

Directions for Monogrammed Box / July 2003

(This project utilizes letters from our Gothic Monogram Set 6.)

This project utilizes a finely crafted, solid hardwood hinged storage box. It has a 5" x 5" design display area on the top. The box is perfect for storing jewelry, recipes, small sewing supplies, etc.

Step 1. Print the instructions.

These are .pdf files, and require Adobe Acrobat Reader software in order to view and print.

Step 2. Create the Design.

In order to utilize the design area in an interesting way, we manipulated one of the designs from the Gothic Monogram Set 6 as a background, then placed a complete letter in the center.

Open your embroidery software program, and choose one of the larger sized letters (2"- 52mm). All letters from this set have a vine background with at least one flower, and a two-color letter in the center. The vine background and flowers sew first, followed by the letter fill and then the letter outline.

Edit the design to eliminate the letter and letter border. The background for each letter is slightly different. All are continuous, and there are no gaps behind the letter - when the letter is eliminated what remains is a three color complete design.

We chose the larger letter L (any choice in this size is fine).

After eliminating the letter and letter outline, save the remaining design under a new filename. Don't forget to leave in a color change at the end.

Copy this new design 3 times, and arrange the original and the three copies to create a 4 1/4" (108mm) square motif. By rotating some of the copies you will be able to evenly distribute the flowers across the square. When you are happy with the arrangement save it under a new filename.

You now have an interesting vine and flower background. Choose the monogram letter of your choice, and merge the background that you created along with the letter, placing the letter in the center of the background motif. The sewing sequence should be: the background motif that you created, followed by a complete letter, including the background, from Gothic Monogram Set 6.

Save the completed design under a new filename.

Step 3. Hoop the fabric and sew the design.

We chose off-white felt for this project, and hooped it with one layer of medium-weight tear-away stabilizer.

Choose colors and sew the design.

Step 4. Trim the fabric.

After the design has been sewn, turn the fabric over and tear away the excess stabilizer around the outside of the square motif.

Remove the cardboard back panel from the top of the box, and use it as a template to determine where to trim the fabric.

Turn the embroidery over, back side facing you, and position the cardboard square carefully, insuring that there is equal space all around the perimeter of the design. Mark the corner points with an air-soluble marker.

Using spray adhesive, thoroughly coat one surface of the cardboard square, and carefully position it to meet each corner point, then press down to insure that the felt and the cardboard are bonded.

Using a sharp x-acto knife, trim away excess fabric, using the outside of the cardboard square as a guide.

Step 5: Cut a mat (optional)

We felt that the embroidery would look even more attractive if there were a mat surrounding it.

Cut a piece of colored mat board just slightly larger than the size of the cardboard square included with the box, then measure in approximately 5/8" (11mm) from each edge, marking the edge with a pencil on the back of the matboard square.

Using a sharp x-acto knife, cut a window in the matboard along the guidelines. Remove the center.

Step 6. Assemble the insert.

Place the mat over the embroidered panel, positioning the two so that the design is centered in the matboard opening.

Load the two pieces into the top of the box.

(Note: this box does not come with a piece of glass or plexiglass. If you want to protect the embroidery, purchase a square of either material, precut to the same size as the cardboard backing board.)

Bend the tabs on the inside of the box top to hold the embroidery in place.

Congratulations! Your project is complete.

Sources for Materials

Felt

Widely available from sewing stores.

Spray Adhesive, Mat Board, Glass or Plexiglas

Widely available at craft stores.

Hinged Hardwood Box:

Manufactured for Sudberry House, the hand mirror is available at many gift and craft shops, or online from the company's website at:

<http://www.sudberry.com>

Also available from Embroider This !

<http://www.embroiderthis.com>

The Item is called "Square Jewelry Box"