

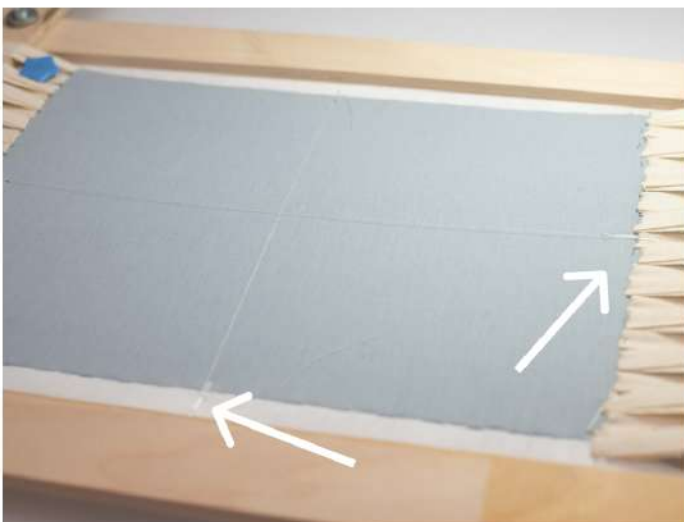
Lesson 1. GETTING PREPARED



Prepare a piece of fabric for embroidery. You may use organic linen or cotton, because the density of these materials allows you not to use an additional stabilization layer.



However, if the fabric you have is thin, you may fuse a piece of vlieseline onto the backside. This will make the piece more stable while stretching on the frame and stitching.



Fix the fabric in the embroidery frame. A horizontal frame - is the most convenient, but you may use an embroidery hoop too. The thing you are to remember is the size of the hoop - it should allow you to embroider the entire design as a whole without changing the position of the frame. Mark the centres of each side.



Transfer the design to the piece of water-soluble film. Use a pen (ink should be water-stable). Trace the position of the main elements of the embroidery pattern.

Note: you may use tracing/tissue paper to transfer the design (to substitute water-soluble film if you do not have any).

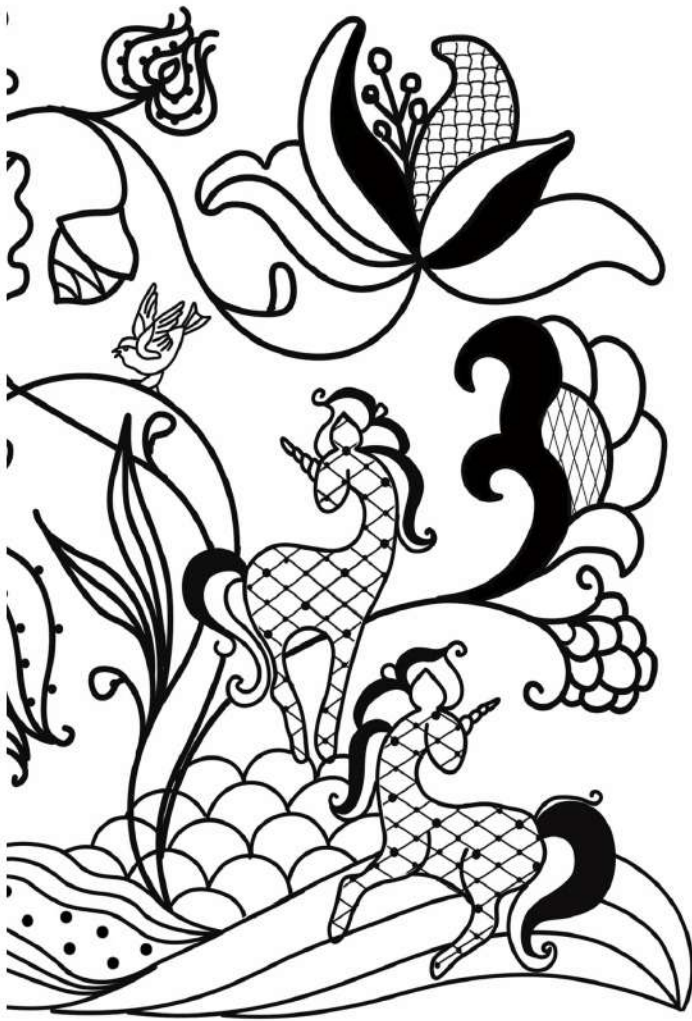


Fix the piece of the film on top of the fabric, adjusting the horizontal and the vertical marks of the pattern with the marking threads on the fabric.



