



**BUSTLE & SEW**  
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# Signs of Spring Muscari Bulbs



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I love this time of year when spring bulbs begin to appear and I know that the darkest days of winter are behind us.

I've created a couple of spring bulb designs already - and this year I decided to stitch a Cornishware "Dreadnought" jug absolutely stuffed with beautiful blue Muscari (or grape hyacinth).

The flowers are hand embroidered, whilst the jug is machine applique onto a background of natural coloured linen and vintage blanket.

Shown in 12" x 8" oval hoop.



## Materials

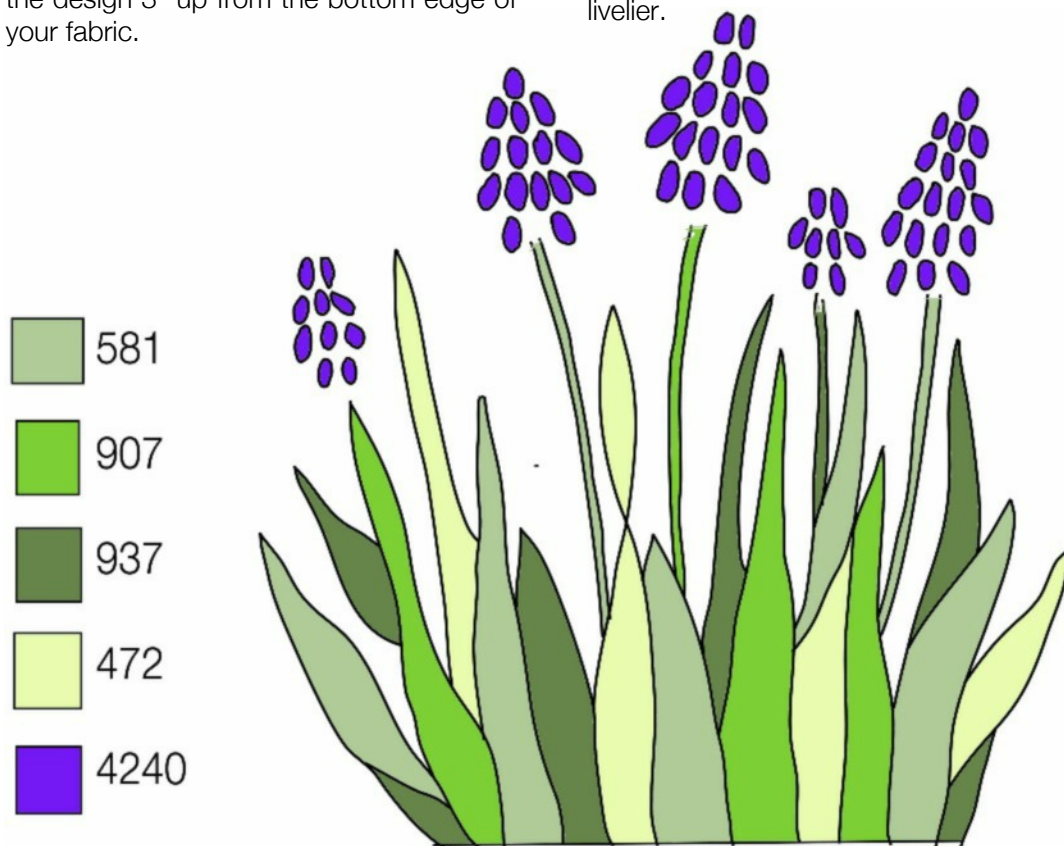
- 11" square natural coloured medium weight fabric
- 11" x 5" check fabric (I used a vintage blanket scrap)
- 5" square white felt
- Scraps of dark blue cotton fabric
- 8" x 12" hoop
- DMC stranded cotton floss in colours 472, 581, 907, 937 and 4240
- Bondaweb
- Embroidery foot for your sewing machine



## Method

- First work the hand embroidery. Transfer the pattern to your natural coloured fabric centred widthways and with the bottom of the design 3" up from the bottom edge of your fabric.

- Using two strands of cotton throughout work the whole design in satin stitch following the colour chart below. Change the angles of the satin stitch on the leaves (1) as this will make the stitches reflect light in different ways and make your work seem livelier.



