

Bustle & Sew

Love to Sew and Sew with Love...



Spring Bunny Wreath



Daisies in a Teacup



Coffee Refreshes You
Applique Cushion



Alice the Elegant Cat



Two French Hens
(Deux poules Francais)



Star Baker Applique

Notes from a Devon Village
Jenny of Elefantz
Organising your Fabric Stash
Alphabet of Stitches

Magazine

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Hello,

and welcome to the March issue of the Bustle & Sew Magazine. March is, of course, the first month of spring and this is one of my favourite issues - I love putting away the tweeds, plaids and other woollen fabrics and reminding myself of all the lovely spring floral fabrics just waiting for this moment in my stash! Of course, I love the September issue just as much, when it's time to put away summer cottons and linens and return to rich berry shades... and then there's the Christmas

I am, it is fair to say, a bit of a fabricaholic with a very large stash carefully hidden away in my workroom cupboard. There's a peek inside my cupboard in this month's issue as well as lots of other goodies too. I'm delighted to welcome Jenny of Elefantz back to the Bustle & Sew Magazine as well as Jess of bettyoctopus - her felt clocks are amazing and I wish I had a small person to commission one for.

I do have a small canine who is rapidly growing larger, and I do mean rapidly! I am sure she is bigger this evening than she was when she awoke this morning - but after all she is eating nearly twice as much as Ben (much to his disgust!). I'm sure they'll both be very enthusiastic about Easter eggs this year, and I'll have to hide a few doggie-chocs in the garden as well as Rosie's eggs.

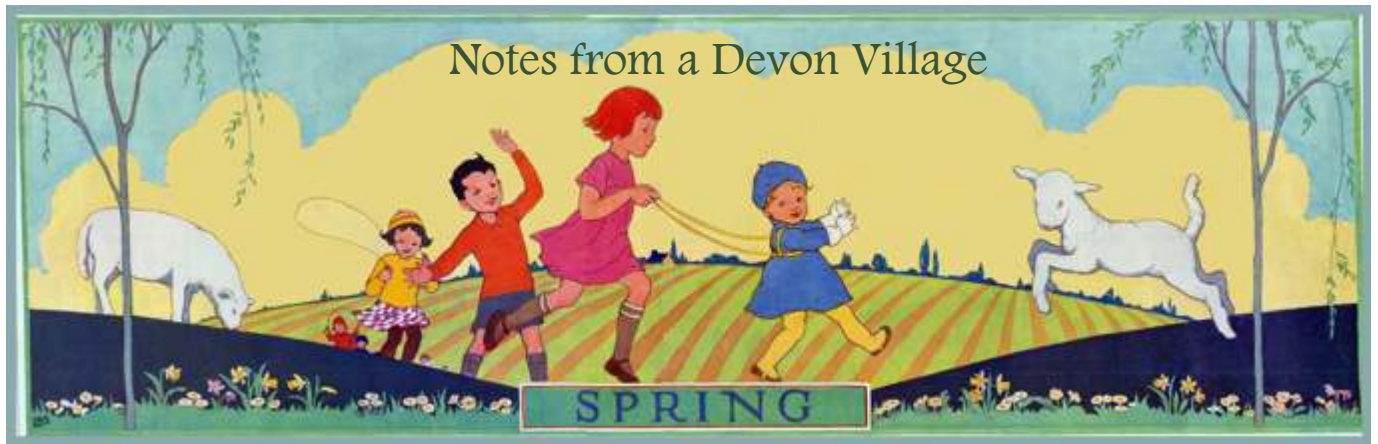
I hope you have a lovely stichy month in March - the lighter evenings are perfect for embroidery - and I'll be back on the 28th with the April issue containing even more lovely spring designs for you.

