

BUTTON ORNAMENT

By

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Description

This project demonstrates the use of a button form to create a simple but elegant Christmas ornament. The stitched design is stretched over a button front, backed with the fabric-covered button back, and finished with decorative cord. The design size is 54 x 54 threads, and the finished size is 2 1/2" in diameter.

Materials List

Stitching supplies:

- 7" x 7" piece of 18-count mono canvas, any color
- 2 pair 7" x 7" Stretcher bars
- Tacks or staples
- 2 cards of any flat metallic thread, each of a different color (Fyreworks, 1/16" ribbon, Shimmer Blend, etc.)
- #8 Kreinik braid to match one of the flat metallic threads
- #4 Kreinik braid to match the canvas
- Usual stitching supplies

Finishing supplies:

- 1 Dritz Half Ball Cover Button, Size No. 100 - 2 1/2" diameter. These were purchased at a local Hancock's Fabrics, but should be available at most fabric and craft stores.
- 9" x 5" piece of lame (silver or gold) or other lightweight fabric
- Pellon® fleece
- Straight pins
- Cordonnet or #12 pearl cotton (approx. 2 yds)
- Q-tips® and water
- A portable hair dryer to speed drying of dampened canvas (optional)
- Sewing thread to match canvas (approx. 1 yd)
- Sharp sewing needles
- Decorative cording (silver or gold, approx. 15")
- Tacky glue, hot glue gun, or another glue suitable for attaching decorative cord to the outside of the ornament

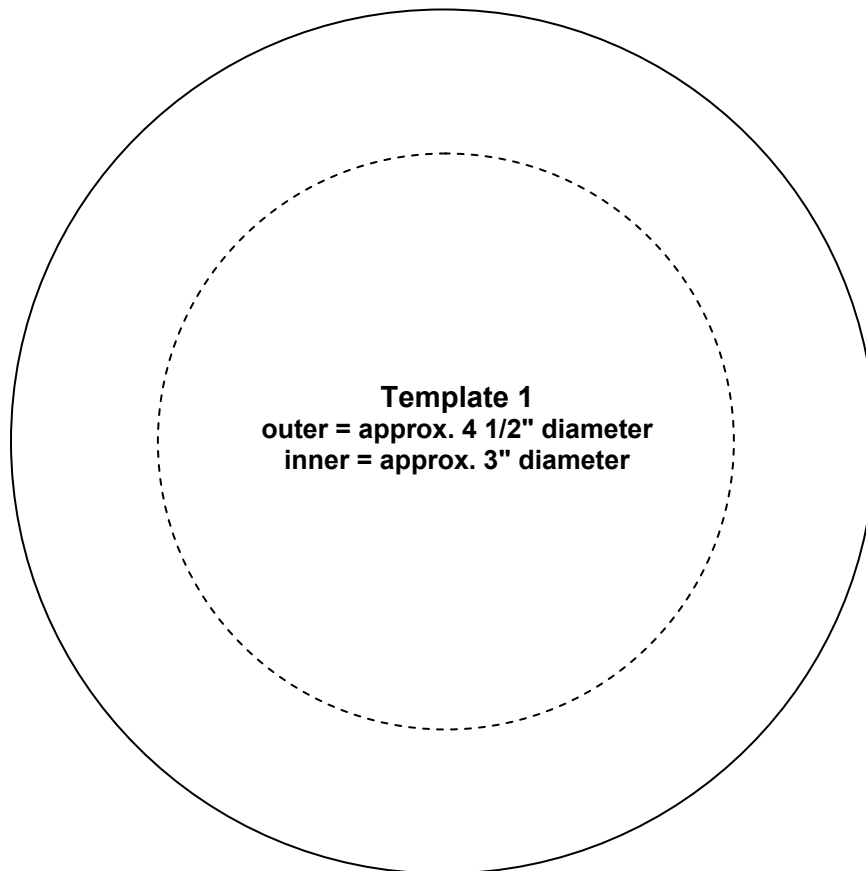
Colors and fibers used in stitched models

Canvas Color	Central Motif Threads	Outline Thread	Background Thread	Lame
Red	Gold Glissen Gloss braid White Shimmer Blend	Gold #8 Kreinik braid	None	Gold
White	Gold Kreinik 1/16" ribbon Green Fyrewerks	Gold #8 Kreinik braid	032 #4 Kreinik braid	Gold
Black	Kreinik Silver ribbon Turquoise Kreinik ribbon	Silver #8 Kreinik braid	None	Silver

Stitching the central motif

Center the canvas over Template 1 below. Trace both the inner and outer circle using a very fine, permanent marker such as Micron 01. The inner circle outlines the design area. The outer circle marks the cutting line for finishing the ornament. Once the tracing is done, attach the canvas to the assembled stretcher bars using either tacks or staples.

The stitch chart for the central motif is shown in Diagram 1 on the next page. Each graph line represents a canvas thread, and each dot on the diagram represents a hole where the needle comes up or goes down.



