



A Hoopful of Butterflies

Spring is here - all year round with this hoopful of butterflies all labelled with their (spoof!) Latin names. Or why not make one as a brooch, add to a fascinator, or simply to perch on a lampshade, cushion or elsewhere in your home for a little touch of colour and whimsy?

Butterflies are shown mounted in a 10" hoop.



These little butterflies are stitched by machine using freehand machine embroidery techniques, then given round felt bodies and secured to fabric with a few stab stitches. The labels top and bottom were printed onto fabric using my bubblejet printer and transfer paper - readily available from craft shops - though you could use stamps, stitch the labels or omit them altogether if preferred.

The Latin names are totally made up and sort of mean (from top left to bottom right) Garden Butterfly, Flower of the Sky, Wedding Day Butterfly, and Flowers of Heaven - though it is a very long time since my schoolday Latin lessons and I've probably got them all a bit wonky! They're just for fun anyway.

Each butterfly measures around 3" wide and 2 ½" tall.

You will need:

- 12" square medium weight background fabric
- 8" square pastel coloured felt
- Four 4" square scraps of floral fabric
- 10" embroidery hoop

- 2" square dark brown or dark grey felt for bodies (black is too harsh)
- Black and pink stranded cotton embroidery floss
- Strong thread in dark brown, black or another very dark colour (for antennae)
- Bondaweb
- Temporary fabric marker pen
- Printer transfer paper (optional)
- Embroidery foot for your machine.
- Dark green or dark grey sewing thread for your machine needle (again black is too harsh) and a lighter colour for the bobbin
- Two ¼" buttons for bottom label (optional)

Make your butterflies:

- Cut four x 4" squares of Bondaweb and iron these onto the back of the floral fabric squares. Peel off the paper backing. Cut four x 4" squares of felt, position them on top of the Bondaweb and press to fuse.
- Using the template (actual size) and your temporary fabric marker pen mark the outline of the butterfly shapes onto the centre of each 4" square of floral fabric. Using the template as a guide draw in the veins on the wings with your temporary fabric marker pen.
- Fit the embroidery foot to your machine and drop the feed dogs. With dark thread in your needle and lighter in your bobbin stitch over your marker pen lines around the butterfly outline and veins on the wings. Go over the outline twice and the veins once or twice randomly. It doesn't matter if the two sides aren't identical - I've never caught a butterfly and checked, but I'm sure that like most creatures they're not totally symmetrical!
- Cut out your butterfly shapes following the outline closely, but just outside your stitching. Remove marker pen lines.



- If making the labels, applique the top label using two strands of pink stranded floss and small stitches worked at right angles to the edge of the label. The bottom label is secured with a tiny button at either end.
- Attach your butterflies to the background fabric with stab stitches and strong thread going right through their bodies.
- Mount in hoop and hang.

- Cut four 1" square pieces of dark felt. Thread your needle with strong thread. Roll up a piece of felt and secure with a few stitches along the seam. Take your thread up to one end of the body and gather the top edge together into a rounded shape for the head. Then wrap it around the body tightly ¼" from that end - this will form the head. Move down and do the same another ¼" down - this will make the thorax. Then again run your thread down the back of the body and gather around the bottom short edge to make a nice rounded end to the abdomen. Finish off. Then push your needle in at one side of the top of the head leaving a ¼" thread sticking out, take a tiny back stitch and come out at the other side. Trim the end to ¼". These are the antennae.
- Position the body on the centre of your wings and fold them around, pinching fairly tightly. Secure with a few stitches in strong thread.
- Your butterfly is now finished. Repeat for the other three.

Assemble your hoop:

- Transfer the butterflies' names to your background fabric and stitch in one strand of black or dark coloured thread and back stitch. Take care to be very accurate with your back stitch - follow the transferred lines closely and make sure your needle enters and leaves the fabric through the same hole each time. This will ensure that the letters look smooth and well-formed.