Helen xx

Contents:

Notes from a Devon Village	Page 4
Two French Hens	Page 7
Your Fabric Collection	Page 10
Coffee Refreshes You Applique Cushion	Page 13
Cleverly Made - Vintage Idea	Page 18
Talking to Jenny of Elefantz	Page 19
Little Bird Trio - an Elefantz design	Page 22
Why do we have bunnies at Eater?	Page 26
Spring Bunny Wreath	Page 27
A Posy of Vintage Primroses	Page 31
Daisies in a Teacup Embroidery	Page 32
Found on Facebook: bettyoctopus!	Page 38
Alice the Elegant Cat	Page 39
An Alphabet of Stitches	Page 46
Star Baker Applique Picture	Page 48





In March the South Hams seems to come to life once more. All through the winter we snuggle down in our warm and cosy homes, like hobbits, warm and comfortable in their cosy burrows. Walking home through the village in the twilight of a gloomy winter's afternoon, there is smoke rising from almost every chimney, spiraling up into the grey clouds above and the scent of wood smoke is strong, hanging on the frosty air.



But this month we turn the corner into spring. Although the days may still be chill and grey, they are longer now and cheerful yellow daffodils cluster in everyone's gardens, impossible to see without smiling, and a feeling that warmer, brighter days will soon be here again. Keen gardeners (and there are many of this hardy breed in our village) are already to be seen pruning, trimming and tidying their plots in anticipation of the growing season ahead.

It's fun at this time of year to catch up with everyone's news now it's a pleasure to stand outside the village shop enjoying a chat in the warm spring sunshine. It won't be long before visitors return again, certainly the caravan site will be open over the Easter holidays, though it will be some time yet before the bucket and spade brigade take possession of our beaches again.

We've been having some dry, if a little chilly, spring weather here recently which means the paths have dried up and it's possible to walk in the woods and through the fields again. So I decided to take the dogs down to Batson Creek as it's a great place to visit on a falling tide. Loads of shells to collect and mud to wallow in (dogs, not me!)



We walked down the old green lane, and saw a Bulfinch there, high up in a hawthorn tree - my



Two French Hens

“Deux poules Francais”

Adorable little hen softies stitched from felt and fabric scraps. Each hen measures about 4 ½” high. They’re a great beginners’ project or a really quick and easy make for the more experienced stitcher.

A French Hen would make a lovely door stop if she was a little larger – or why not part-

Collecting Fabric

I've been busy over the past few days tidying up my work room and sorting out my fabric collection ... and while I was folding and pressing each piece to create nice tidy stacks on my cupboard shelves, I started to think about the variety of fabrics I have acquired and where I found them

One of my favourite sewing techniques is freestyle machine embroidery. It's a great way to obtain professional-looking results in a short space of time - and is deceptively easy to master. But you do need a good variety of fabrics as the right choices can make or spoil your project. Luckily for us, fabric is very versatile and it's possible to build an interested and varied fabric stash at very little cost - provided we remember to keep our eyes open and search for fabrics in all kinds of places.

There is a bewilderingly large variety of fabrics available to the machine stitcher. Compare for example, a light-weight patterned cotton used for a summer dress, the thick tweed of a winter coat or the soft pile of a silky velvet fabric used for luxurious cushions piled on a favourite armchair.

Notice how people use fabrics both in their choice of clothing and in their homes. It's interesting to consider the ways in which different fabrics have been used and whether you like them or not.

Look at the scale of the pattern - large or small? Is the colour appealing or is it too bright or too mute. Consider texture too - fabric can be soft and warm, cold and shiny or even rough and hairy!



Lots of different textures used in this rabbit design ... smooth cotton for his nose, felted blanket for his muzzle, slubby furnishing fabric samples for the carrots and corduroy cut from an old skirt for the earth.

[Hungry Bunny Tote Bag pattern from Bustle & Sew](#)



Coffee Refreshes You Applique Cushion

Designed as a companion piece to my [“Tea Revives You”](#) cushion, this pattern has a slightly funkier, less vintage feel although they work well together.

As well as cushions, I think they’d look great as a pair of applique pictures, in your kitchen perhaps? Measurements given to fit an 18” pad.



CLEVERLY MADE FROM RED COTTON 'HANDKERCHIEFS

The edges should be stitched together by hand, as invisibly as possible, with red cotton or silk to match the cover.

For the Woman Who Likes a Splash of Colour! These Covers are Particularly Suitable for Country Cottages or Seaside Bungalows

FOR the smaller cushion one large handkerchief measuring 24 inches square will make the cover. Fold the corners to the centre, then stitch up the seams leaving one corner free. Insert the cushion, then seam up the opening. This fits a cushion about 16 inches square.

