

Cover Project



Misty Morning by Deanna Bertlesen

Skill Level: Intermediate to Advanced

MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

- 12" x 12" broadcloth, light grey or blue
- 12" x 12" muslin backing fabric
- 12" x 12" piece of heavy iron on craft interfacing
- 6" x 6" grey felt
- 4" x 6" piece of clear MacTac or use clear wide packing tape
- D.M.C. thread in:
 - 3753,
 - 317,
 - 744,
 - 310 and
 - 3045.

- Anchor thread #274
- Assorted Variegated Silk Fibres
- hand dyed cotton fibres
- multi coloured knitting fibres featuring green and brown or gold and green.
 - (The three above fibres are to be taken apart and recombined to make grasses, reeds, etc. The knitting yarns used in the sample are multi stranded and hand dyed.)
- Please use your stash for the "marsh grasses"
- Mill Hill bead #42014 (you only need one - check your stash for a

- black or dark eye bead)
- Linen thread #50 (alternately use #8 pearl cotton in white.)
- #26 tapestry needle
- Pale grey sewing thread.
- Hand sewing needle
- Tracing paper
- White or silver Sulky thread #40, (optional water shine only. A metallic could be used.)
- Baker's parchment paper (available at the grocers.)
- You will also need your standard sewing kit including a good 8" hoop and contrasting basting thread.

WHAT YOU DO

First, trace the bird's body pattern to tracing paper. Also trace the wing pattern separately to your tracing paper. Cut out the patterns to within 1/4" of your drawing line. Lay both patterns on an oblong piece of the fusible interfacing which is about 1" wider and longer than the area needed by both pattern pieces.

size, or strips of the wide packing tape. You need to be able to see your patterns and have a slippery protective layer above it. This gives you a firm background for your work.

You have just made a needle lace pad.

INSTRUCTIONS

Make sure the fusible side is facing up. Lay a piece of baker's parchment over the patterns on the interfacing and fuse with your iron. (The baker's parchment protects your iron from the heat activated adhesive.) If the interfacing is quite soft, fuse another piece underneath the first to stiffen it up. When the pattern pieces are cool, cover them with MacTac cut to

EMBROIDERY

BODY:

Cut a piece of linen thread (or #8 pearl cotton) about 36" long, fold it in half and lay the doubled linen thread on the outline of the body pattern. With a sharp sewing needle and a bright basting thread, leave a knot on top of the pad about 1/4" away from the pattern line. Come up right beside your pattern line and beginning about 1/4" away from the loop couch the doubled thread to the pattern line every 1/4" all the way around.

When you near the loop, pass both ends of the linen thread through the loop, fold one end back toward

you and lay the other on top of the first threads where you began and cut the linen thread to 3/4". Couch over these ends, continuing to couch closely till you have covered both the end facing back and the end lying over the first threads to secure firmly. Fasten off your basting thread in the pad. You have now completed a "cordonnet".

From now on, you will only pass a needle through the lace pad when you begin or end a thread. With a tapestry (blunt) needle thread up 2 strands of DMC #317. Begin with a waste knot on the surface of the lace pad about 1/2" away from the left side of the neck of the bird, just below his head.

Bring the thread up beside the cordonnet at the upper left neck and wrap around the cordonnet 2 or 3 times to secure it. Make about 4 buttonhole stitches from left to right across the top of the head of the heron. Make one buttonhole stitch

down about 1/8" on the right and then pass the thread all the way back to the left side of the head, making a buttonhole stitch to catch the left side of the cordonnet. Buttonhole all the way back to the right, stitching through the first loops and over the passed thread within these stitches. This is cloth stitch. At the end of the second row, wrap the #317 off down the right hand side of the cordonnet and pass it through the lace pad and away from the work.

Wrap on two strands of #274 up the right hand side, anchor with a buttonhole stitch on the cordonnet and pass the thread over to the left, anchor and buttonhole back, catching the last row of buttonhole stitches and the passed thread. Adjust the number of stitches as you need to in order to fill the cordonnet with even stitches. To add stitches, make more than one stitch in the end stitches of each row. To decrease, miss stitches at the ends of rows.

When you reach the body area, add on more stitches, keeping them even in size. When the body tapers off, delete some stitches until you reach the tail.

When the body is completed, wrap on a single thread of #274 and tightly buttonhole all the way around the cordonnet, completely covering all your wraps and the cordonnet. Avoid your cloth stitches by buttonholing between them. This edge will hold all your threads in place.

WING:

Cut a length of linen thread about 18" long, fold in half and couch it to the pattern in the same manner as you did the body.

