

Project: Season's Best Ornaments

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Celebrate the warmth of the holiday season with these quick-to-stitch wool ornaments.

Project: Season's Best Ornaments

Materials for Three Ornaments (one of each design)

- 6—4" squares of red-and-black mini-check felted wool (ornaments)
- 3—3" squares of black felted wool (appliqué foundations)
- Scraps of gold, red, and green felted wool (appliqués)
- Embroidery floss: black, gold, red, green, light green, dark green, and ecru
- Perle cotton No. 5: gold
- Fabric glue (optional)

Finished ornament: 3½" diameter

Cut Fabrics

Cut pieces in the following order. Patterns are on page 5. To make templates, see Make and Use Templates, page 6.

To felt wool, machine-wash in hot-water-wash, cool-rinse cycle with a small amount of detergent; machine-dry on high heat and steam-press.

From red-and-black mini-check wool, cut:

- 6 of Pattern A

From black wool, cut:

- 3 of Pattern B

From gold wool, cut:

- 1 of Pattern G

From red wool, cut:

- 1 each of patterns C, K, L, M, and N
- 5 of Pattern I
- 5 of Pattern J

From green wool, cut:

- 1 each of patterns D, E, and F
- 8 of Pattern O
- 3 of Pattern H

Appliqué Candle Ornament

1. Referring to **Candle Ornament Placement Diagram**, position the red C candle; green D, E, and F leaves; and gold G flame atop a black B circle. Then remove all pieces except red candle; glue or pin in place.
2. Using one strand of red embroidery floss and straight stitches, stitch around the red candle. Layer the remaining wool shapes atop the candle. Using one strand of coordinating embroidery floss and straight stitches, stitch around each wool shape; start with the bottom layer and work to the top.
3. Using one strand of red embroidery floss, backstitch the top detail on the red candle.
4. Using two strands of light green embroidery floss, backstitch branches on the black circle. Alternating light green and dark green floss, use short straight stitches to add pine needles along the branches.
5. Using one strand of gold embroidery floss, add 11 French knots in a ring around the flame to finish the candle appliqué.

Appliqué Poinsettia Ornament

1. Referring to **Poinsettia Ornament Placement Diagram**, position red I and J petals and green H leaves atop a black B circle. Then remove all the red petals; glue or pin the green leaves in place.

2. Using one strand of green embroidery floss and straight stitches, stitch around the leaves. Layer the red petals atop the black circle. Using one strand of red embroidery floss and straight stitches, stitch around each petal; start with the bottom layer and work to the top. *Note:* When straight-stitching around some of the petals, start at the midpoint of a petal and work toward the flower center, leaving the outer half of the petal unstitched. This will give the poinsettia added dimension.
3. Using one strand of gold embroidery floss wrapped once around the needle, add seven French knots where the petals meet.
4. Using one strand of black embroidery floss, straight-stitch veins on the red petals to finish the poinsettia appliqué.

Appliqué Mistletoe Ornament

1. Referring to **Mistletoe Ornament Placement Diagram**, position the red K, L, M, and N bow pieces and the eight green O leaves atop a black B circle. Then remove the red bow pieces; glue or pin the green leaves in place.
2. Using one strand of green embroidery floss and straight stitches, stitch around each leaf, leaving the edge of the top right-hand leaf unstitched where it will overlap the red bow tail.
3. Using two strands of light green embroidery floss, stem-stitch mistletoe stems on the black circle.

Project: Season's Best Ornaments

4. Layer the red bow pieces atop the mistletoe stems. Using one strand of coordinating embroidery floss and straight stitches, stitch around the red bow pieces and the remaining unstitched edge of the leaf.
5. Using one strand of black embroidery floss, backstitch details on the red bow.
6. Using six strands of ecru embroidery floss wrapped once around the needle, add 22 French knots to form berries on the leaves and finish the mistletoe appliqué.

Finish Ornaments

1. Center and straight-stitch each appliquéd black B circle to a red-and-black mini-check A circle.
2. With wrong sides together, layer each stitched red-and-black mini-check circle with an unstitched red-and-black mini-check circle.
3. Using gold perle cotton, start at the top of each pair of circles and blanket-stitch around the edges, leaving a 4" tail at the beginning. At the end, run your thread under the first stitches, tie a knot with the beginning thread, and leave a 4" tail. Cut the tails to the same length, and knot together to form a hanging loop and complete the ornament.

