



Embroidery Kit Instructions

✦ In this booklet you'll find step-by-step instructions to help you complete this project. You'll find stitch tutorial videos via the QR code that you scanned, so don't forget to have a look at those if you need them.

✦ Please help the planet by only printing off any pages that you really need a paper copy of, and recycle them when you're done.

✦ I'd love to see your finished hoops, so please tag me @hellohoorayblog on socials - and if you're able to leave a review on my website, I'd really appreciate it!

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Kit contents

This kit contains: one 15cm (6") beech wood embroidery hoop, DMC embroidery thread (pre-cut on a labelled thread card), one pre-printed fabric panel with the design, embroidery needle, printed colour and stitch guide, plus a sticker featuring the design.

You will find the needle taped to the thread card 😊



Before you get started

This kit contains pre-printed fabric, so there's no need to worry about transferring the design - yay!

It's a good idea to give the fabric a quick iron to remove any creases before you start. Then just follow these steps to prepare for stitching:

-  Take the hoop and separate the rings - if you're new to hand embroidery, you just need to undo the screw at the top and the rings will come apart).
-  Place your fabric on top of the smaller ring, and line it up so that the design is a little higher than the middle so the whole skirt is visible (you'll rearrange this again after stitching the skirt). Take the outer ring and place it over the fabric, push down and then tighten the screw. Make sure that the fabric is pulled tightly in the hoop, but not too tight (you'll need to keep checking and adjusting this as you stitch).
-  Cut your thread around 20-25cm long, or roughly the length of your fingertips to your elbow. Any longer than this and you will probably end up with lots of knots as you work, which is never fun!
-  Standard embroidery thread consists of 6 strands that can be divided as you wish. Pay attention to the number of strands used for each part of the design, as they vary throughout.
-  Remember that you don't need to worry about keeping the back neat and tidy, because nobody will see that anyway!

Some stitching tips

-  When you get to the end of your length of thread, tie off at the back with a small double knot, and trim the excess thread close to the back (repeat this throughout the project).
-  Don't worry about how quickly or slowly you are stitching - just work at your own pace. We all work differently, so just try to enjoy the process of stitching and seeing the design come to life.
-  In addition to what's included in your kit, you'll also need a pair of scissors. Thread conditioner is useful too, but not essential.
-  If you have any questions along the way, please get in touch!

Instructions



Step one

Thread your needle with 2 strands of pink thread (603). Stitch around the side edges of the skirt and pockets with a whipped backstitch. Add the central hem and fly details in the same way, leaving the bottom edge unstitched. When complete, remove the fabric from the hoop and iron it on a cool setting to remove creases. Place the fabric back in the hoop so that the bottom edge of the skirt is hidden and the rest of the design is central.



Step two

To stitch the plantpot, thread your needle with 2 strands of pale cornflower thread (3840). Stitch over the outer edges with a whipped backstitch again. To give contrast, stitch the same stitch over the darker edge at the top using cornflower thread (3838).



Step three

Stitch the outline of the jumper with a split backstitch, using 2 strands of yellow thread (727). Keep the stitches nice and small here, and take your time to make sure that the black outline on the printed design is completely covered.



Step four

Add a little contrast on the collar and cuffs with some satin stitch in pale orange thread (725). Stitch satin stitch for these, making sure that you leave gaps between the stitches and then fill them in. This ensures that you have a nice, smooth finish.



Step five

Stitch the plant stems with 2 strands of mid green (913) and a small stem stitch. Make sure that at the bottom, the stems cover the stitching at the back of the pot, but don't go over the stitching for the front. This will give a more realistic effect.

Instructions (cont.)



Step six

Create the leaves with leaf stitch, using 3 strands of light green (955). Start at the point of the leaf with a small, vertical straight stitch, and then work the stitches alternating from either side (see the link to my tutorial video via the QR code for this stitch!). Add contrasting leaves in mid green (913) if you wish.



Step seven

Thread your needle with 1 strand of beige thread (945). Stitch a whipped backstitch covering the lines of the hands. I'd recommend stitching one finger at a time and whipping it before moving on to the next one, to avoid catching the stitches as much when you whip them.



Step eight

Stitch the face and neck in the same way as the hands, using 1 strand of beige thread (945). Don't stitch the face at the top where the fringe is, as this will be created when you stitch the hair in the next step.



Step nine

When stitching the hair you should work on the fringe first, creating a centre parting that moves diagonally up from where the two sides of the hair meet the face. Use 3 strands of black thread (310) and satin stitch for this. When one half is stitched, add the other in the same way. Then stitch the rest of the hair vertically, following the outline of the hair on the fabric.



Step ten

Thread your needle with 1 strand of black thread (310). Stitch small backstitches over the eyes, nose and mouth. Tie off at the back after each one, to avoid seeing any excess thread from the front of the design.

Instructions (cont.)



Step eleven

To stitch the lettering, use 3 strands and a small backstitch. Stitch in the same direction as though you were writing the letters for a smooth effect. Then add the dots and diamond with 2 strands of black thread. Use a small backstitch for the diamond, and then add French knots (wrapped twice) for the dots.

Finishing the back of your hoop



1. Check that you're happy with the position of your fabric in the hoop. Tighten it with a screwdriver, then use a pair of dressmaking scissors to trim the fabric down to roughly 2cm around the edge.
2. Thread your needle with the perlé thread and tie a knot in the end, leaving the excess.
3. At the top of the hoop, push the needle through the coloured side of the fabric, about half way between the hoop and the edge of the fabric. Move the needle along a little way and come back up to make a simple running stitch, and pull through until you reach the knot.
4. Repeat the running stitch all around the edge of the hoop.
5. When you get to the end, pull the thread as tightly as you can and tie a double or triple knot to secure it. Ta-dah! Your hoop is ready to display - you could add some ribbon to hang it for an extra pop of colour if you like.