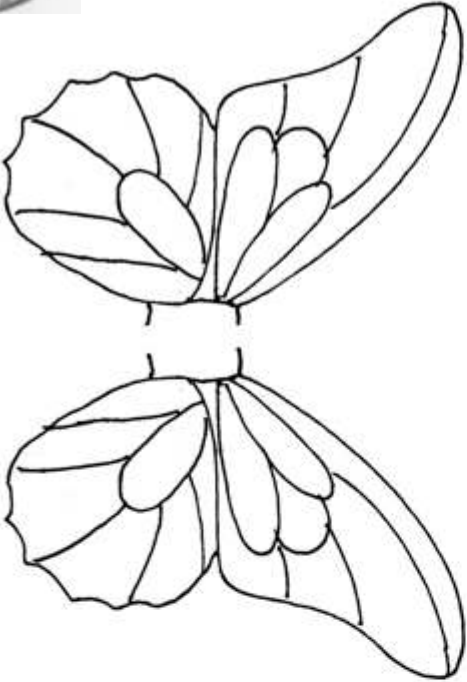
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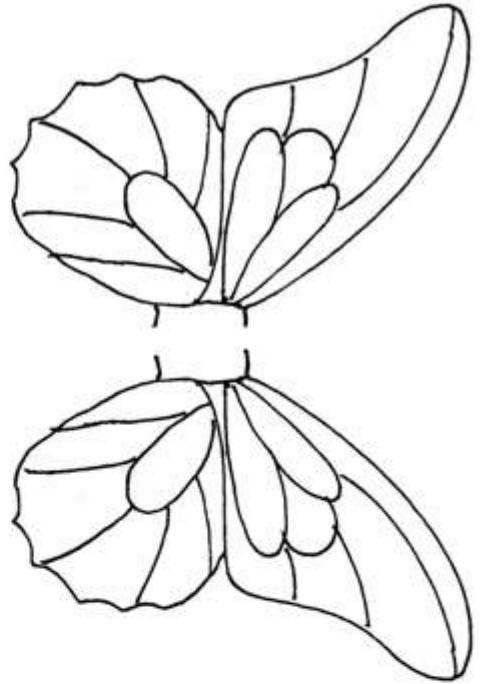
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Templates given actual size and also reversed to suit your preferred method of transfer

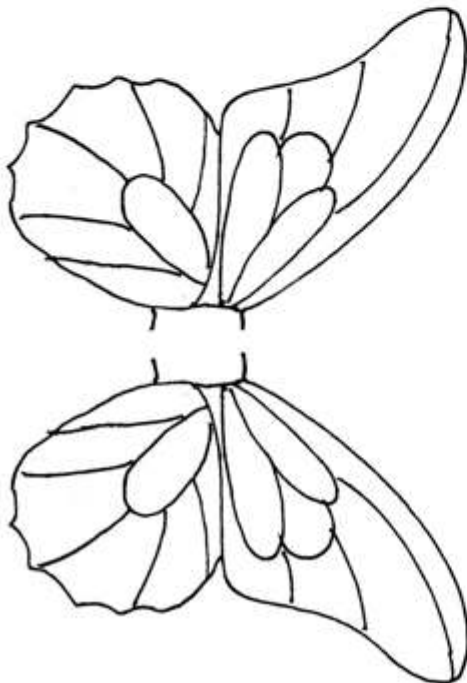
Papilionem Nuptiae



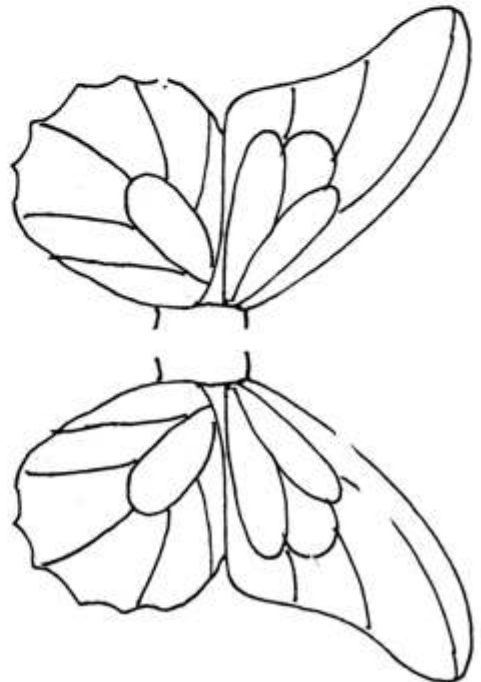
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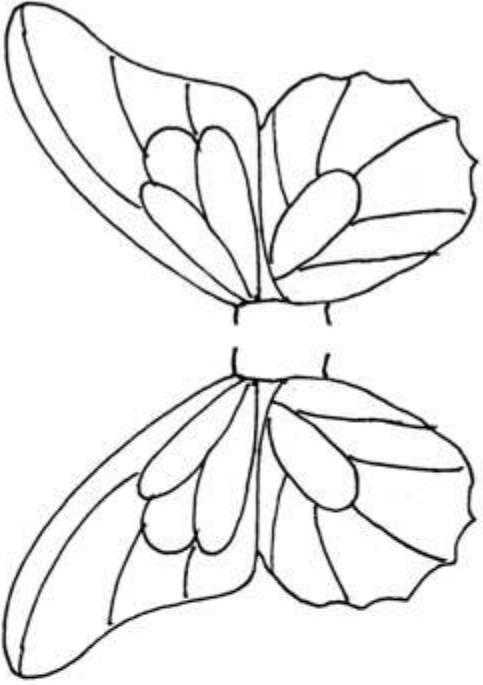