Embroidery Stitches

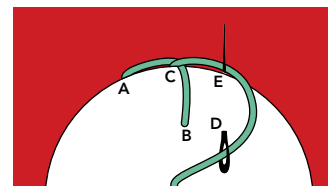
Backstitch

Pull needle up at A, and insert it back into fabric at B. Bring needle up at C, and insert it back into fabric at D. Continue in same manner.



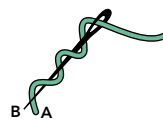
Blanket Stitch

Bring needle up at A, form a reverse L shape with floss, and hold angle of the L shape in place with your thumb. Push needle down at B and come up at C to secure the stitch. Repeat to make as many blanket stitches as desired.



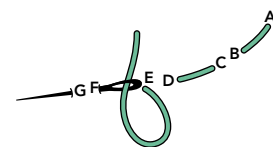
French Knot

Bring needle up at A. Wrap floss around needle two or three times without twisting it. Insert tip of needle into fabric at B, about 1/16" away from A. Gently push wraps down needle to meet fabric. Pull needle and floss through fabric slowly and smoothly.



Running Stitch

Pull needle up at A, and insert it back into fabric at B, about 1/8" from A. Bring needle up at C, about 1/8" from B, and insert it back into fabric at D.



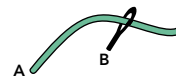
Stem Stitch

Pull needle up at A and insert back into fabric at B, about 1/4" away from A. Holding floss out of the way, bring needle back up at C and pull floss through so it lies flat against fabric. Pull with equal tautness after each stitch.

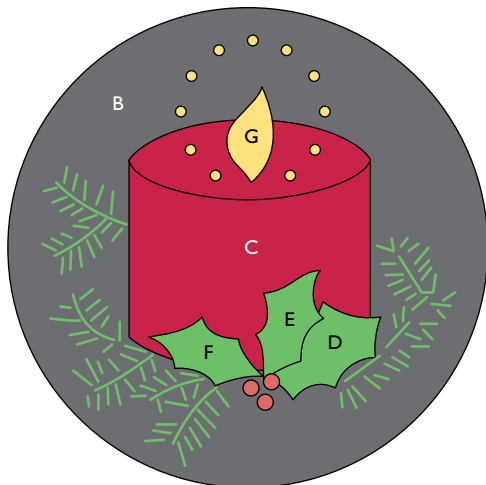


Straight Stitch

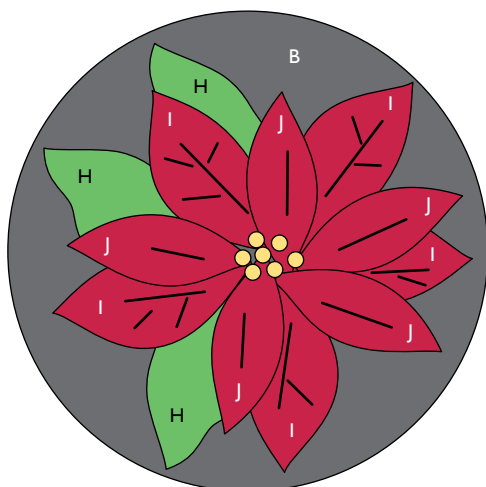
Pull needle up at A, and insert it back into fabric at B. Continue in same manner.