The central motif is done in a balloon satin stitch. The horizontal stitches that make up this stitch follow the pattern 2-4-6-8-8-6-4-2-2-4-6-8-8- (given as number of canvas threads covered by each stitch). Any flat fiber is suitable for this design: Shimmer Blend, Kreinik ribbon, Glissen Gloss braid, etc.

As shown in Diagram 1, the two colors of flat thread (Thread A and Thread B) are used in alternate columns of the

balloon satin stitch. For Thread A, horizontal lines connect the dots to represent the satin stitches. For purposes of readability, satin stitches for the "in between" columns (Thread B) have not been drawn in.

Note that the balloon stitch pattern is distorted at the upper left and lower right side of the design. This results in a design that is more pleasing than having many small compensating stitches at the edges.

Using one of one of the flat metallic threads (Thread A) and a waste knot, come up at the position marked "1". "1" needs to be at the top of your canvas, and should lie on the smaller of the two circles you traced.

Continue down the column of balloon satin stitches, making sure the thread lies flat on both sides of the canvas without twisting as it comes through the canvas holes. When you start the adjacent column of stitches (Thread B), change to the other flat metallic thread.

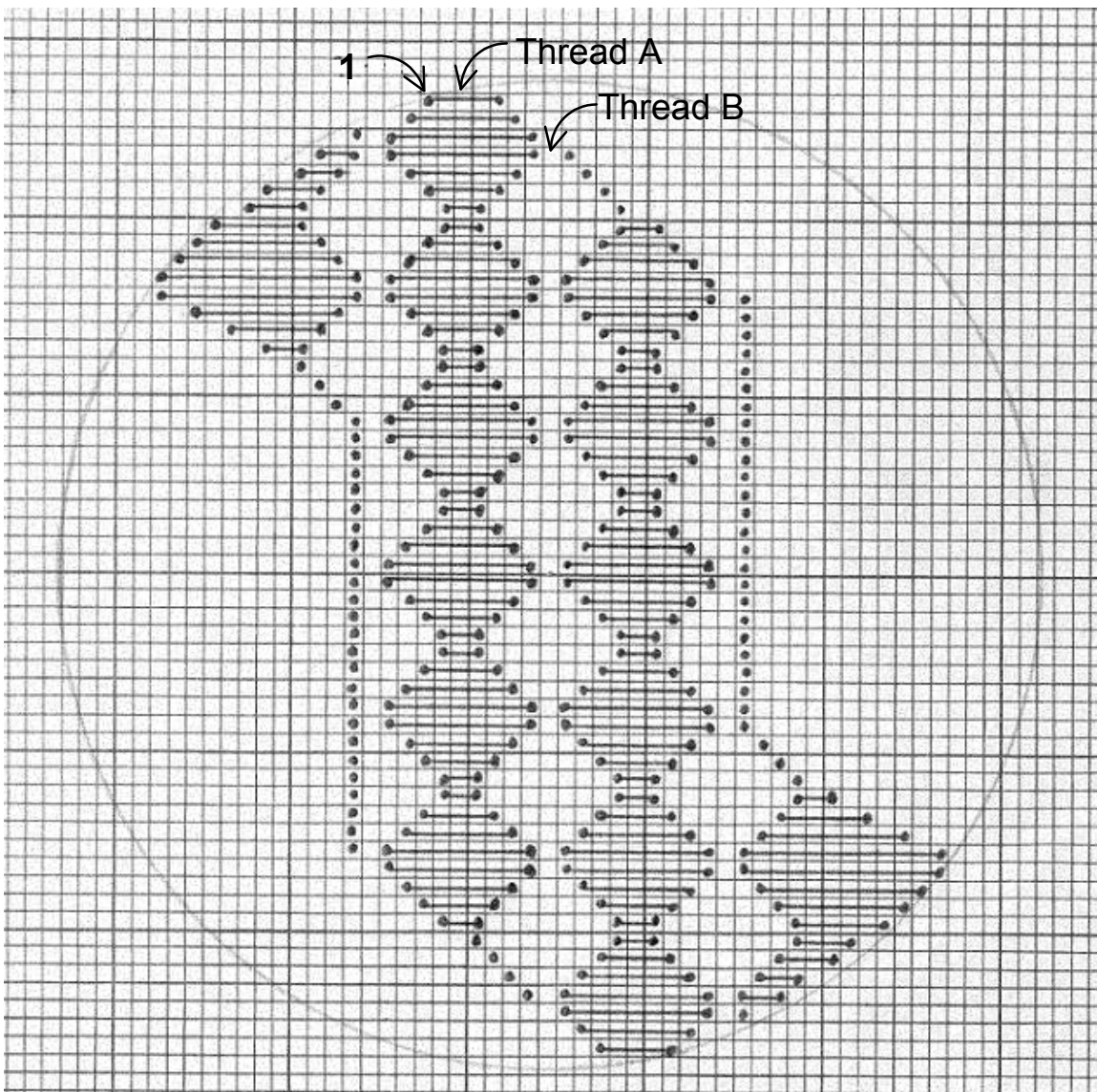


Diagram 1. Central motif

Once the balloon satin stitches are complete, use coordinating #8 braid and the outline stitch (Diagram 2) to smooth the "S" curves on the left and right sides of the central motif. Diagram 2 is an edgewise view of the canvas. Odd numbers represent bringing the needle up from the back, and even numbers represent plunging the needle into the canvas from the front.

