

Basic embroidery instructions and tips

Cut muslin/fabric for embroidery several inches larger than the design...on all sides. Trace embroidery pattern onto center of muslin with disappearing pen or lightly with pencil using a light box or by placing the muslin & pattern onto a window. Place a piece of cotton batting (the same size as muslin top) behind the muslin (this gives a nice look to the embroidery and also covers up any threads from peaking through the front side of the fabric). Use a hoop to keep muslin and batting taught. Use two strands of floss for most designs. When stitching something delicate like whiskers... use 1 strand of floss. Most designs are done mainly with the Back-stitch. When stitching French knots (which is usually for dots on a design)- wrap floss around needle 2 times. When stitching a satin stitch: back-stitch around shape and then fill in with straight lines. Lazy daisy is the perfect stitch for a flower petal or leaf.

Back-stitch:



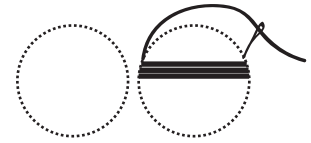
French knot:



Lazy Daisy:



Satin Stitch:



Choose colors that will show up nicely on the muslin/fabric. If you are not sure...lay floss on muslin to see if the contrast is strong enough to see. When stitching on light muslin....use a light gray colored floss where you might have used white....for instance.... a snowman might be hard to see if it is white floss on light muslin. Another option is stitching the whole design in one color...like red or blue.

Remove disappearing ink with water...if that is what you used. Let embroidery dry flat on dish towel. Iron embroidery.

Finishing ideas:

Framing in a hoop:

Center stitched design in hoop that is slightly larger than the finished design. Pull fabric tight and tighten hoop as much as possible. Trim the excess muslin and batting hanging towards the back to 1/2", all the way around the hoop. Using hot glue gun and glue sticks...glue muslin and batting to the back of hoop along inside edge of hoop.

Pillows: Cut/trim the design into a square or rectangle and add strips of fabric to the sides and top/bottoms. With right sides together ...layer a backing fabric and the finished design...sew all the way around the design leaving a 2-3" opening. Cut corners and turn inside out. Stuff pillow and then sew opening closed.

Quilted wallhanging: Sandwich a layer of the backing fabric (good side facing down), cotton batting and then the finished design facing up. Pin all over the wallhanging and quilt (sew around strips and edges). Add a binding around the edges.

More ideas for embroideries- they can be made into pincushions, tea-towels, framed in picture frames, made into make dos, punch-needle projects, make into sachets filled with lavender, make the design into a shelf tuck (small pillow that fits on a small shelf), stitch on a tote bag, and also a small pillow with a ribbon hanger to hang on the door.