THE spotted cushion-cover is made from two handkerchiefs 22 inches square. Over-sew the edges, leaving a small opening on one side to insert the cushion, then stitch up the opening.



This month I'm delighted to welcome Jenny of Elefantz to the Bustle & Sew Magazine.

Jenny is an amazingly talented quilt and embroidery designer from Australia, and as well as telling us a little about herself, she's generously included one of her lovely patterns too. Let's find out a little more about this lovely lady who describes herself as:



"A stitchery designer and lover of all things shabby and beautiful. A passionate Christian who loves Jesus and her faith. A wife to the absolute sweetest guy in the world, and mother to some amazingly talented kids who are also some of my best friends. A total fruitcake who laughs loud and often, preferably with a large cappuccino in her hand!"

I'd like to start by asking if you could tell us a little about yourself and when you learned to sew?

We have always been a homeschooling family, so I stayed home to teach the children and my husband plied his trade as a motor mechanic. But in 1999, a wrist accident he received in a youthful motor bike accident began to affect the movement in his fingers,

so he enrolled at University and began a degree as a high school teacher.

It was 2005 before he got his first teaching position. It was a 6-month stint up in the small (and very cold) highlands town of Armidale in NSW (Australia). We were living in a country town at the time and weren't sure what would happen after the 6 months in Armidale so we had a monster garage sale and put what was left in storage.

We moved to Armidale with just as much as we could fit in our car, plus our two kids! The only housing option we had was a small cabin at the local caravan park - middle of winter in Armidale is ICY!! - and between chipping ice off the inside walls of the cabin and waiting till mid-morning for the taps to thaw so we could have showers, I continued to home school our two youngest children while he taught woodwork at the local high school.

We joined a local home schooling group for social outings, and after a weekend meal at the home of one family, their teenage daughters showed me a few pieces of patchwork and some hand stitching.



Some of Jenny's hand stitching

I was so hungry for something to do with my hands, as life in the caravan park was quite lonely after my lessons with the kids were done and my husband was off teaching each day, that I borrowed some of her patchwork magazines and decided to have a go at sewing. That was September 2005, and I have not looked back! Before then the most I'd done with a needle was some cross stitch, or hemming jeans!

'Little Bird' Trio

(Journal, address book, notebook)



a Jenny of Elefantz design

Journal (closed) - 6 x 7½ inches
Address book (closed) - 4½ x 7½ inches
Notebook (closed) - 3¼ x 4¼ inches





brought this tradition to the United States in the 18th century.

The Easter Bunny is believed to lay coloured eggs, and egg colouring is also an ancient springtime practice steeped in symbolism. In Greece, eggs are dyed red, the colour of blood and of life in many Eastern cultures, symbolic of the new life in spring and associated in Christian times with the blood of Christ shed during the Easter season. Green is another popular colour as it reflects the abundance of new plant life and growth in the spring.

The custom of an Easter egg hunt began because children believed that hares laid eggs in the grass. The Romans believed that "All life comes from an egg" while Christians consider eggs symbolic of the resurrection of Jesus Christ – which is celebrated at Easter – season of the renewal of life.

Why do we have bunnies at Easter?

The Easter Bunny derives from an ancient association of hares, rabbits, and eggs with the fertile season of spring.

Rabbits and hares are prolific breeders that often produce large litters in the springtime, and birds lay their eggs around the same time, so both have served as symbols of fertility in Western Europe since ancient times. The Easter Bunny combines these two events in the form of an egg-laying rabbit that heralds the season of new growth and life after the barren winter. In parts of Europe, the Easter Bunny is a hare, called the Osterhase in German. Dutch settlers





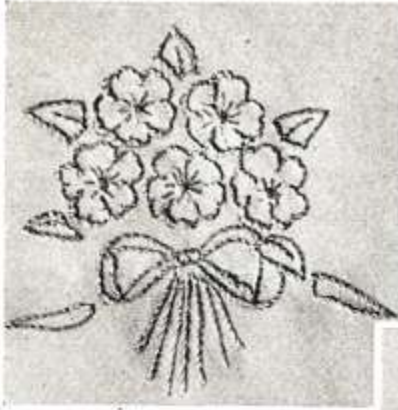
Spring Bunny Wreath

All you need is an old embroidery hoop, some scraps and a hot glue gun to create this enchanting little bunny decoration. Treat your house this spring!

