



Ann's Orchard Needlework

Hoop Embroidery Robin & Mistletoe

Finished size to fit 5" embroidery hoop

Sewing time approximately 3 hours

To celebrate Christmas and as a thank you for all your support over the past year I have designed a little robin embroidery.

The variety of stitches used give this little fellow plenty of texture as well as making him a perfect sampler.

You are very welcome to share this pattern with family & friends.

Emma Pavier x



Ingredients

The listed materials are simply a guide to stitch the robin as shown in the picture and do not need to be followed exactly.....raid your stash! Threads may be easily swapped for other colours, especially if you are lucky enough to have some with a metallic finish. Another option may be to use a darker linen and stitch the entire design in white using the different stitches to define the robin. Use sequins rather than beads. Have fun, take a few risks and I would love to see your creations...

- 5" embroidery hoop
- 25cm x 25cm natural Essex linen from Robert Kaufmann
- 15cm x 15cm felt for backing
- Anchor green perle cotton (214)
- Anchor green stranded cotton (214)
- Anchor grey stranded cotton (399)
- Anchor white stranded cotton (1)
- Anchor tomato stranded cotton (1014)
- Anchor charcoal stranded cotton (236)
- Miyuki size 6 seed beads 131FR (mistletoe berries)
- Miyuki size 8 seed beads 401 (eye)
- Embroidery needle
- Ribbon for hanging
- Frixion pen
- Textile glue



Transferring the Robin to Your Fabric

The transfer method I describe below works well for me but you may find other techniques suit you better.



Mollie Johanson of Wild Olive is the queen of transfer techniques for embroidery so if you would like to see her definitive guide click on the link or pop this web address in your browser for alternative transfer methods.

<http://wildolive.blogspot.co.uk/search?q=transfer>

- Print the robin design onto a sheet of plain white paper, the cheaper and thinner the better!
- Tape him to a window in bright sunshine or you may have a lightbox.
- Place your linen fabric over the top of the design and you should be able to see a faint outline through the fabric. If the design is not very clear then it may be helpful to trace him onto a sheet of tracing paper using a very fine permanent marker, the sort used for overhead projector film, before laying the fabric over the top.
- Using a Frixion pen trace the design onto the fabric.
- For the feathers on the wing you may prefer to draw them slightly larger or use a chevron or checked design.

Fitting the Fabric in the Embroidery Hoop

- Loosen the screw holding the two embroidery hoops together.
- Place the smaller hoop underneath your fabric and the larger hoop directly over the top, pushing them back together, holding the fabric within the hoop.
- As you tighten the screw gently pull the sides of the fabric to give a smooth, flat surface to embroider.
- Repeat this process if you find you need to reposition your fabric as you work.

Embroidering Your Robin

- The majority of the design is worked in stranded embroidery cotton. This comes as 6 strands which should be gently separated and the required number of threads needed for working brought back together before threading the needle.
- Some of the design is stitched in slightly thicker perle cotton which should be used at full thickness and does not need to be separated before use.
- Work with lengths of thread equivalent to the length of your forearm, approximately 50cm to 60cm.
- Following the stitching guide and stitch library instructions, work all the stitched areas of the design.
- Attach the beads using two strands of equivalent coloured embroidery thread. Bring your needle up through the back of the fabric, pass it through the bead and then back down through the fabric close to where the stitch first came up. Make a second stitch through the same bead to hold it securely in place.

Finishing

- If you used a Frixion pen to transfer the robin design to the fabric then the lines may be removed from the fabric by simply removing it from the embroidery hoop and holding it against a hot iron, any ink will magically disappear in front of your eyes!
- Centre the finished embroidery in the hoop and pull the fabric taut as you tighten the screw
- Cut away the excess fabric to leave a margin of approximately 3cm



- Using sturdy sewing cotton or a double strand of normal sewing thread, hand stitch a line of running stitches around the outer margin of fabric approximately 1 cm from the embroidery hoop.
- Pull the thread tightly to gather the fabric within the hoop and fasten off with some stitching to hold in place.



- Run a fine bead of textile glue around the back of the embroidery hoop, place on a piece of felt to cover the back of your work and allow to dry before trimming away the excess felt.



- Tie a ribbon around the screw and hang your finished robin where he may be admired over Christmas.

Enjoy!!!

