



Flower Embroidery Instructions



The materials you will need to make this embroidery are:

- An embroidery hoop (approx 12cm wide)
- Needle
- Embroidery threads / floss (green and at least one other colour)
- Fabric (I use calico, but any plain light cotton will be ok)
- Backing fabric (this is an essential part of embroidering, never do an embroidery without a backing)
- A piece of cardboard that's a little larger than your hoop
- Scissors
- A piece of ribbon (to hang it up when complete)
- A pot of tea and lots of enthusiasm!

Transferring your design to the fabric

Job number one is transferring the design you are making to the fabric. There are many different methods to do this but I like to use the window technique. Just take the design (last page of these

instructions) and tape it to a window. Tape your fabric on top and wait for the sun to shine! Now trace the design onto your fabric with a pencil . You could buy a fancy pen which fades or washes off (I do stock these in the shop!), but a simple graphite pencil will be ok as long as it's a nice sharp point. If you want to look at a video to see someone using this technique click here... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwJXk4j5W1I>

Preparing your hoop

Before you put your fabric in the hoop read the finishing instructions. You may want to prepare a piece of cardboard first and you'll need the empty hoop to draw a circle.

- Unscrew the clasp of the embroidery hoop and separate the two hoops.
- Put your fabric with the design on top of the backing fabric.
- Put the two fabrics on top of the inner hoop, making sure the flower design is in the centre.
- Place the larger hoop over your fabric and inner hoop.
- Press down.
- You may need to jiggle the fabric so that it fits without any bumps or creases.
- Screw the hoop together.
- Your fabric should be as tight as a drum.
- Great start! Now put the kettle on, make a pot of tea ... repeat as required.

Preparing your thread

- For this design, all the threads you will use have 2 strands.
- Your embroidery threads come with 6 strands so you will need to separate them.
- Cut a length that you are comfortable with. (I measure from the ends of my fingers to my elbow.)
- Now look at the end of your thread and separate the strands so that you can hold 2 in one hand and 4 in the other.
- Gently pull the threads apart. This may be tricky... embroidery thread never wants to do this smoothly. I find that putting one side in my mouth and gently unwinding the threads with my free hand helps this process. Be gentle, be patient.
- Take the piece of thread with 2 strands and thread your needle. If you are like me and have terrible eyesight use a needle threader for this purpose.
- Brilliant! ... now the fun bit!

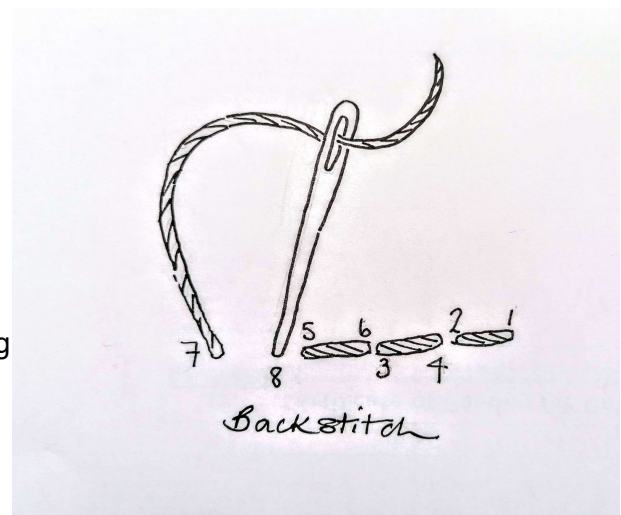
Embroidering your design

There is no right or wrong about where you should start so if you want to do this in a different order that's fine ... do the stitch that you find easiest first. Personally I love a backstitch, so I'm starting with the stems.

Flower Stems

These are done using a backstitch.

1. Take your green thread (2 strands) and embroider over the lines using backstitch. This is a great stitch for straight lines as it is a continuous line.
2. Take a look at the picture (right)
3. Make one little knot in your thread then, bring your needle up at point 1.
4. then down at point 2.
5. Leave a little space then bring your needle up at point 3.



6. Point 4 is the hole you made at point 2, so take your needle down there (or as close as you can).
7. Then again, leave a space and bring your needle up at point 5 and down again in the hole you just made.
8. It's as simple as that! Keep going until you reach the end of the line.

To finish off, make a small knot or weave the thread into the back of some of your previous stitches.

Tip: I like to make a knot using the two strands of the thread.

Flowers and leaves

I have used satin stitch for the middle of the flowers, the petals and leaves because it is ideal for filling spaces.

It is basically long stitches side by side. Start at one end of the petal and stitch along the space until it is filled.

Keep the stitches parallel, neat and close together.



Finishing your design

There are a few ways to finish an embroidery hoop, all of which you can find online, but my favourite is to use cardboard. Just find a piece of card (a thick corrugated piece from the side of a box is perfect).

- Draw a circle on the card using the inner circle of the hoop as a guide. Use the inside of the hoop.
- Now cut out the circle.
- Trim your fabric around the edge of the hoop so that it's a circle (just trimming the corners off may be enough).
- Now fold your fabric inside the hoop so it is all gathered in the middle at the back.
- This is a bit tricky because it will want to spring out. Keep calm and carry on! Or find a friend who will hold it in place for you.
- Take your cardboard circle and press it down so that it sinks down into the inner hoop.
- It might be a tight fit and you may need to trim it a little.
- If you trim too much, don't worry. Just use another piece of card.
- And that's it! You smashed it!.... hang it up with a piece of ribbon.

WELL DONE! Now you can show off

Take a photo and share it with your friends on Instagram, Facebook, Pinterest etc..

FLOWER TEMPLATE

