

Quick & Fun PROJECT



A Silk Ribbon Thimble Bag

Designed by Pat Armour
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The silk ribbon thimble bag consists of a single ribbon rose with a spray of French knot flowers and a curling stem stitched using the stem stitch with a few detached chain leaves. The drawstring ribbon is held in place with a double row of herringbone stitches.

Skill Level: Beginner

Materials

- A piece of fabric (quilting weight cotton, dupioni silk, etc) 3 inches (7.5 cm) by 6 inches (16 cm).
- A matching piece of muslin or other similar lining fabric.
- 12" of silk ribbon, ¼" width in rose colour
- Matching embroidery floss, 1 strand 12" in length
- Small amount of green floss for stems, leaves, and herringbone
- Small amount of pink floss for French knots and herringbone
- 12" of satin ribbon to close bag
- Sewing thread for making up

Instructions

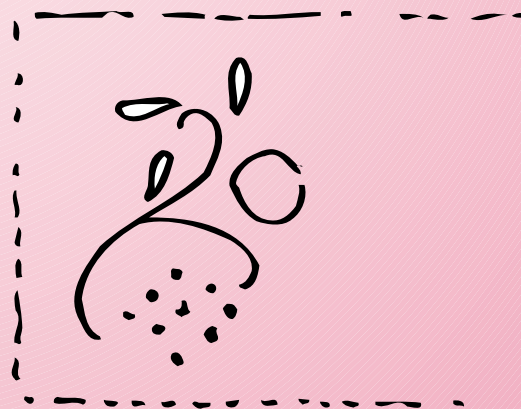
Note: treat the fabric and backing as a single layer when stitching the embroidery.

Trace pattern onto right side of the main fabric centered in the top half of the fabric.



(Above) Design placement

(Right) Design

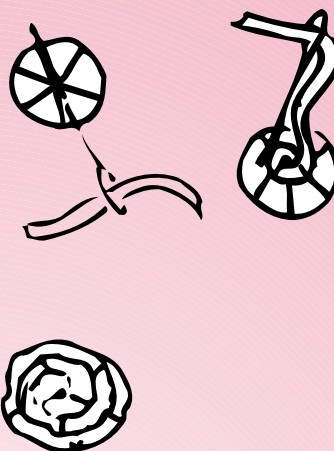


Join the two short sides, top and bottom, with $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (1 cm) hem, right sides together.

This can be done by machine or using a backstitch by hand. Turn right side out and press seams. The lining fabric will now act as a backing for the embroidery. This piece is too small to put in a hoop but can be held firmly worked in your hand.



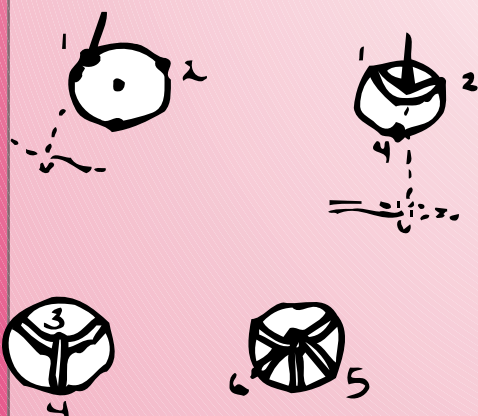
The Join



The Spiderweb Ribbon Rose

This type of rose requires an odd (uneven) number of floss threads to weave the ribbon under. Use 1 strand of pink (or matching rose colour) floss. Begin by making a fly stitch with each arm being equal length. Think of your circle as a clock face. Come up at 10:00, down at 2:00 but leave a loop. Come up in the centre of the clock, catch the loop and back down at 6:00. Now add two more arms by coming up at 4:00 and wrapping the thread under the centre and back down at 8:00. You should now have 5 "arms".

Now thread your needle with the silk ribbon. To thread the needle, cut the ribbon on the diagonal. Thread the tip through the eye of the needle and "lock" it in place by piercing the ribbon about $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch from the end. Slide the ribbon back up the needle so it is locked in place and you're ready to start stitching. Make a knot at the other end of the ribbon. Come up at the centre but do not pierce the floss. Gently weave the ribbon around the "arms" in an over and under motion. You should be spiraling toward the outer edge of the circle. Be sure you don't pull the ribbon too tight. It should be just snug enough to give the impression of rose petals. When you reach the edge, tuck the last stitch under the next petal so there isn't an abrupt end. Plunge the needle to the back and tie off your ribbon.



The curving stem is 2 strands of green floss done in stem stitch. The leaves are 2 strands of green floss and lazy daisy stitch (detached chain). The flower is a collection of French knots done in pink floss.

Making Up the bag

Fold the bag in half with right sides together. Backstitch seams on either side with a ½ inch (1 cm) seam allowance. Trim corners at the fold and whip stitch raw edges together. Turn right side out. Knot the ends of the drawstring ribbon to prevent fraying. Pin the ribbon in place and use as a guide for the herringbone stitch (or long armed cross stitch). Be careful not to catch the ribbon. Use 2 strands of pink floss. Next, using 2 strands of green floss, make a second row of herringbone alternating with the spaces of the first (pink) row. Now you have a double row holding the ribbon in place and your thimble has a lovely carrying bag.



(Above) Thimble bag close up
(Left centre) Herringbone stitch diagram.
(Bottom left) Herringbone stitch on bag to create drawstring. (Bottom right) Inside of bag.