With a "split stitch", contour the lines of the design such as: the animal figures, the land, the hibiscus flower and the sunflower. Use one strand of cotton embroidery floss (DMC 168/ Gamma 3045/ Madeira 901). Do not contour the stems of the "tree", the leaves and the "pomegranate".





Some areas of the design need to be volumized.
Use a "padding stitch" or attach felt elements.

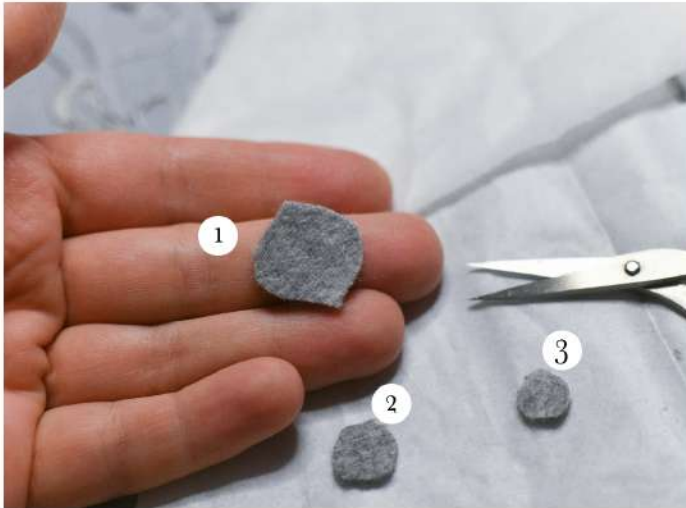
The area marked black needs to be padded.



For stitching the area with a "padding stitch",
you may use two or even three strands of cotton
embroidery floss at once. This will make the
elements more voluminous.



Have a look at the photograph on the left. If you
do things right, you should have the same result.



Now, let's pad the acorn.

For making the acorn "body", you need some scraps of felt.

The size of the biggest element (1) should repeat the size of the acorn in the embroidery design.

The underlying parts (2, 3) should be a bit smaller.



Secure the end of the thread in the centre of the acorn as it is shown in the photograph.



Fix the smallest piece (3) of felt in the centre of the acorn. Make one tiny stitch in the centre and, spread about three or four stitches along the sides.



On top of the first piece, stitch the second one. Do the same as you have just done: place one stitch in the middle and a series of stitches along the edges.



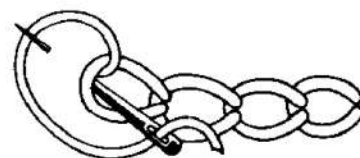
On top of the "pyramid" set an acorn-shaped element (1). Arranging the stitches along the edges, secure the woollen acorn in its place.



Make a long stitch going from the left to the right. This margin separates the "body" from the "cap". The base for the acorn is ready!



Now is the time to use a golden metalized thread for contouring the rest of the design. I use a tambour hook, but you are free to stitch with a needle. Contour the stems of the oak leaves, the pomegranate and its leaf and the stem of the "tree" too. Use a "chain stitch".



If the thread, which you use goes through the fabric unevenly, becomes twisted and "crooked", you may wax it with a piece of organic beeswax. This will simplify the process.



DMC diamant D3821/Madeira FS
Metallic 40 Embroidery Thread gold 6



The part of a pomegranate hidden under the peel is golden, filled with a "chan stitch".

Use a hook or a needle to stitch this, or fill it with a "short and long" stitch.



Take off the securing stitches and free the film.



Tear off the film, piece after piece.
Accurately "clean" the fabric from the scraps of the film.
Use tweezers to take off the tiny pieces.



Take a piece of masking tape and let the scraps stick on to.
This will help you to gather all the scraps and clean the fabric and prepare the design for the further work.