Flos paradiso

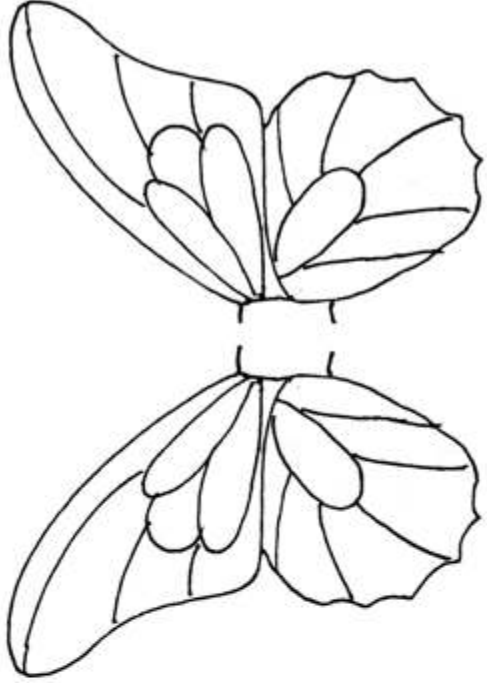


Caerulus Floresco

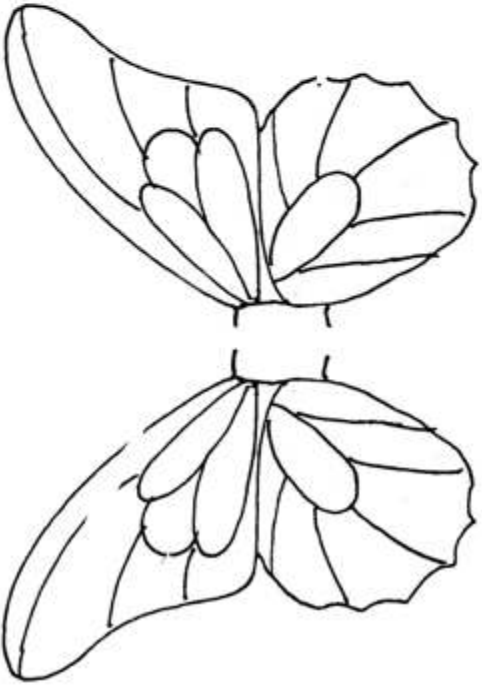




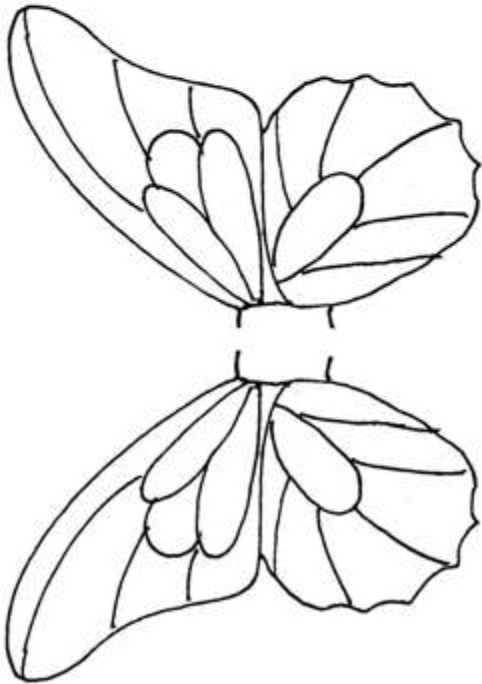
Consectetur Papilionem



Papilionem Nuptiae



Caerulus Efforesco



Effos paradiso



Bustle & Sew Books



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