I used an 8" embroidery hoop, but you could easily make your wreath larger or smaller, just resize the bunny template to suit.

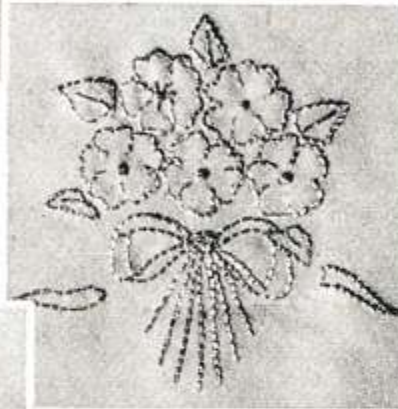
A POSY of PRIMROSES

Embroidered in One of the Attractive Stitches Shown on This Page, the Primrose Posies Look Delightful on Handmade Lingerie



STEM-STITCH

Take a tiny stitch with the needle, throw the silk over to the right, and pull it through. Take another stitch, bringing the needle out a little above the last stitch so that the stitches overlap slightly. The centres are single stitches and satin-stitch.



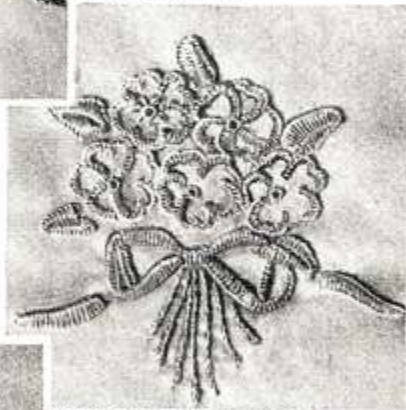
OUTLINED IN BUTTONHOLE-STITCH

(Below) Working from left to right, insert the needle in an upright position, holding the silk down with the left thumb. Draw the needle through over the silk. Work similar stitches close together. Centres are tiny eyelet-holes.



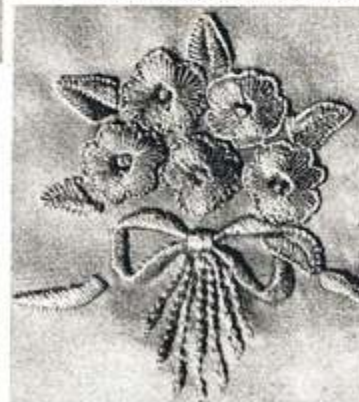
BACK-STITCH

For back-stitch bring the needle out at a petal edge, put it in again to the right, bring it out again to the left of where it first came out. Each time the needle passes back to fill the gaps with stitches of equal length. Centres are in satin-stitch.



CHAIN-STITCH

For chain-stitch, bring the needle through, then holding the silk down with the left thumb, put the needle in again where it came out. Take up a little material, draw the silk right through, still holding the silk with the thumb. Put the needle in again beside the last stitch and continue. The centres are French knots.



BUTTONHOLE-RING

(Left) Make the stitches as for buttonhole-stitch, but let them radiate from the centre of the flower. The stamens here are French knots, the bow, satin-stitch, and the stalks, stem-stitch.



SATIN-STITCH

(Right) A very handsome way of working the design. Take the stitches across from one side of the petal to the other, keeping them close together. The centres are single French knots.



Spring posies from our grandmothers' time - some lovely ideas for stitching simple blooms



Spring Daisies Embroidery

Appearing on your lawn - first in ones and twos, then scattered across the grass in handfuls, tiny white and pink daisies are one of the first signs of spring. Here a handful has been scooped into a teacup and brought indoors to enjoy...

Design is mounted in a 10" hoop.



As some readers may know, Bustle & Sew has its very own [Facebook page](#) (set up with a lot of help from Rosie!). I've discovered so many lovely creative people on Facebook, and I thought you'd like to meet them too.

This month I'd like to introduce Jess Byrne of bettyoctopus



Hi! My name is Jess Byrne and I make felt creations under the name Betty Octopus.