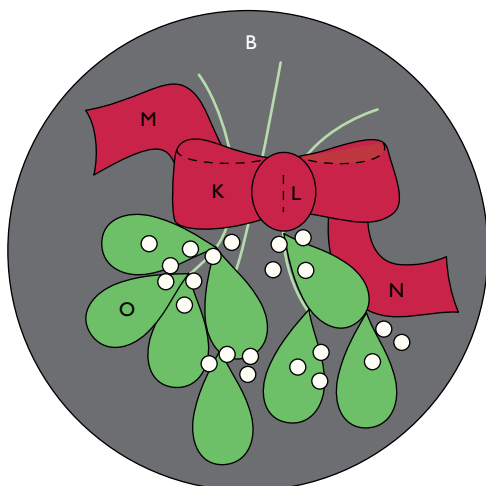
Project: Season's Best Ornaments



CANDLE ORNAMENT PLACEMENT DIAGRAM

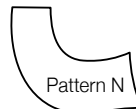
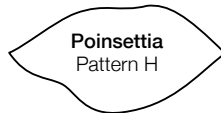
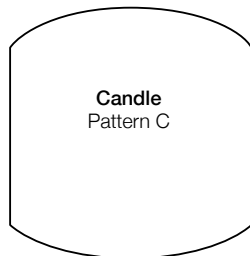
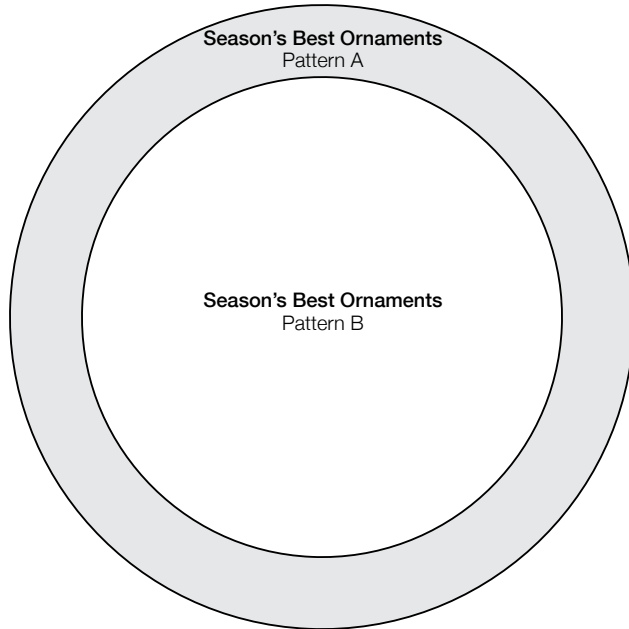


POINSETTIA ORNAMENT PLACEMENT DIAGRAM

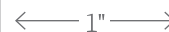


MISTLETOE ORNAMENT PLACEMENT DIAGRAM

Project: Season's Best Ornaments



This box should measure 1".



*** NOTE:**

When printing a downloadable pdf, set Page Scaling preference to NONE to print patterns at 100%. Do NOT "Shrink to Fit" or "Fit to Printable Area."

Make and Use Templates

Make Templates

A template is a pattern made from extra-sturdy material so you can trace around it many times without wearing away the edges. Acrylic templates for many common shapes are available at quilt shops. Or you can make your own by duplicating printed patterns on template plastic.

To make permanent templates, purchase easy-to-cut template plastic, available at quilt shops and crafts supply stores. Lay the plastic over a printed pattern. Trace the pattern onto the plastic using a ruler and a permanent marker to ensure straight lines, accurate corners, and permanency.

For hand piecing and appliqué, make templates the exact size finished pieces will be (without seam allowances). For piecing, this means tracing the patterns' dashed lines.

For machine piecing, make templates that include seam allowances by tracing the patterns' solid and dashed lines onto the template plastic.

For easy reference, mark each template with its letter designation, grain line (if noted on the pattern), and block name. Cut out the traced shapes on their outside lines. Verify each template's shape and size by placing it over its printed pattern. Templates must be accurate; errors, however small, will compound many times as you assemble a quilt. To check templates' accuracy, make a test block before cutting the fabric pieces for an entire quilt.

Use Templates

To mark on fabric, use a pencil, white dressmaker's pencil, chalk, or a special fabric marker that makes a thin, accurate line. Do not use a ballpoint or ink pen; it may bleed if washed. Test all marking tools on a fabric scrap before using them.

To make pieces for hand piecing or appliqué, place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " away from the previous tracing (**Diagram 1**), trace again, and repeat. The lines you trace on the fabric are sewing lines. Mark cutting lines $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the sewing lines, or estimate the distance by eye when cutting out the pieces with scissors. For hand piecing, add a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance; for hand appliqué, add a $\frac{3}{16}$ " seam allowance.

Because templates used to make pieces for machine piecing have seam allowances included, you can use common tracing lines for efficient cutting. Place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template without a space between it and the previous tracing (**Diagram 2**); trace again and repeat. Using a rotary cutter and ruler, cut pieces out, cutting precisely on the drawn lines.

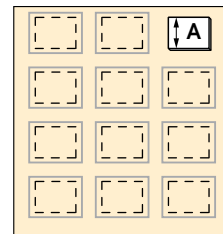


DIAGRAM 1

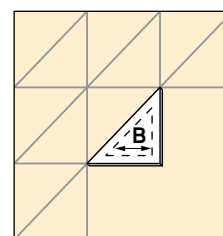


DIAGRAM 2