

Stitching Squirrel Tray

1. The design is 90 stitches x 83 stitches so on 36 count it's 5" wide and 4.5" high. You need 2" of extra fabric around each side of the stitched design, plus the seam allowance. (This allows for 3/4" around the design in the bottom of the tray and 1" of height on the tray sides, plus a 1/4" seam allowance.) Total fabric required (if 36 count) is 9" wide and 8.5" high.
2. Stitch the design, centered on a piece of fabric (9" wide and 8.5" high).
3. Cut a piece of backing fabric the same size (9" x 8.5") as your stitched fabric.
4. Cut two pieces of fusible interfacing (one lightweight and one heavyweight) – 8.5" x 8" to allow for a 1/4" seam allowance. Attach the light interfacing to the back of the stitched fabric and the heavy interfacing to the back of the cotton fabric. (Be aware, different weights of interfacing may have different instructions.)
5. Put the right sides of the design and cotton together, and stitch with a 1/4" seam allowance. Don't forget to leave an opening large enough to turn the piece inside out. Trim the corners then turn the right sides out. Press the seam allowance at the opening (with fingers or iron).
6. Carefully stitch the opening closed and press everything flat.
7. Pinch the corners together (I use tiny binder clips) and make certain everything looks even. Then stitch a locking stitch in each corner. (I used a slightly contrasting thread.)

Needle Book Finishing Instructions:

1. The design is 71 stitches high x 71 stitches wide (so on 36 count fabric it's 4" x 4").
2. Once the piece is stitched, trim the fabric to 5" x 5" (allowing for 1/4" seam allowance and 1/4" space around the stitched design on each side).
3. Cut a 5" x 5" square of cotton backing fabric. Putting the right sides together, sew the backing fabric to the front on one side only (using a 1/4" seam allowance). Be sure to sew on what will be the left side or "spine" of the stitched piece. This forms the front and back cover of the book. Open up, and press seam flat.
4. Cut a 5" x 9.5" strip of cotton backing fabric and two 5" x 9.5" strips of cotton batting. Place the right sides of the cover and the inside cotton fabric strip together. Then sandwich these with the batting strips. Sew together, leaving a large opening (at least 2" wide) at the end. Put this opening at the end where two cotton fabrics meet, rather than the end where cotton meets the stitched piece. This will keep your opening a bit more concealed in the finished piece.
5. Trim the batting to within 1/8" of the seam, and trim the corners. Turn right side out.
6. Press the edges of the opening in, and slip stitch closed. Press the booklet flat.
7. Cut an 8" x 4" rectangle of wool. You can give it a pinked edge if you'd like. Stitch the wool to the booklet, being sure to stitch through the wool into the cotton, but not through to the outside of the booklet cover.

Gather And Stitch drum - finishing instructions:

1. The design is 191 wide x 41 high (so on 36 count this is 10.6" wide x 2.3" high). Trim stitched fabric, leaving 1" of space from the edge of the stitching (about 11.5 x 4.15).
2. Cut a 12" wide x 5" high strip of the (green) backing fabric. Then cut this strip horizontally into 2 separate strips – one 3" high and one 2" high.
3. Cut a piece of interfacing (light or medium weight) 11" wide x 1.5" high and attach it to the back of the stitched piece per the interfacing instructions.
4. Attach the narrow strip (right sides together) to the top of the stitched piece and the wider strip to the bottom of the stitched piece. Take a minute to make certain the cotton fabric will unfold to be right side up, if that is important to you.
5. Sew the cotton fabric and stitched fabric together, using whatever seam allowance you prefer (for this one I've used ½"), then trim seams and press open. Square up the edges and trim.
6. Stitch a line ½" from the top and bottom of the cotton fabric. This will help you to attach the drum top and bottom to the drum sides.
7. Putting the right sides together, stitch the ends of the drum with a ¼" to ½" seam. Press the seam flat, and turn the drum right side out. Then press the top and bottom edges under so that the stitched line is at the top.
8. Cut two 3.5" circles out of mat board (or similar material). Cut two larger circles (at least 5" diameter) from the osnaburg fabric for top and bottom of the drum. Then cut at least 8 circles of batting in graduated sizes –at least 3 at 3.5" diameter and the rest getting slightly smaller.
9. Using stitchery tape, attach one 3.5" batting circle to each mat board circle. Stack the smaller circles (from largest to smallest) on one of the mat board circles. Put the last of the 3.5" batting circles on top of the stacked batting. (This will be the top of the drum.)

10. Attach the bottom of the drum to the sides (I like to use an upturned glass or similar item to balance the pieces while I'm sewing them). You can use the stitched line as a guide, and putting some pins into the piece helps keep things even. Sew the drum bottom to the drum sides.

11. Turn the drum over and fill it with your stuffing material of choice (I like a mixture of walnut shells and lavender). Pin the top of the drum in place and stitch it on.

12. Tack on lace trim at top and bottom.