizes. Alternatively, cut one long piece, about 3x8 inches and fold in half.
2. Placing the right sides (the ones you want on the outside of the hand warmer) together, sew together 3 sides (or 2 sides if using one long piece of fabric). If hand sewing, a back stitch is recommended. Turn it right side out.
3. Fill the hand warmer about 2/3 full with rice. Spoon it in or use a funnel if necessary.
4. Fold the two open edges in to hide the raw edge and sew shut. Make sure the stitching is strong and there are no gaps so the rice doesn't fall out.
5. Repeat steps 1-4 to make a set of 2 hand warmers.

How to Use

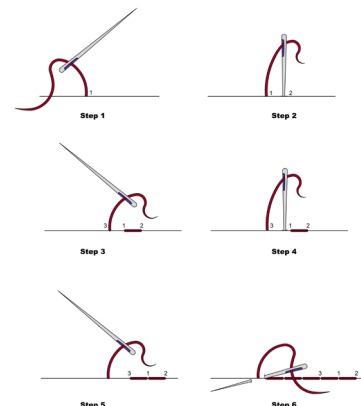
Microwave the hand warmers until warm, about 30 seconds depending on the size. Hold them in your hands or keep them in your pockets to warm your hands as needed.

How to back stitch

Source: [The Spruce Crafts](https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/back-stitch-1182828)

1. Thread a needle with a piece of thread no longer than a yard. Double knot the end of the thread with a large knot that won't pull through the fabric.
2. Push the needle into the fabric where you want to start the seam. Bring the needle back through both layers of fabric just in front of where the knot is. Then, push the needle back into the fabric between where the needle went in and out of the fabric to create the first stitch.
3. Bring the needle through the fabric the same distance you came forward when creating the first stitch. These stitches can touch each other, or you can space them a little farther apart. Continue stitching in this fashion across your seam. Take your time to sew small stitches if you need a secure seam.
4. Once you've sewn a distance, you will see the threads overlap on the reverse side of the fabric. If you're sewing very small stitches, they'll almost appear as a solid line. To finish the seam, make a few stitches right on top of one another. This will anchor the thread like a knot. Cut any excess thread off the knot at the beginning.

Backstitch





Birdseed Ornaments

Source: [Kelly Elko](#)

Supplies

- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup all purpose flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water
- 3 tablespoons corn syrup
- 4 cups birdseed
- Wax paper or silicone baking mats
- Medium or large bowl
- Mixing spoon
- Cookie sheet or cutting board if not using silicone baking mats
- Cookie cutters - simpler shapes preferred
- Twine or ribbon for hanging
- Optional: chopstick or something similarly shaped to make hole in ornament

Gift Instructions

Tie the ornament to a tree branch, but be sure to pick one that has another branch right below it to give birds something to rest on while they eat!

Instructions

1. Line a baking sheet (or cutting board) with wax paper or a silicone baking mat.
2. Add flour, water and corn syrup into a bowl and mix together until combined.
3. Stir in birdseed and mix.
4. Place mixture into cookie cutters on the lined baking sheet. Press into the cookie cutter with your hands until it's compacted about $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick. Optional: use a chopstick or similarly shaped item to make a hole near the top of the ornament.
5. Gently and slowly push the mixture out of the cookie cutter and let dry. Repeat until birdseed mixture is used up.
6. Let dry for about 8 hours. Tie twine or ribbon through the hole or around the ornament.



Stovetop Potpourri

Source: [Miss Jenny's House of Sass](#)

Yields 4

Supplies

- 1 fresh orange or several pieces of dried orange or orange peel
- 4 teaspoons cloves
- 4 small fragrant evergreen sprigs such as pine or fir
- 4 cinnamon sticks
- 4 small jars or bags

Instructions

1. To make dried orange peel: Wash the orange. Use a sharp vegetable peeler to peel or long strips of peel. Set on a plate and let dry in a warm place for 2-3 days.
2. Combine a few pieces of orange peel, 1 teaspoon cloves, 1 evergreen sprig, and 1 cinnamon stick in a small jar or bag.

Optional Ingredients

- Star anise
- Nutmeg
- Cardamom
- Other spices or dried fruit
- Essential oils

Gift Instructions

Place the potpourri in a small saucepan or mini slow cooker. Add plenty of water and heat on low heat. Add more water as needed to prevent burning. When done using, strain and compost.