

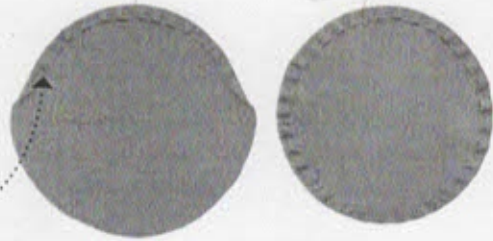
## Gathered patchwork

Yo-yos, also called Suffolk puffs, are fabric circles that have been gathered to make two layers. They are widely used as decorations in appliqué and can be further embellished. Joined edge to edge, they can be made into tablecloths, pillow covers, or openwork bedspreads. Yo-yo projects are a great way to use up small scraps of fabric.

### YO-YOS

**1** Cut circles of fabric twice the desired finished size. You can use almost anything circular as a template, from thread spools to bottles or cups.

**2** Knot a length of strong thread, doubled if necessary, and secure it close to the edge on the wrong side of the circle. Turn the raw edge  $\frac{1}{4}$ in (5mm) to the wrong side and take small gathering stitches through both layers all around the edge, to make a single hem.



**3** Finish next to where you started. Do not remove the needle or cut the thread, but pull the thread gently to gather the circle into a smaller one, with pleats around the center. The raw edge will disappear inside the circle. Secure the thread with a couple of basting stitches or backstitches, then knot it. Cut the thread.



**4** Flatten the circle by gently fingerpressing the edges. The gathered side is normally the front, but sometimes the back is used instead.

**5** To join yo-yos, place them gathered sides facing and overcast the flattened edges for a short distance, making small, tight stitches. Join yo-yos together until you have a row that is the desired length; join rows together in the same way.