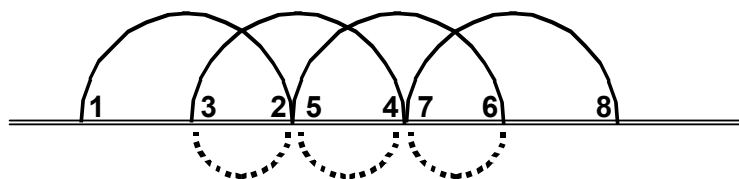
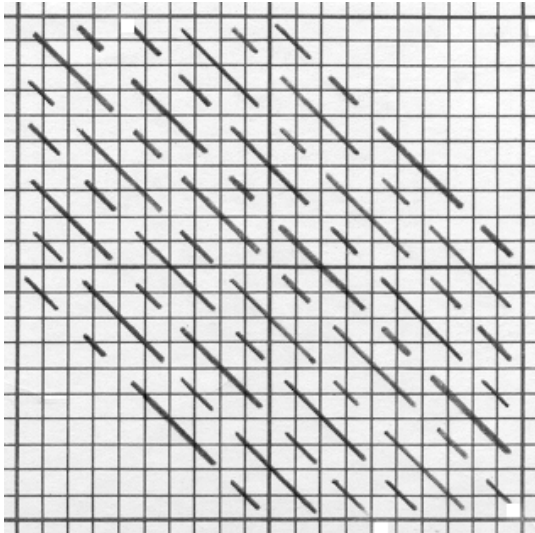


Diagram 2. Outline stitch

The needle should come up on the side of the previous stitch that is *away* from the balloon stitches. *Do not stitch next to the curved sides that will "touch" the perimeter of the button.* The outline stitch should go over three or four canvas threads, and where possible, should share holes with the already completed balloon satin stitches.

Optional Background



Using #4 Kreinik braid in a color that matches the canvas, fill in the areas on either side of the central motif with the diagonal darning pattern in Diagram 3. The smaller circle traced on the canvas marks the limit of the background area. If you use colored canvas, you may decide that the ornament is decorative enough that it doesn't need a background.

Diagram 3.
Diagonal darning pattern

Finishing Instructions

1. Remove the canvas from the stretcher bars and cut out the stitched design along the larger of the two traced circles.
2. Using Template 2 cut two circles of lame and a circle of Pellon.
3. Pop the hook out of the button form.
4. Smooth one of the lame circles over the front of the button form, catching the edges of the fabric in the teeth on the inside of the button.
5. Thread a 45-50" length of cordonnet into a tapestry needle and double it over to make a 23 - 25"



stitching length. Knot the doubled length of cordonnet 4 or 5 inches from the end (this long end will be needed to pull the basting in order to gather the canvas around the button form). Baste a running stitch around the edges of the canvas circle. Each stitch should span 3 or 4 canvas threads, and the basting should be 3/8" from the edge of the canvas. Your last basting stitch should overlap your first one.

6. In this step, the goal is to soften the canvas sizing just enough to shape it around the button form without distorting the stitched design. Wet a Q-tip, and roll it along the line of basting stitches. Repeat as needed to go completely around the circle. Go around the canvas circle again, moistening the canvas 3/8" in from the basted line. The canvas in these areas needs to be wet, but not dripping. Try not to dampen the stitched design. Begin to gather up the edges of the canvas by pulling the cordonnet. Once the gathering has been started, center the button front against the backside of the canvas and continue to pull the canvas edges into the center of the button. Center the design on the button front, and then press the canvas edges against the teeth inside the button to secure them. Tie the ends of the basting thread together to keep the gathers tight.
7. Allow the wet canvas to dry thoroughly overnight, or use a hair dryer to speed drying.
8. Pin together the Pellon circle and the remaining lame circle. Using the remaining cordonnet, baste the two together, 3/8" in from the perimeter of the circle.
9. Put the backside of the button back on the Pellon, and pull on the basting threads to gather the edges of the fabric. The button back should be centered in the fabric, with the fabric gathered tightly around it. Pull the cordonnet tight and tie the ends together to keep the gathers in place.
10. Thread a sharp sewing needle with a sewing thread that matches the canvas. Holding the covered button back and button front together use a blind stitch to sew them together.
11. Starting at the bottom of the ornament, wrap the decorative cord around the edge. Run a bead of glue around the perimeter of the button front as you lay down the cord. At the top, form a loop to serve as a hanger. Once the glue has dried, use a sewing needle and thread to tack the base of the loop to the canvas.

References

- Jan Eaton. *The Complete Stitch Encyclopedia* Quarto Publishing Ltd., London, 1993.
- Suzanne Howren and Beth Robertson. *Stitches For Effect* SHEAR Creations, Virginia, 1996.