

Fence Hijackers: A Radical Cross Stitch Tutorial

Materials:

Small square of calico

Needle

Embroidery thread

Embroidery pen

Strips of fabric – eg any spare material you have lying around that doesn't mind being cut into long skinny strips.

Scissors

Stiff plastic shopping bag (the ones you get from fancy boutiques)

Sewing machine (optional)

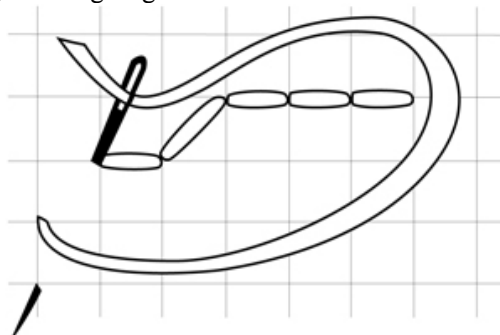
Instructions:

Step one: Cut fabric in half. Draw your picture on one side with dissolvable embroidery pen. Be sure to leave a few cms space around the edge for sewing. Try and keep your picture/words simple and clear.

Step two: Embroider your design using backstitch or running stitch.

Back Stitch

Follow the lines in the pattern but do each stitch backwards. So you are drawing a straight line but each step is stitched in the opposite direction than you are going.



Running stitch

Same as back stitch except working the stitches forwards leaving a space between stitches like this - - - . Depending on your design, you can leave the stitches spaced, or work back through the stitches and fill in the gaps.

Step three: Rinse your fabric to remove the embroidery pen and dry and iron.

Step four: Cut a piece of plastic from your shopping bag the same size as your calico. The plastic will act as a liner for your little plant pocket. Try to avoid any lettering on the bag as it may show through. Pin the plastic to the back of your calico.

Step five: Fold an inch seam down on the top of each piece. Place one of your material strips under the fold and pin down. Leave a length of material strip at the ends. Do not trim. These will serve as ties when you go to hijack a fence. Sew along the seam and both edges starting at the edge. This will secure the strip inside the fold and make the top of your garden stronger. Repeat for the other piece of fabric.

Step six: Place two pieces together with the plastic sides facing out. Pin the sides and bottom and sew together.

Step four and five variation: Sew it together in a different way. Go for it! It's just a guide and rules were made to be broken.

Step seven: Turn inside out, ta dah!

Step Eight: Find a fence to tie this to. Fill with soil, attach to the fence and plant a wee plant. Remember to look at how exposed your site is before deciding on which plant to use. Succulents are a good fall back plant if you're not sure.