- When your work is finished press lightly on the reverse being careful not to flatten your stitches.
- Join bottom of the embroidered panel to the check fabric. Use a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance and press the seam open to minimise bulk at the reverse of your design that could prevent it sitting properly in the hoop.
- Trace the jug shape onto the paper side of your bondaweb, fuse to white felt, cut out, peel off backing paper and position on your design. Fuse into place (1)
- Trace, cut and fuse the blue stripes in the same way. (2)
- Fit the embroidery foot to your sewing machine and with black thread in your needle and a pale colour in your bobbin go around the edge of your pieces twice. Don't be too neat, you're aiming for a sort of scribbled effect.
- When finished, press on the reverse and mount in hoop, trimming away excess fabric.

1



2

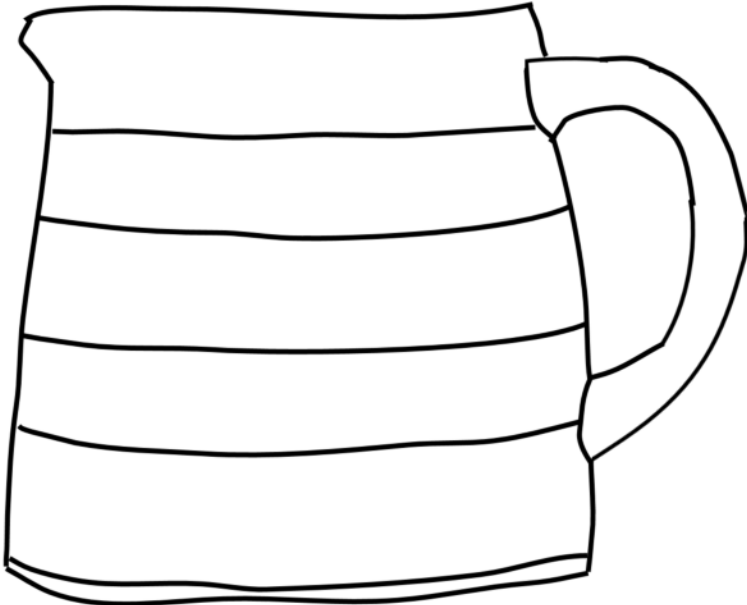
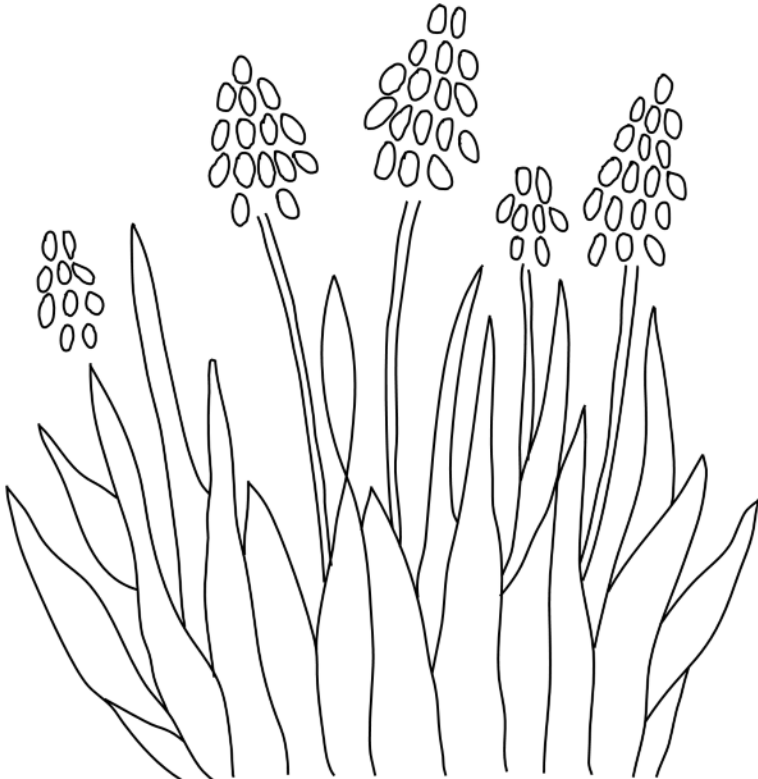


3



# Signs of Spring: Grape Hyacinths

Template is full size and the jug is reversed for tracing onto the paper side of your Bondaweb



Why do we love to stitch? After all you can purchase mass-produced textile items at many high streets stores for very little cost. These days handmade means something special - a unique item created with love, a gift from the heart, not one that can be bought. Hand stitching is also a great way to personalise an item, or perhaps to breathe new life into an old favourite that has seen better days.

**Bustle & Sew** offers our own unique patterns, designed to appeal to all skill levels and bring out all your natural creativity. And you can keep up to date with all the latest news from Somerset where I live as well as the newest patterns and much more over on the [Bustle & Sew Blog](#).



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Helen & Rosie xx



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Thank you.