With two strands of #3753, wrap on at the top of the wing. Begin with a couple of buttonhole stitches attached to the cordonnet, buttonhole

PATTERN TO TRACE



on the right side, down about 1/8" and buttonhole back across the wing. This is a detached buttonhole stitch or Single Brussels stitch. When you reach the area of the dark spot, buttonhole up to the area and park your needle. With a second needle, thread up #317, wrap on the right side and buttonhole across to meet the #3753. Twist the two colours together once to join them, (just like Fairisle knitting), and buttonhole back with the #317, keeping the twist fairly tight. Work both colours within the pattern with each colour coming from it's respective side, until the spot is completed then wrap off

the #317 and continue with #3753.

When the wing is complete, wrap on a single thread of #3753 and buttonhole all around the outer edge.

With tracing paper, make a copy of the bird body pattern. carefully cut that pattern out and pin it to your felt. Cut out your felt bird. Using

scraps of felt, cut out a slightly smaller body and then cut out another smaller still. You now have three "bodies".

Place your background fabric in a hoop large enough to hold your design.

With grey sewing thread, tack the smallest body to the background fabric where you want the bird to stand.

Cover this with the next largest piece and stitch down carefully.

Place the complete full size felt over both of these paddings and stitch it down, coming up on the design line and going down through the felt.

These stitches should be very close together. It helps to tack the top layer at the head, tail, back and front before you begin to anchor it to the background.

When the padding is all stitched down, remove your lace from the pad by cutting all the bright basting threads and pulling them out. Cut all your waste knots and pull up on the lace gently, cut all the threads that hang from the lace till it is clean.

When all the extra working threads have been removed from your lace, place the body lace over the padding and with the grey sewing thread tack the lace down at the head, tail, back and front, then sew it down with small stitches, just outside the padding. You want to cover the padding completely, being careful not to pull your lace out of shape.



When the body is in place and stitched down, lay the wing on top where the picture indicates and stitch it down from the top to the tail all along the back. The wing on the sample has not been stitched onto the body itself, but lies loose in the front.

LEGS:

With #274 and #744 stitch the bird's thighs and legs with long and short stitches. (Pad these if you like.)

BEAK:

With #744 make two long stitches, one for the top and one for the bottom of the beak. Fill in with compensating stitches, and make one long stitch in #317 down the centre.

EYE:

With #310 black, attach his eye bead and make 4 stitches in a diamond shape to outline the eye.

With #317, make the flying feathers on the back of his neck. If you wish them to appear curved, couch them down at the midpoint of the stitch. The loose feathers on his tummy are in #274.

THE SETTING:

Now that your bird is completed, it is time to turn your attention to his surroundings. You may wish to make a spring picture by using all pale yellows and greens, or a fall setting by using the browns and golds, it is your choice.

The tall reeds are straight stitches in your colour choice. The bulrushes are made with a straight stitch and lots of French knots at the top.

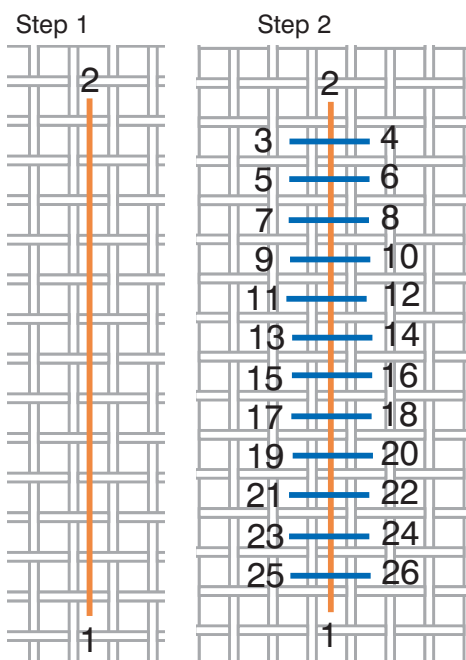
Use your imagination and the stitches you know in threads from your stash to make marsh plants of every description. Just don't make too many plants and lose your Great Blue Heron in the bushes! Use the shiny Sulky thread if you choose to make a water shine where you imagine it to be. Remember it is useful to make a walkway into the picture for your eye to follow. Check out the sample to see how the original used Sulky #40 thread.

Initial and date your piece and enjoy it with my compliments.

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Stitch Lesson

This stitch is done by laying a thread down and anchoring it with another thread stitched over top. The first thread (the red one) is often a heavy thread which is difficult to stitch. The second thread, the blue one, is a finer thread.



Couching

thread and tacks down the red thread with small stitches. The distance between the stitches depends on what is being couched and whether it will be covered by other stitching. This technique is used often in stumpwork and metal thread embroidery.