Pattern & Stitching Guide

Stem Stitch
Anchor
green 241
2 strands

Miuyki
Size 6 beads
131FR



Satin Stitch
Anchor
grey 399
2 strands

Seed Stitch
Anchor
tomato 1014
2 strands



Miuyki
Size 8 beads
401

12.7cm



French Knots
Anchor
white 1
2 strands



Back Stitch
Anchor
grey 399
2 strands



Satin Stitch
Anchor
green perle 241
full thread



Back Stitch
Anchor
charcoal 236
2 strands

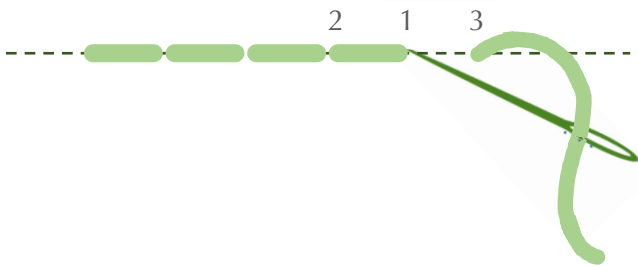


Satin Stitch
Anchor
grey 399
2 strands

Stitch Library

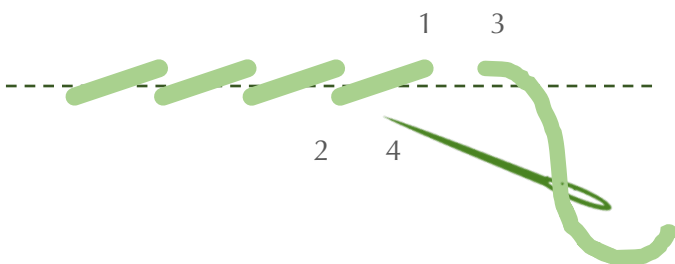
Back Stitch

A favourite stitch for outlining shapes or creating lines in embroidery. This stitch is worked backwards to the direction of sewing. Bring your needle up through the back of the fabric (1), make a small straight stitch passing down through (2), bring your needle back up through the fabric (3) and make another stitch passing back down through (1).



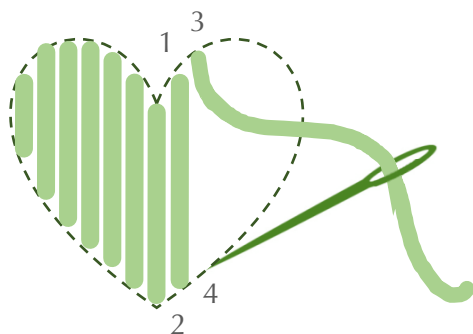
Stem Stitch

A traditional outline stitch often seen on vintage linen. It is very similar to back stitch but gives a slightly wider line and is perfect for areas too narrow for satin stitch. Bring your needle up through the back of the fabric (1), make a small diagonal stitch passing down through (2), bring your needle back up through the fabric (3) and make another diagonal stitch passing down through (4).



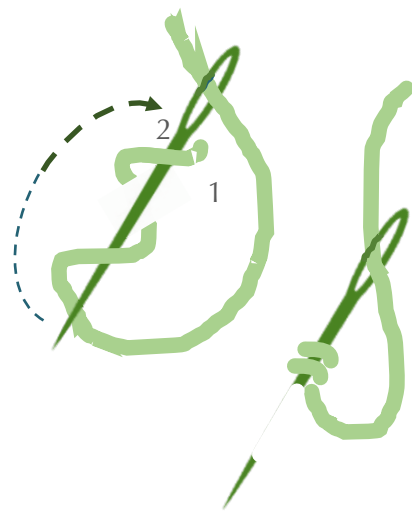
Satin Stitch

A perfect filling stitch which gives a smooth area of solid colour. It is made of closely worked, straight, flat stitches. Bring your needle up through the fabric (1), make a straight stitch passing down through (2), bring your needle back up next to your first stitch (3) and make another straight stitch passing down through (4).



French Knots

A lovely stitch to create texture. Bring your needle up through the fabric (1) and wind the thread around the needle twice – the more twists the bigger the knot. Pass your needle back down close to the emerging thread (2). Pull your twists so they sit tightly against the fabric whilst drawing the needle through the knot.



Seed Stitch

A very quick and easy filling stitch. Simply make lots of small, random stitches to fill an area of fabric. To give an effect of feathers the stitches may take on the curve of the robin's breast.