After the birth of my daughter in 2009, I wanted a creative outlet away from being a mum, wife and employee so began to use felt to make gifts for family and friends.

Instead of calling me a cheapskate the reaction was really positive and the idea of bettyoctopus was born. I opened my Etsy shop in January 2011 and started receiving commissions on top of this. The texture of a completed piece of work after it has been embroidered is just gorgeous, and I love nothing more than matching and mismatching colours and bringing them to life with free-form embroidery.

In 2012 I started making felt clocks and discovered a new passion. I mainly concentrate on clocks now and receive regular commissions for handmade, personalised clocks. I also make regular contributions to Craftseller magazine. I still work full-time, and my creations are made in the short period between my daughter's bedtime and before I crash myself! I live in Limerick, Ireland with my husband and 4 year old daughter, Willow, plus our two cats.

My website: <http://bettyoctopus.com/>

My facebook page:
<http://www.facebook.com/bettyoctopusfelt>

My Etsy shop:
<http://www.etsy.com/shop/bettyoctopus>





Alice the Elegant Cat

Alice is the most elegant and serene feline softie, sitting neatly on her felt base with her long tail curled around her body, hiding her four dainty paws from view. She's looking up with an enquiring expression - hoping that you'll find her irresistible

Alice measures a smidgeon under 12" tall. Her base is weighted with a nice smooth beach pebble so she sits securely, and a ribbon around her neck provides the finishing touch.

Alice is a little trickier to get just right than some of my other softies - she isn't a beginner's project.

WHEAT-EAR STITCH
(Diagram 69)

As its name implies this stitch could be used in designs for wheat spikes, or of course, as a decorative border. Begin at the top of the line and work towards you. Make two straight stitches A C, B C, set at an angle to each other as shown. Bring the needle out a little lower down at D, pass it under the ends of the two first stitches, taking care not to pick up any material, and then insert it at D, so completing one stitch. The next two straight stitches are worked into the foot of this loop D.

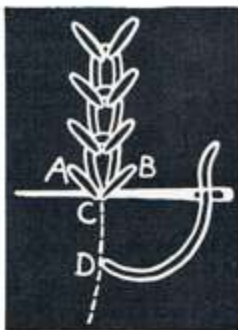


Diagram 69

WEAVING STITCH. (Diagram 70)

Use a loosely woven but even fabric for this Drawn Thread Work. Prepare the border or motif by securing the edges with overcasting or buttonhole stitch before cutting any of the ground fabric threads. These will only be withdrawn in one direction and the ones left are those woven. Having cut and withdrawn the necessary threads hemstitch the top and bottom of the border, grouping the threads in threes or fours. Commence in the top right hand corner, and

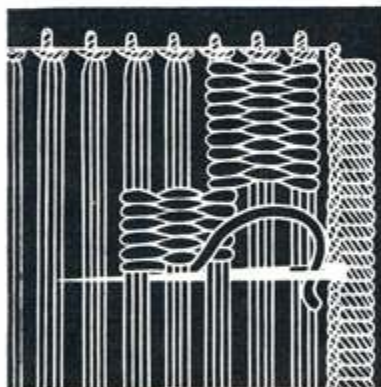


Diagram 70



Example of Needle Weaving.

weave under and over two or three groups of threads for length required. Without breaking off the thread, continue with a second block as illustrated. Continue working in this diagonal direction until the whole border has been completely filled in. Patterns are formed with the blocks by changing the colours.

This is the last part of my vintage alphabet of stitches - I do hope you've enjoyed it. The booklet goes on to suggest practising these stitches in the traditional form of a sampler - if anyone does decide to do this, or has already completed a stitch sampler, then it would be lovely to see your work.

Meanwhile, here's a reminder of my Rosie and Bear "A Good Book" stitch sampler project - pattern available from my website.



[*Rosie & Bear: A Good Book*](#)



[*First Stitches Alphabet Sampler*](#)



Star Baker Applique Picture

A wonderful, totally calorie-free way to enjoy cake! Freestyle machine embroidery combines with touches of hand stitching to make this a really special picture - a great gift for the star baker in your life perhaps?

Finished design measures 16 ½" x 12" approx (A3 size)



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