

Love Lives Here Stitchery

Designed by Sarah E. Masters

Materials

Muslin, 10" x 12" piece

DMC Embroidery Floss in No. 221 V DK Shell Pink

The Warm Company Warm & Natural quilt batting, a 10" x 12" piece (for backing)

Delta Ceramcoat Acrylic Paint in Barn Red (optional)

3-1/2" x 12" strips of homespun fabric (torn, not cut), two

3-1/2" x 10" strips of homespun fabric (torn, not cut, in a different pattern than 12" pieces), two

Strips of fusible webbing (the same size as strips of homespun fabric, approximately 14" x 16")

Hot water, iron and ironing surface, light box or well-lit window, needle and embroidery hoop, pencil, sandpaper, tea or instant coffee, transfer paper (optional), unfinished/lightly finished frame (8" x 10"), water-based stain

For product information, see sources on page 77.

Instructions

For pattern, see pattern pull-out.

Note: Size of finished, framed stitchery is approximately 8" x 10".

1. Using pencil, trace pattern in the center of muslin. (I simply place muslin on top of the pattern and trace. Holding the pattern and muslin up to a sunlit window or using a light box may be necessary when stitching on heavier muslin. Transfer paper can be used to trace the design onto muslin as well, but I use pencil to ensure markings do not bleed during tea/coffee staining.)

2. Place muslin over thin quilt batting.

3. Stitch design through muslin and batting using two strands of No. 221 V DK Shell Pink floss. Backstitch and use a French knot for eye of bird.

4. Tea or coffee stain the finished stitchery. (Coffee staining gives the finished product a more "grungy" look, but the sample piece was stained using tea.) Mix hot water with tea or instant coffee until dissolved, then dunk the entire piece of muslin. Squeeze

the muslin into a ball to release excess liquid. (I like to do this so the finished stitchery has a worn, wrinkled look.) You can drip additional staining liquid onto the muslin when flat on the counter. Blot and place on flat surface to dry. Once fabric is dry, lightly iron, if desired.

5. Iron fusible webbing to the back side of homespun strips, then peel off the paper backing. Position homespun strips on finished stitchery to “frame” the design as shown. (**Tip:** I placed the glass of the frame on top of the stitchery to judge whether the strips were well positioned. This is helpful so that approximately the same amount of homespun borders the design once it is placed in the frame.) Iron homespun strips to muslin.

6. Before you frame the piece, distress the frame to give it a rustic look. Sand the frame (if finished), and wipe away dust. Paint the frame the color you desire, allow to dry, then sand again; wipe away dust. Apply water-based stain then allow to dry. Frame the finished stitchery.

For questions regarding this design, please contact rthreads@rusticthreads.com.

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